



ANNUAL CIRCULAR 2008

*International Society of Limnology
Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL)*



Commentary from the General Secretary-Treasurer

1 January 2008

Changes for the Future

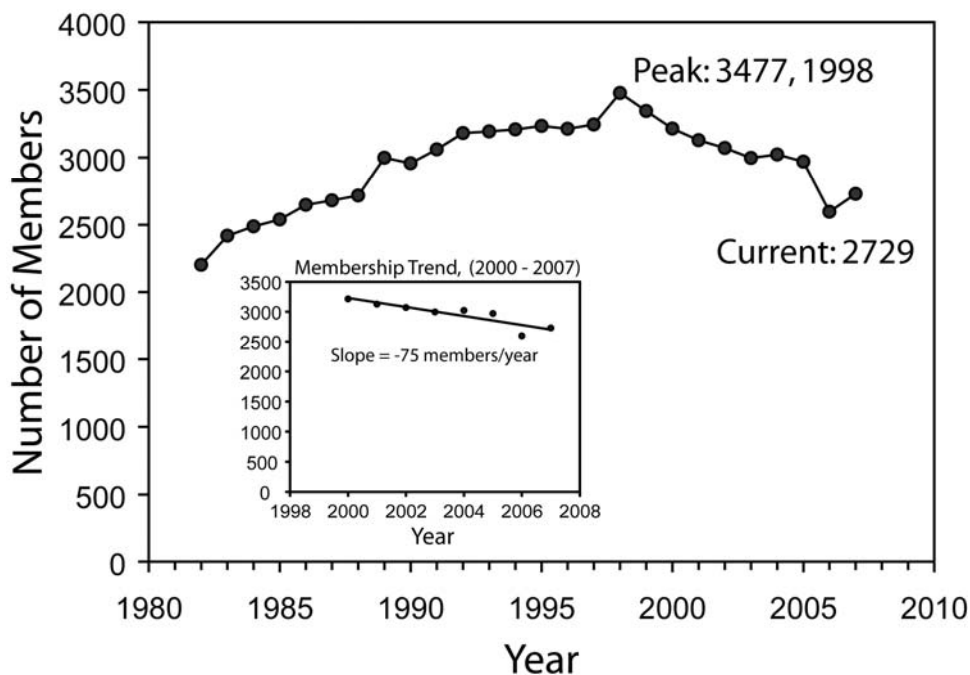
In the previous Annual Circular Bill Lewis had the commentary "Back to the Future" where he summarised and argued for some of the major changes and issues proposed and raised by the Futures Committee. The congress in Montréal decided on ten important issues, among these the change of our name to the International Society of Limnology, the publication of a new journal, and the "death" of the Proceedings. In a community mail to the membership I have told you about some of the changes. If you wish to learn more I invite you to the SIL homepage (www.limnology.org) where the Report from the former Acting General Secretary-Treasurer is posted.

Although it is much more exiting to talk and write about science, it is my duty to keep an eye on the membership and hence the finances as the dues are our most important income. The publication of the Proceedings is THE expenditure of SIL, which you can convince yourself with a glance on the consolidated statement of accounts found in the triennial report. In short, the membership pays for publication of congress presentations in which we can learn about limnological studies all over the world. This is due to the simple fact that people from most parts of the world enjoy our congresses and submit papers. Montréal was not different with participants from 64 countries. Somewhat to my surprise, we found out that many non-members submit papers for publishing during a congress and they get acceptance. As we have not specified that publication is linked to membership, the only action I can take is to urge these non-members to become members and not to have others pay for their publications. The slightly higher non-member fee at congresses does not move into the SIL budget but to the congress organizers. If they make a small profit SIL might be blessed with some money, if the organizers decide. I am slightly puzzled of the apparent reluctance to join SIL. Non-members do not get

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their personal copy of the Proceedings; however, availability through institutional and/or library membership may be the explanation or, they do not consider the Proceedings a valid outlet and only want a published paper and some reprints. With a future new journal this will of course change.

SIL needs individual new members, specifically students, and SIL needs old members to renew their membership. You can look at the trend in the inserted graphics. Behind those numbers you can be assured is a rather difficult task for the General Secretary-Treasurer and his assistant to keep track of the annual dues that often are paid via a National Representative (NR). Furthermore, a member in good standing has to have paid for all three years between Congresses to get the Proceedings. The diplomatic evaluation is that this is not a good system and will change as of this Congress, i.e. now.



Members in good standing are those who have paid the 2007 dues! They get on the mailing list for the Proceedings Vol. 30 that will be published in 2008. Volume 30 will be in 9 parts and with a journal format. Our Editor is very soon ready with the first part. So if you have not paid your dues for 2007 please do so now and get the 2008 dues paid as well shortly after you have this Circular in hand. We try to identify slow NR's with respect to 2007 dues so you do not miss the Proceedings. Special cases may exist; however, this is our firm policy. We cannot continue to print and mail Proceedings to members not in good standing. The simple message is: SIL cannot afford this for much longer.

At the Congress we decided that payment of dues does not have to pass by a National Representative in the future; however, any country can work the old system if they want. For the 2008 dues we still have the old system in place; however, I urge a direct individual payment to SIL. We are also working to provide the opportunity to pay the dues via the web, just like you do when you go to meetings and congresses or order a new book. The system is not ready yet but we are working on the matter. We shall help any members having trouble with this way of payment.

This of course raises the question of the future role(s) of a NR. If the sole function in previous years has only been to collect annual dues, then the only change is that this rather trivial work hopefully will be done more smoothly in the future. The function of NR at congresses is important. It is their responsibility to bring items of interest to the International Committee and raise a voice for their membership on issues/suggestions forwarded by the Executive Committee. Personally, I find their function as every day ambassadors for limnology at the domestic level to be of even more importance than at congresses every three years. Some countries have very active limnological societies not linked to SIL. In other countries SIL is the national limnological organisers, where a NR takes an active part. Thus, National Representatives behave differently and this is good. In my optics it is the duty of a NR to see to that SIL gets involved in most limnological activities in any specific country.

SIL is not a big international player, but our membership covers truly worldwide. This is our strength as a Society. NR, the Executive Committee, and any member should take advantage. This is one reason that SIL at the Montréal Congress decided to promote and support more between Congress activities. We hope that SIL can partner in a meeting in China or another country in South-Asia/Asia. One reason is that China and other countries with high economic growth and huge populations are facing (and have) enormous problems with their inland waters. The expertise of SIL members is needed for solutions as it is in Europe, North- and South America and elsewhere. Be an active limnologist and promote SIL. SIL is one of the important places where the exchange of limnological knowledge across borders takes place.

You are invited to contact me if in need of answers to the above mentioned transitions and on any other SIL related matters.

--Morten Søndergaard
SIL General Secretary-Treasurer

VISIT THE SIL WEBSITE

www.limnology.org

Information is available on membership, publications, national representatives, committees, awards, and statutes, as well as links to other sites. In addition, we have initiated a placement service for job offerings. Visit often as information is updated regularly by SIL webmaster Gordon Goldsborough, University of Manitoba, Canada

SIL and the Earth: strategies for Survival

Just before I began to write this, the United Nations Environment Programme published GEO-4 (http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf). It is about the state of our planet, and its messages are not optimistic. There is nothing unexpected in it for SIL members for I think we have known for some time that the state of our waters, reflecting, through their connectivity, the state of the land and the atmosphere, is overall much changed from what is necessary to support human civilization indefinitely.

But GEO-4 has been written under similar conditions to the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with multiple authors, generally nominated by governments, and peer reviewers from many countries, so that, in theory, governments are obliged to take note of its findings, however dire. As far as I can see there are precious few, if any, SIL members in the list of participants. Most are from non-governmental charities and government agencies. The world's universities and research laboratories are barely represented. The front-line of new information and understanding has been sidelined. Occasionally this is evident in slightly out-of-date understanding, but by and large, in the technicalities, there is little to disagree with. So, in strong contrast to the IPCC, the research community looks redundant where the even greater issues of the planet as a whole are being considered!

Should we be concerned? Why has this situation developed?

But SIL has made its mark in other ways. It has supported scientists in the less privileged countries to a greater extent than other Societies; it has provided a forum, through its congresses, where a broad overview of our subject area can be readily seen without overt dominance by current fashions. It is a very amicable Society with a strong democracy in which everyone really does have his or her say. All of this we must maintain. Yet to do so means that we have to continue to exist. We need to reverse our decline in membership; we need to increase our influence in the world's affairs.

Membership is crucial. Our Executive Committee is developing strategies to gain more members. We are expanding the web site, negotiating with other societies for joint benefits, moving towards converting the Proceedings to a journal with greater impact. But ultimately we need everyone to help in recruitment. If each existing member could recruit one new member each year, especially a student member, we could transform the Society. There must be many people involved in inland waters that are not yet members. Please try to persuade them to join. It's very easy: just a form giving a name and address and a transfer of what is, to anyone in the rich world, a trifling sum of money. The rich world's contribution helps us to subsidise those for whom the sum is not small. If you know someone who might join but is wavering, tell me their mailing

address (brmoss@liverpool.ac.uk) and something about them and I will send them a personal invitation.

As we grow back in numbers to beyond our peak of a decade or so ago, we will be able, perhaps, to make our expertise and information more widely known, but again, as with membership recruitment, please do not wait for someone else to do it. The world situation needs the voices of knowledgeable men and women right now. We might not have made a direct contribution to GEO-4, but we should not stay in the background. The UK politician, Winston Churchill maintained that scientists should be, like the water supply, 'on tap', but not 'on top'. The trouble is that if we just remain 'on tap', it is always the less scrupulous that get to be 'on top' and both humanity and environment, the Siamese twins of survival, may move to terminal decline.

--Brian Moss
SIL President

NOTES REGARDING THE 30th CONGRESS IN CANADA

AWARDS AND HONORS

The Baldi Memorial Lecturer for the 30th Congress in Canada was **Dr. Michio Kumagai**, Director of the Lake Biwa Research Institute, Otsu, Shiga, Japan.

The Kilham Memorial Lecturer for the 30th Congress was presented by **Dr. Kevin Rogers** of the University of the Witwaterstrand, South Africa.

Congratulations to Michio Kumagai and Kevin Rogers.

FUTURE CONGRESSES

31ST SIL CONGRESS:

The national representatives decided at the 30th congress in Montréal, Canada that the venue for the 31st congress will be in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2010.

32ST SIL CONGRESS:

Debrecen, Hungary will be the venue for the 32nd congress in 2013.

33RD SIL CONGRESS:

The 33rd congress will be held in Turin, Italy, in 2016.

FUTURE CONGRESS PROPOSALS:

SIL members who have recommendations or want to make inquiries leading potentially to a proposal for

sponsorship of a congress are urged to contact the SIL General Secretary – Treasurer.

PUBLICATIONS

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME 30 (Montréal, Canada):

SIL Volume 30 is in the works.

Members in good standing for 2007 will receive the issues published in 2008.

Members who send their dues payments to a national representative do not receive their publications until acknowledgement of the dues payment has been sent to the SIL administrative office by the national representative. The CD for Volume 30 is released after all papers belonging to Volume 30 have been prepared for publication. If you have questions about the delivery of copies of Volume 30, contact the SIL Administrative Assistant.

SIL members owe much gratitude to Professor Jack Jones of the University of Missouri for his extensive editorial work.

CORRECT ADDRESSES

Please verify your name and address given on the address label of this circular. SIL cannot be responsible for loss of publications because of unreported changes of address.

SPONSOR A MEMBER

Some members have generously contributed sufficient funds to sponsor a researcher or student of limnology from countries from which it is difficult to pay our modest membership fee. Please contact the General Secretary-Treasurer for details if you are interested in contributing.

Alternatively, we urge you to contribute to either of our two Endowment Funds.

International Society of Limnology
Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL)

The following countries or regions pay dues of \$55.00 (Regular Members) and \$110.00 (Institutional Members) in U.S. Dollars, by check drawn on an international bank in the USA that is recognized by the Federal Reserve System, or by major credit card (Visa or MasterCard):

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Macedonia, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sultanate of Oman, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Members from Estonia, Greece, Iceland, India, and Luxembourg pay at the rate indicated for USA Members in the chart below.

Members in the following countries send their subscriptions to the Administrative Assistant or their National Representatives at the rates indicated:

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