

Blair McKenzie

This issue of ISTROINFO starts with several reminders, particularly for the Triennial conference, scholarships and elections but there are also several important news items and other relevant stories in subsequent pages. So please read on....

## ⌘ Triennial Conference Nanjing September 2015.

Please help President Xinhua and his team plan for the delegates attending the Nanjing conference 14-18 September 2015. So, for those who have not already done so, please can everyone who reads this issue (even if your ISTRO membership fees are overdue) email:

[istro2015@issas.ac.cn](mailto:istro2015@issas.ac.cn)

With the subject line as one of these options

Your name: definitely participating Nanjing

Your name: likely participating Nanjing

Your name: possibly participating Nanjing

Your name: unlikely participating Nanjing

Your name: not participating Nanjing

This information will help the organizing committee to arrange the many tasks needed for smooth running of the conference by ensuring that sufficient resources (e.g. buses, banquet seating, meeting rooms, airport transfers, etc.) are provided efficiently and equally ensuring that resources are not wasted.

More information on the conference and on VISA application procedures on the following pages.

## ⌘ Scholarships for young researchers.

Date extended. Due to some problems with email circulation lists, the date for submission has been extended until 16 January 2015. So - there is still time young researchers who are ISTRO members to submit applications for scholarships to attend the Nanjing conference. Young is defined under the age of 40 on 14 September 2015. We are sponsoring four scholarships to support attendance.

Scholarship candidates must be current (i.e. dues up-to-date) members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by a current member of ISTRO.

The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young researchers from any country. The scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who has demonstrated superior research accomplishments. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship will cover the costs of airfare (lowest cost), registration, the Conference Dinner and accommodation at the conference hotel.

The other three scholarships are open to young researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." Excluded high-income countries can be found at: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm>

This classification is the same as used to determine the level of fee for ISTRO membership.

The allocation of these three scholarships and the level of support will be based on academic merit, location of the applicant at the time of application and on the geographic spread of applicants. The amount of each award is expected to sufficient for those successful to fully participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> ISTRO conference (and in-line with the Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship).

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 2015 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary- General (Blair McKenzie) by January 16, 2015.

The scholarship selection committee comprises three elected members of the ISTRO Board (who are not office bearers). 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. Applications should be emailed to [blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk)

## ⌘ Still time to vote.

ISTRO members should have received ballot information and papers for the 2015 ISTRO election in an email from Secretary General Doug Karlen (on 21 October). If you have not received the papers then please check with Doug ([Doug.Karlen@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Doug.Karlen@ars.usda.gov)). If you want to make sure your subscriptions are up-to-date then contact Treasurer Allen Torbert ([Allen.Torbert@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Allen.Torbert@ars.usda.gov)) Ballots close on 15 January.

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## ⌘ Obituary Henryk B Domzal

It has only recently come to my notice that Prof Henryk Domzal passed away in March this year at the age of 76 years. Henry was ISTRO President and chief organizer of the 14th Triennial conference in Pulawy, Poland in 1997. Many members will have fond memories of Henry from that time as a very congenial and welcoming host.

Henryk was a graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture of the WSR in Lublin (1962) and completed further studies in agricultural science and soil science including a PhD from the University of Lublin in soil science in 1978. From 1995 he was a Professor of Institute of Soil Science and Natural Environment, Agricultural University in Lublin and also served as Director of the institute.

In addition to his commitment to ISTRO he was an active member of the International Society of Soil Sciences and a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Henryk was committed to teaching and supervised many graduate and postgraduate students. For his service to education and agricultural science he was decorated with the Silver and Gold Cross of Merit, Knight of the Order of Polonia Restituta Polish, and the Medal of the National Education Commission.

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## ⌘ New Seeding Equipment.

ISTRO past President John Morrison has continued working since his retirement and developed a new single-row, 2WT, no-till row crop seeder, the “CA-Seeder 1000” is now in production. The design includes:

- residue rake to clear a path,
- floating coulter blade to cut remaining residues and help maintain even planting depth,
- plow tip to open the seed furrow with an attached seed drop,
- dual hopper with seed and starter fertilizer meters,
- rear press wheel to close the furrow, and
- a riding platform for the operator to ride on.

Marketed under the “[Morrison Seeders](#)” brand name, it is being manufactured by [Stone Mountain Technologies, Inc \(SMTI\)](#) of Johnson City, Tennessee, USA and globally distributed by the non-profit NGO, [World Help Through Technology Foundation \(WHT\)](#) of Durham, NC, USA. His team is actively seeking partners interested in serving as distributors around the world. Anyone with an interest in the seeder or in aiding with distribution may contact his group at [SeederInfo@WHTFound.org](mailto:SeederInfo@WHTFound.org). Videos of the seeder in operation are available on the [Morrison Seeders](#) and [WHT](#) web pages as well as [several on YouTube](#).



If ISTRO members know of contacts that can help the not-for-profit distribution of this practical equipment please contact [SeederInfo@WHTFound.org](mailto:SeederInfo@WHTFound.org) directly.

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## ⌘ Award for the Uruguayan ISTRO branch.

Members of the ISTRO branch of Uruguay in association with the Uruguayan Society of Soil Science working with Agronomy Department of the University of the Republic of Uruguay, the National Agricultural Research Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been honoured for their "Soil Conservation Program". The honour, presented on December 6<sup>th</sup>, was the "Morosoli Prize" from the Foundation Lolita Rubial", which is awarded in recognition of Uruguayan citizens and institutions that stand out for their work on behalf of the community. The reasons for this distinction are:

-For the study of the erosion problems in the country and find ways to improve the use of the agricultural soils, avoiding the most various difficulties, integrating the academic knowledge to the practice;

-For being relevant actors in the construction of a model of management and soil conservation allowing the agricultural sector to have a sustained and orderly growth;

-To defend and promote our primary resource, our main source of wealth, developing and adapting to our conditions a tool to develop plans of use and soil management as a basis to a policy of protecting it.

-For the commitment to the country and its people, essential for the development and consolidation of the Uruguay of the future.

## ⌘ Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Soil Management in Sustainable Farming Systems".

The conference organized by the ISTRO branch of the Czech Republic was held between 25-27 June 2014 and organized by organizing committee of Mendel University in Brno, the Research Institute for Fodder Crops Ltd., Troubsko, the Research Institute for Crop Production, Prague, Research Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Prague and the Czech Academy of Agricultural Science, Crop production and Phytomedicine section. Further information including full program details and many jpps of the seminars and associated tour can be found at [www.istro.cz](http://www.istro.cz)

With so much information easily available I will present only a few key highlights here drawing from information supplied by Vladimir Smutny the branch president. The conference was held in the very picturesque Chateau Krtiny owned by the Mendel University in Brno.



The conference was attended by about 40 scientists and engineers from the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. A range of oral presentations and posters were presented on sessions including Soil fertility and plant nutrition (including soil physics and soil and water management); Soil tillage for crop protection (including the role of cultivation in integrated pest and weed management); Perspectives such as energy consumption and economics of soil tillage practices and cropping practices.

Included in the events was a trip to the "ZETOR Gallery" ([www.zetorgallery.cz](http://www.zetorgallery.cz)) where participants were able to view the history, development and current range of agricultural machinery produced.



The third day of the conference was devoted to a field trip to the Experimental Station in Zabčice. This Field Experimental station is a part of the University Training Farm Zabčice. This place has functioned as an experimental centre of crop production for more than eighty years. Nowadays it is a Field Experimental Station base for research aimed on crop rotation, soil tillage, long-term

trials, varietal trials (winter wheat, maize, sunflower, potatoes, sugar beet), plant nutrition and fertilization (winter wheat, maize), growth regulators against lodging in spring barley and winter wheat, and testing agrochemicals for registration.

As well as getting an introduction to the field experiments there was also prepared demonstration and assessment of soil conditions in response to different tillage. This was organized in cooperation with FARMET ([www.farmet.cz](http://www.farmet.cz)). This is a dynamically growing Czech company engaged in the development, production, sale and service of agricultural machines for soil processing and sowing.



The last stop of the excursion was in Cerna Hora brewery ([www.pivovarcernahora.cz](http://www.pivovarcernahora.cz)), where was introduced history of this local brewery which was mentioned first in a document from a year 1298. Also was shown today's brewing technology and products and activities of the company. For more information check out the branch website.

## ☞ First report on the Nigerian Branch conference "Tillage for Sustained Agricultural Productivity and Environment".

The Nigerian Branch held a meeting at the Hill Top University Auditorium Federal University of Technology at Okure in Ondo State from 3-6 November 2014. The two guest speakers were Prof James Adediran from Obafemi Awolowo University and Prof Mohammed Yisa who is Deputy Speaker of the Kwara State House of Assembly and also Adjunct Professor in Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering at Kwara State University. In addition there were two lead papers and 30 oral presentations. The papers for all the oral presentations are being up-loaded to the main ISTRO website [www.istro.org](http://www.istro.org)

## ☞ ISTRO connected meetings forthcoming.



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Soil Trafficability – challenges for soils and vehicles  
Tartu, Estonia, March 26-27 2015

Visit seminar website

<http://pk.emu.ee/struktuur/muld/soil-trafficability-challenges-for-soils-and-vehicles/>

### Dates & Deadlines

January 12, 2015: Abstract Submission

March 19, 2015: Registration

March 26, 2015: Full paper submission

Language: English

Details of travel and accommodation options are on the website.

Registration: There is no registration fee.

Participants cover only the cost of travel and accommodation. Registration can be done via the website or send confirmation to Endla Reintam [endla.reintam@emu.ee](mailto:endla.reintam@emu.ee)

This is a rare opportunity to exchange understanding from military and agricultural vehicles. If ISTRO members are aware of research on military vehicles and soil trafficability please contact Endla at the email address above.

## ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> International CTF conference.

All ISTRO members and particularly those interested in Controlled Traffic Farming please note the 2nd International CTF conference will be 15 – 16 June 2015 in the UK and there are several associated international tours.

More information at

[www.soilandwater.org.uk/event-1806860](http://www.soilandwater.org.uk/event-1806860)

Registration will open in January 2015. The dates follow on from the large UK event "Cereals 2015" (<http://www.cerealsevent.co.uk/>). The aim is to

bring farmers, industry members, students, educationalists, researchers and advisors together to share knowledge, identify needs and to promote Controlled Traffic Farming. The conference will be held at Lilleshall National Sports and Conference Centre in Shropshire, UK.

While a provisional programme is planned there is still the opportunity to have input to events and activities by completing the survey monkey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LL69ZZ9>

## ☞ 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial ISTRO Conference. Nanjing, China 14-18th September 2015

The conference **website** has all needed information <http://istro2015.csp.escience.cn/>  
Registration is open: see the website and by email [istro2015@issas.ac.cn](mailto:istro2015@issas.ac.cn)

A full list of key note speakers and relevant information was included in the September issue of ISTROINFO and is available on the website. You will see that many of them will provide excellent lead in information and state-of-the-art reports for the conference topics below

**Abstract** submission is now open.

Conference topics:

Soil erosion and degradation of soil quality in upland agriculture.

Subsoil compaction: cause, effect and control

SOC sequestration and management.

Soil biology and biodiversity:

Biophysics: the interaction between biology and architecture of soil.

Earth critical zone: coupled hydrological and nutrients transport across scales.

Biogeochemical processes in paddy soils.

Agricultural sustainability and Climate change.

Tillage and seeding equipment design and modeling

Farmer and consultant's research experiences and needs.

**Venue:** The conference will be held at Shijiyuan International Conference Center, Nanjing which has the four-star Shijiyuan Hotel. Accommodation for the conference will be arranged for delegates by the conference committee.

Major sponsors are in place but good attendance is key to making any event a success.

## ☞ VISA information

Attendees from most countries will require a visa to enter the People's Republic of China. Attendees should apply for a Chinese visa through a travel agency or directly at the nearest Chinese embassy.

If attendees apply for a tourist visa, which will allow you attend the conference and sight-seeing, an official visa invitation letter will not be needed from 20th ISTRO Conference. No visa is required for ordinary passport holders from Singapore, Brunei and Japan to visit China for up to 15 days for business, sightseeing, visiting relatives and friends or transit.

If you do require an invitation letter for visa application, please email Dr ZHOU Hu (details below) and provide the following information:

Your full name (exactly as in your passport)

Your gender (male/female) and date of birth

Your nationality

Your passport number, issue and expiry date

The institute/university or other affiliation

The details of your address

The tentative title to be presented at 20<sup>th</sup> ISTRO Conference

An invitation letter will be issued which you can use to get a visa in the nearest Chinese Embassy/Consulate.

Please note that processing times for visas may vary between countries and at worst may take a few months in your country. General visa information should be obtained from your local China Consulate.

Contact details:

Dr. ZHOU Hu

Institute of Soil Science, CAS

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Tel: +86 25 8688 1221 Fax: +86 25 8688 1000

E-mail: [istro2015@issas.ac.cn](mailto:istro2015@issas.ac.cn)

If in any doubt check with your travel agent or the conference contact. ACT SOON!

## ⌘ Other upcoming meetings.

January 2015

14<sup>th</sup> ISSPA International Symposium for Soil and Plant Analysis 26-30 January 2015 Kona Beach Hawaii [www.isspa2015.com](http://www.isspa2015.com)

February 2015

International conference on Natural Resource Management for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods. Soil Conservation Society of India New Delhi 10-13 February 2015. [www.soilcsi.in](http://www.soilcsi.in) or contact [icsci2015@gmail.com](mailto:icsci2015@gmail.com)

18<sup>th</sup> International Soil Conservation Organization Conference May 31 –June 5, 2015 El Paso, Texas Aug. 15, 2014 –Call for abstracts Nov. 15, 2014 – Early registration opens <http://tucson.ars.ag.gov/isco/index.php>

June 2015

Inaugural Global Workshop on Digital Soil Morphometrics. 1-4 June 2015, Madison, USA.. For more information and expression of interest click [here](#)

July 2015

7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganism (ISMOM) Montreal Canada 5-10 July 2015 visit <http://ismom2015.conference.mcgill.ca/index0f50.html?p=home>

September 2015

LuWQ2015 2<sup>nd</sup> International Interdisciplinary Conference on Land Use and Water Quality: Agricultural Production and the Environment. Vienna Australia 21-24 September 2015 <http://web.natur.cuni.cz/luwq2015/>  
5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on SOIL ORGANIC MATTER. September 20-24, 2015, Göttingen, Germany. [www.som2015.org](http://www.som2015.org)

## ⌘ Books on special offer.

CATENA VERLAG GMBH [catenaverl@aol.com](mailto:catenaverl@aol.com) have special offers on several books that might be of interest to ISTRO members and in several cases have been written or edited by ISTRO members. These include:

R. Horn, J.J.H. van den Akker & J. Arvidsson (Editors)  
Subsoil Compaction  
- Distribution, Processes and Consequences -  
Advances in GeoEcology 32  
ISBN 978-3-923381-44-9, US ISBN 1-59326-240-X  
list price EUR 101.00

Marcello Pagliai & Robert Jones (Eds.)  
Sustainable Land Management –  
Environmental Protection  
A Soil Physical Approach  
Advances in GeoEcology 35  
ISBN 978-3-923381-48-7, US ISBN 1-59326-243-4  
list price EUR 143.00

Rainer Horn, Heiner Fleige, Stephan Peth & Xinhua Peng (Eds.)  
Soil Management for Sustainability  
Advances in GeoEcology 38  
ISBN 978-3-923381-52-4 US ISBN 1-59326-246-9  
list price EUR 139.00

Julia Krümmelbein, Rainer Horn & Marcello Pagliai (Editors)  
SOIL DEGRADATION  
Advances in GeoEcology 42  
352 pages, numerous figures, photos and tables,  
2013, list price 149.00 EUR  
ISBN 978-3-923381-59-3, US ISBN 1-59326-263-9

Naftali Lazarovitch & Arthur W. Warrick (Editors)  
[Exercises in Soil Physics](#)  
GeoEcology textbook  
352 pages, numerous math. equations, figures,  
tables, Appendix on CD  
ISBN 978-3-923381-60-9 US ISBN 1-59326-264-7,  
list price 55.00 EUR

For more information contact the publisher or your local bookshop.



## ⌘ Final comments

Let me start by thanking all those who have helped me put ISTROINFO together over the year. Much of what is contained in these issues is not written by me but by many ISTRO members who all send me announcements, information and comment. Thanks to all of them.

I encourage all members, branches, working-groups to keep ISTRO colleagues up to date about your research, technology transfer or knowledge exchange and challenges by sending me updates or information. Text and pictures do not have to be highest quality – I'm sure we can work a way to communicate successfully with the wider ISTRO community.

This time of year finds many of us traveling to spend time with family and friends. Whether you are travelling or staying where you are, I hope that you and yours remain safe. As 2014 draws to a close it is a good time to start to think about the year ahead and in 2015 we have the opportunity to come together for the Triennial conference in Nanjing. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

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For more information, please contact: Dr. Blair M. McKenzie, Assistant Secretary General, ISTRO, James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DA, UK.