Sadly, Dr Edith Fanta (Brazil), Chair of the Scientific Committee, passed away in Curitiba on the evening of 7 May 2008 after bravely battling cancer. Edith was highly regarded by her Antarctic colleagues and served Brazil, CCAMLR, the Scientific Committee and SCAR with rare distinction. She will be sorely missed by all her friends and colleagues. The thoughts of Scientific Committee members are with her family – André, Pedro and Joana Feofiloff.