

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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Editors: J. M. Dickins and D. R. Choi

FROM THE EDITORS

Two conferences in Australia, one already held and one being planned once again raise the question of ideology in the geological sciences. Perhaps there are wide implications for science in general and for the processes of human thought. Karsten Storetvedt in his contribution to this Newsletter has also discussed these matters.

For those who are non-believers in Plate Tectonics, the question continually arises about how can so many of our colleagues ignore evidence which points or even shows that solutions are in another direction.

The conference planned is about the relationships of lineaments and ore deposits. Such is the situation that the organizers feel lineament is a dirty word and that in the title of the conference they have to replace the word lineament with other terms. Study of the literature shows that information on lineaments is extremely extensive and that lineaments are widely used in mineral exploration for locating ore bodies (e.g. Woodall, 1994). In addition despite the popularity of plate tectonics, lineaments continue to be identified and described in the literature such as the Son-Mahanadi Lineament and often under names such as the London-Brabant Line, the Variscan Front, Tornquist Line and so on. In alternative theories such as for example Surge Tectonics, the surge channels

are associated with lineaments. Tectonic and magmatic activity and associated mineralization is known to exist along these major structures from the Precambrian and in instances right up to the present, and they form a network over the continents and the oceans. Naturally plate tectonics does not want to know about these structures as such a network is not readily compatible with ocean floor spreading and subduction. A major risk for authors is, of course, if they use the term lineament they run the danger of having their facts censored on the basis that if the facts do not fit the "theory" (or is it the dogma), the facts must be wrong.

The other conference now held is about Australian palaeogeography and authors are asked to depict their data on a reconstruction provided by the organizers. Now for the Permian in earlier reconstructions and still not infrequently, Peninsular India is shown against Western Australia. Yet any student can readily check the data which shows the Permian Indian Basins do not correspond geographically or in sequence to the Western Australian Basins. Of course, if it had been possible to show truncated basins in one continent could be fitted to truncated basins in another, drift would have been readily proven a long time ago. *(Continues to the next page)*

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