



15th NECLIME Annual Meeting 2014

19th – 22nd of October, Izmir, Turkey

The 15th Annual NECLIME Meeting 2014 was held in Izmir, Turkey, from October 19 to 22. The meeting, hosted by Funda Akgün and Mine Sezgül Kayseri-Özer took place at the Conference Center of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, Dokuz Eylül University. The meeting included a visit of the archaeological site of Smyrna in the afternoon of the second conference day, providing the unique opportunity of an introduction to ongoing excavations kindly given by the archaeologist in charge, Akin Ersoy (Department of Archaeology, Dokuz Eylül University).

As already with the “Anniversary NECLIME Meeting” held in Izmir in 2009, Funda and Sezgül with their team spent much time and effort thus enabling another Turkish NECLIME annual meeting in a most friendly atmosphere. All their effort and dedication is gratefully acknowledged.

Ca. 30 participants joined the meeting and 20 contributions (oral and poster) were presented. NECLIME members from 6 countries (China, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Turkey, The Netherlands) participated with contributions covering a wide range of scientific fields, including geology, invertebrate and vertebrate palaeontology, palaeobotany, ecology, and numeric modelling of the biosphere, covering the time-span from the Oligocene to Holocene.

The presented topics included studies on geology and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions in Anatolia and Eastern Mediterranean respectively, partly carried out using multiple proxies including isotopes, invertebrate and vertebrate palaeontology, the analysis of climate and vegetation evolution in the Paratethys realm, and high resolving environmental studies of sites with early human evidence. Contributions on Eastern Eurasia highlighted climate dependant distribution of floral relics as well as palaeobiogeographic and biostratigraphic implications of East Asian palaeofloras. Advances in methodology concerned the quantification of ecological diversity and usefulness of ecological indices in palaeo-reconstructions. Moreover, an extended Plant Functional Type classification scheme was introduced. Biome modelling was exemplified with a mid-Holocene scenario providing insight into the dynamics of the biomes of East Africa under changing climate.



The conference programme and the abstract volume will be made available for download at the NECLIME website.

Topics addressed in the final discussion

IPBES and its relevance for NECLIME

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), founded in 2012 by the UN as intergovernmental body to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services (see wiki article for more details) can be regarded as counterpart of the IPCC, addressing threads and anticipated changes of the biosphere. So far, no palaeo-aspects are considered in the IPBES programme. Therefore, a workshop is proposed to investigate the respective potential of NECLIME data.

The workshop will be organized in Frankfurt in the frame of the “working group on digital plant distribution” and is anticipated for the 3rd quarter of 2015. All members will be informed via circular.

NECLIME special issue “Cenozoic vegetation quantification with models and proxy data” (L. François, A.A. Bruch, T. Utescher) intended for Palaeo 3

The guest editors are very happy about the 20 outlines that have been submitted for the NECLIME volume. The proposals are now being sent to Elsevier for evaluation. Further information will be sent to all submitters as soon as we have a decision. So far, deadline for the submission of manuscripts is January 20, 2015.