



# **ISTRO INFO**

**A Publication of the  
International Soil Tillage Research Organization**

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## ISTRO INFO – December 2008

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all friends and members of ISTRO. I certainly hope you have had a good autumn harvesting your crops in the northern hemisphere or preparing for another planting season in the south. Corn and soybean harvest in the Midwestern U.S. has been challenged by frequent rainfall events and now by several early snowfall events. On a personal basis I still have some plots to combine for one of my bioenergy studies, unfortunately, it's some of the data that I wanted to have for my paper for the ISTRO conference ☹. Hopefully you have also completed your registration for the Conference in Izmir, but just in case, the deadline for early registration and payment of the discounted fees has been extended to January 15, 2009. ISTRO President Engin Cakir and his committee are very busy preparing an excellent program for all of us, so be sure to act now and submit your registration as soon as possible. I also want to encourage you to quickly submit nominations for the four scholarships that are offered to our younger members. This includes a Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship that is open to young scientists from all countries and three others that are open to researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." For more information and instructions for preparing your nomination, please see the website [http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low\\_income](http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income) for a list of eligible "low-income" countries. The scholarships will cover the costs of airfare (lowest cost possible) and the package deal (€ 650) for registration, lodging (shared double room), all meals, the banquet dinner, field day tour and CD. Scholarship candidates must be current members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by current members of ISTRO. This is an excellent way to recognize our younger members and to ensure the life-blood of ISTRO is continually being renewed.

As always, please be sure to share this information with all your friends and co-workers.

Doug Karlen

Assistant Secretary General

## 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference Information

For the most current information on the 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial ISTRO Conference please see the Congress website at: [www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr](http://www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr). The Conference will be held June 15-19, 2009 in Izmir, Turkey and will include various technical sessions, Working Group meetings, tours and displays. Two different tours will also be offered. They are for a Field Day & City Tour on June 17<sup>th</sup> and Historical Site: Ephesus – House of Virgin Mary on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The critical dates to remember are:

Date	Critical Action
January 1, 2009	Notification of authors
January 15, 2009	Deadline for early registration
January 31, 2009	Deadline for submission of full papers
March 15, 2009	Notification of Oral and Poster presenters

The Conference will be held at Surmeli Efes Hotel & Resort in Selcuk, Izmir. This site is located about 60 km from the Adnan Menderes International Airport and is very close to the city centre. For more information about the venue, please view their website at: <http://www.surmelihotels.com/eng/SurmeliEfes/default.asp>. Registration and lodging as a package that also includes meals, banquet dinner, field day tour, and CD is:

Registration for:	Conference Only		Lodging & Conference	
	Early*	Late	Early*	Late
Members	€350	€450	€650	€750
Non-members	€400	€500	€700	€800
Students	€250	€350	€550	€650
Partners			€500	€600
Children (age 6-12)			€400	€500

\*Early registration ends 1/15/2009. Also, hotel room prices are for one bed shared in double bed rooms. For single room, please add €25 per day to the room price.

Registration fees should be paid through the website (<http://www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr>) or directly to the following banking account: **AKBANK** (Euro Account) (Office of Ege University, **Office Code: 940**), Account Number: **940-07772**; IBAN Number: **TR40 0004 6009 4003 6000 0077 72**.

## Young Researcher Scholarships

Have you nominated your students or colleagues for one of the ISTRO Scholarships? For the four scholarships, “young scientists” are defined as those being under the age of 40 and having demonstrated superior research accomplishments. The van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young scientists from all countries. The other three scholarships are open to researchers from all countries except those classified as being “high-income.” See [www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low\\_income](http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income) for a list of the eligible “low-income” countries. Nominating your students or colleagues is a wonderful way to provide recognition for their efforts and to increase the membership and the visibility of ISTRO.

The scholarships will cover the costs of airfare (lowest cost possible) and the package deal of the ISTRO2009 conference ([www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr](http://www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr)). This package deal for registration and lodging (shared double room), all meals, banquet dinner, field day tour and CD is valued at € 650. Scholarship candidates must be current members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by current members of ISTRO. Nominations including supporting material documenting their research activities (e.g., two recent journal or conference publications), a curriculum vitae listing education and all publications, presentations and teaching activities, and the Abstract for a paper to be presented at the 2009 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary-General (Doug Karlen, [doug.karlen@ars.usda.gov](mailto:doug.karlen@ars.usda.gov)) by **December 31, 2008**. The selection committee will consist of the three new Board Members (Totka Mitova-Trifonova, John Fielke, and Mekhlis Suleimenov). After the selection, all applicants will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organizers to help make the final arrangements.

## **ISTRO Member Márta Birkás Authors New Book**

Márta Birkás (professor, Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary) and her co-authors Gábor Antos, Miklós Neményi, and András Szemők are pleased to announce that their new book entitled “*Environmentally-Sound Adaptable Tillage*” is now available to interested readers. The book focuses on improvement of the quality of soil, conserving its values in line with site, climate, mechanisation and farming conditions. This book is really unique for the Central European region because of its clarity and utility. It was written with a view to farmers and mechanical engineers in Central European countries to provide expedient information and practical solutions. Highly useful data from Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Polish, Austrian, Slovakian and Romanian scientists are presented, as well as recent results from scientists and colleagues in Britain, Australia, Germany and North-America. The authors state that “as far as we remember, adaptation of foreign tillage and sowing recommendations published in several brochures has always been a failure, since soil and climatic conditions of this region are rather specific regarding many aspects”. Key messages within the book focus on risk knowledge, soil quality improvement, soil structure-, water- and carbon conservation, and climate stress mitigation in harmony with site, mechanization and economical circumstances. There are nine chapters that enable the reader to recognize the need for, and to implement practices of environment-conserving and climate-adaptable tillage. They include: Soil condition assessment – Aims of soil tillage – Traditions and new directions – Tillage – Energy requirement and soil damage – The effect of site factors – how to reduce damage (in this chapter a number of tillage methods are suggested to help mitigating climate – e.g. drought, water-logging – stresses) – The influence of biological factors – Adaptable, environmentally focused tillage – Practical applicability of environment conserving and energy saving tillage – Environment conservation adaptable land use – Lesson drawn from the history of tillage. The book is recommended for university lecturers and professionals helping farmers improve their cropping practices in the Pannonian region and in Central Europe by giving advice or providing extension services. Undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students alike may also find this book to be a efficient tool in their work. The book can be purchased online at: <http://akol.akkrt.hu/main.php?folderID=1036>

## **Welcome to the New Croatian Branch of ISTRO**

The Croatian ISTRO Branch, named "Hrvatsko društvo za proučavanje obrade tala", or "Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization" was successfully registered with Croatian Institute for Statistics, on the date October 9, 2008. The official address is:

Hrvatsko društvo za proučavanje obrade tala  
Vatrogasna ulica 99  
31000 Osijek  
Croatia

This is also the home address for Dr. Bojan Stipesevic who for the next two years will serve as Branch President. Danijel Jug will serve as the Secretary and during the next few months, a CRO-ISTRO Branch Assembly will be organized. The goal is to enroll more people and to then elect additional officers (*i.e.*, Vice-president and Treasurer). Congratulations to all who have worked tirelessly to develop this new Branch. We welcome you with open arms!

## **Croatian ISTRO Branch to Host 1<sup>ST</sup> Conference**

The newly-formed ISTRO Branch in Croatia will co-hosting of a Conference entitled: "Agriculture in Protection of Nature and Environment", at Vukovar, Croatia on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> through Saturday June 6, 2009. Timing for the Conference is planned around the 5 June 2009, World's Nature & Environment Protection Day.

The Conference will be a continuation of the International Scientific/Professional Workshop that was started last year in Vukovar, Croatia. This was a special project with local the agri-journal "Agroglas" (β Agro-Voice) and resulted in a special issue of the daily newspaper "Glas Slavonije" (β Voice of Slavonia). The 2009 Conference will June conclude with an excursion and gala dinner. For information on the new ISTRO Branch in Croatia and on the June 2009 Conference, please contact the Branch President, Dr. Bojan Stipesevic by e-mail: [Bojan.Stipesevic@pfos.hr](mailto:Bojan.Stipesevic@pfos.hr)

## **Estonia Branch to Host International Conference**

The Estonia Branch of ISTRO will be a sponsor of an international conference entitled **“Risks in Agriculture: Environmental and Economic Consequences”** on June 8-10, 2010 at Tallinn, Estonia. For conference details and instructions on how to participate please see the following website: <http://www.eria.ee/index.php?page=3>

## **Final Comments**

As we rapidly approach the end of 2008, I would like to say again that it has been a real pleasure and honor to serve as your Assistant Secretary General and to stay in communication with all of you through ISTRO-INFO. As always, I encourage all of our members to send me information about their research, up-coming conferences, new books or other resources they have prepared or discovered, and any other item that may be of interest to your ISTRO colleagues. Don't worry about the writing, as long as I can get the general message, I will do my best to clarify the language so that everyone can benefit from the information in YOUR NEWSLETTER!

I also want to remind everyone to submit your registration material for the 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Izmir and to submit your nominations for the Young Scientist Awards. I look forward to seeing many of you in Izmir next year.

May 2009 be filled with many joys and blessings for you and your families.

With Joy and Peace of the Christmas Season,

Doug Karlen

Assistant Secretary General