

Fifth Report on the SCOR/IMAGES Working Group **LINKS****“Analysing the links between present oceanic processes and paleorecords”**

2007-2008

The WG LINKS has not met in the past year. The activities were restricted to developing the proposed manuscripts by the five groups of authors as presented in last year's report. The progress has been very slow. This is caused partly because we did not have another WG meeting during 2008. It is also due to the fact that I changed in November last year to become director of the Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research and had no time to follow up on the activities and stimulate the working group into more action.

I therefore regret to report that we did not reach our objective to submit up to 5 manuscripts as planned on:

1. Rain Ratio hypothesis
2. Role of trace metals (Fe) in the Southern Ocean
3. What generates the highest export in key areas
4. The “nitrogen swing”
5. "Windows of opportunity" for paleorecords

Last year the paper “Glacial–interglacial rain ratio changes: Implications for atmospheric CO₂ and ocean–sediment interaction” by Guy Munhoven in *Deep-Sea Research II* 54 (2007) 722–746 was published, that addressed the theme 1 of our group. It is linked to our discussions, but it is not a product of the LINKS author group of theme 1. A workshop was also held on this topic under the title “Controls on Organic Carbon Export and Twilight Zone Remineralization” chaired by LINKS member Frank Dehairs and published in *Oceanography*, Volume 21, Number 3, 92-95. As both paper address the topic very well and very little new aspects can be added, theme 1 will not be pursued any longer. For themes 3 and 4 the manuscripts are written and can be submitted after revision. Theme 5 and 2 are open.

An enquiry with our members showed that most are interested to bring the work of the WG to a productive end and not to leave it in this unsatisfactory state. It was suggested to develop a joint review paper for LINKS in 2009. I therefore want to ask SCOR and IMAGES to give the WG the opportunity to continue the work and leave the group active for another year. We do not request funds, just time. I hope we can still bring the good ideas developed so far to a positive result and await the decision of SCOR.

There is no financial report as we did not ask for funds from SCOR or IMAGES for the last year.