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Asahiko Taira received Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1976. Then, He worked at Kochi University, Japan where he taught geology and led the research on the Shimanto accretionary complex. From 1985, he moved to Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo where he was a leader in the research of marine geology in the Nankai Trough and scientific ocean drilling. In 2002, he moved to JAMSTEC to take a leadership in the operation of D/V *Chikyu* and related projects. He is now the president of JAMSTEC. He received the Japan Academy Prize in 2007.