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### **First Taiwanese Native Dives to Challenger Deep**

*Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Scientist Dr. Y.-T. Lin, a Taiwanese-American citizen, joined explorer Victor Vescovo in a visit to the deepest place on Earth*

DALLAS (June 23, 2020) – In another world first, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) research scientist, Dr. Ying-Tsong “Y.-T.” Lin, joined explorer Victor Vescovo and EYOS Expeditions in Triton Submarines’ Deep Submergence Vehicle (DSV) *Limiting Factor* in a deep dive to the bottom of Challenger Deep’s central pool (10,915 meters +/- 4 meters) making him not only the first person born in Taiwan to go to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, but also the first from the Asian continent to do so. Five sensors attached to the lander *Skaff*, and the DSV *Limiting Factor* confirmed the depth.

Vescovo said of the dive, “We are so pleased to have partnered with Y.-T. and Woods Hole on this dive and showed the access we can provide to any individual who wants to regularly and reliably visit *any* point on the ocean floor.” He added, “I was also happy to make the descent with the first person from Taiwan in a first for that country – and continent – since I strongly support the special U.S.-Taiwan relationship.”

It was Vescovo’s seventh dive to the bottom of Challenger Deep, and he became the first person to visit all three sections of the marine feature: its Western, Central, and Eastern “Pools,” which together stretch more than 48,280 meters (30 miles) west to east across the bottom of the Pacific, and which are all deeper than 10,881 meters (35,700 feet).

Because he is an expert in deep ocean acoustics, measurement, and tracking, Dr. Lin’s involvement in the expedition was important in advancing further exploration and understanding of how sound waves propagate in the deepest parts of the ocean. His dive was conducted with specific scientific goals in mind. His goal was to test the performance of deep-water acoustic instruments and seek ways to improve error terms on multibeam sonar. Given the state-of-the-art Kongsberg EM124 sonar onboard the Deep Submergence Support Vehicle (DSSV) *Pressure Drop*, Dr. Lin was afforded the ability to work with specialized technology in a very unique location. Additionally, Dr. Lin wanted to study ultra-deep voice communications and deep-water geo-location.

“It was an amazing experience to make the 10,000-meter dive with Victor on the *Limiting Factor*,” said Y.-T. Lin. “It is an impressive piece of technology that provided me – someone who had never even been in a submersible before – with a visit to the very bottom of the ocean. I now have a perspective for my research work that I had never had before. I am also so proud to represent WHOI, and my birthplace Taiwan, and become the first person from all of Asia to make the descent to Challenger Deep. I would like to share this dive and my passion and enthusiasm with all my friends!”

For more information on Dr. Lin, please visit his directory profile [here](#).

The People's Republic of China is reportedly testing a manned submersible named the *Shenhai Yongshi* that could also one day dive to the bottom of Challenger Deep. To date, however, China has not made a manned descent to the lowest point of this marine feature.

All releases, as well as footage and photos of each section of the mission, will be available to view on [CaladanOceanic.com](http://CaladanOceanic.com). Follow us on Twitter @CaladanOceanic, Instagram @CaladanOceanic and Facebook @CaladanOceanic for ongoing updates.

### **About Caladan Oceanic**

Caladan Oceanic is a private company dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supporting expeditions to increase the understanding of the oceans. Founder Victor Vescovo, a former Commander in the U.S. Navy, has long had a passion for exploration and has summited the highest peak on all seven of the world's continents including Mt. Everest, and skied at least 100 kilometers to both the North and South Poles. With the completion of the Five Deeps Expedition in August 2019, Vescovo became the first person in history to have been to the top of all the world's continents, to reach both poles, and to descend to the bottom of all its oceans. He was awarded the Explorer's Club Medal in March 2020.

### **About Triton Submarines, LLC**

Triton Submarines of Sebastian, Florida, is the most experienced civil submarine producer in the world today – and the only contemporary manufacturer of acrylic-pressure-hull-equipped personal submarines to deliver multiple classed and certified vessels capable of diving to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) as well as to full ocean depth (11,000 meters). Triton Submarines senior staff have over 350 years of combined experience with more than 80 different submersibles, and their operations team members have together logged over 25,000 dives. Triton clients also enjoy superlative after-sales service and technical support from a company dedicated to their total satisfaction.

### **About EYOS Expeditions**

EYOS Expeditions has been designing complex and challenging expeditions for private vessels since 2008. Drawing on the decades of experience of the company's co-founders, the EYOS team has delivered over 1,200 safe and successful expeditions to some of the most remote destinations on Earth. EYOS Expeditions holds several "world firsts" and routinely takes clients to destinations rarely or never before visited. EYOS Expeditions and sister company Expedition Voyager Consultants have worked behind the scenes on many of the industry's groundbreaking itineraries and have a long history of delivering once-in-a-lifetime experiences for clients while maintaining the highest standards of safety, professionalism and environmental stewardship. EYOS Expeditions is today regarded as the industry leader for planning and operating remote expeditions using submersibles.

### **About Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI)**

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is dedicated to advancing knowledge of the ocean and its connection with the Earth system through a sustained commitment to excellence in science, engineering, and education, and to the application of this knowledge to problems facing society.

WHOI scientists and engineers are committed to understanding all facets of the ocean as well as its complex connections with Earth's atmosphere, land, ice, seafloor, and life – including humanity. This is essential not only to advance knowledge about our planet, but also to ensure society's long-term welfare and to help guide human stewardship of the environment. WHOI researchers are also dedicated to training future generations of ocean science leaders, to providing unbiased information that informs public policy and decision-making, and to expanding public awareness about the importance of the global ocean and its resources.

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