

Blair McKenzie

⌘ Triennial Conference Nanjing September 2015.

IMPORTANT

President Xinhua and his team are busy planning for the Triennial conference in Nanjing 14-18 September 2015. To help plan they are keen to estimate numbers likely to attend. Therefore we ask that everyone who reads this issue (even if your membership fees are overdue) please email

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.

The ISTRO Board is again supporting young researchers who are ISTRO members. Young is defined under the age of 40 on 14 September 2015. We are sponsoring four scholarships to support attendance at the 20th Triennial ISTRO conference from 14-18 September 2015 in Nanjing, China. 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 be sufficient for those successful to fully participate in the 20th 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 December 31, 2014.

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

Note: Without exception, applicants must be current ISTRO members and meet the age criteria.

☞ 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 20th 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

71 Beijing East Road, Nanjing, China

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

E-mail: istro2015@issas.ac.cn

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

☞ 20th 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

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.



The date has been chosen to avoid the extreme heat of summer, the cold of winter and provide a time of intense agricultural activity. By announcing these dates early the organising team are hoping that ISTRO members will have time to plan activities.

☞ Key Note Speakers



Rattan Lal is a Professor of Soil Science in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. He is the Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center at Ohio State's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Professor Lal conducts research in carbon sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems, soil dynamics and processes, and natural resources management with emphasis on food security and environmental quality in the United States, Africa, Latin America, and India. Currently his research is focused on carbon dynamics in relation to soil erosion, and soil quality as indicated by soil structure and productivity. Professor Lal is the recipient of the prestigious Norman E. Borlaug Award (2005) and the von Liebig Award (2006) for his contributions and research in sustainable management of soil and natural resources. His service to professional organizations includes Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of Soil Science, Co-Editor-in-Chief of Soil & Tillage Research, and Past-President of the Soil Science Society of America. He is a fellow of the Soil Science Society of American, the American Society of Agronomy, the Third World Academy of Sciences and the American Association for Advancement of Science. He is a member of the U.S. National Committee of Soil Science, and was a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.N. Millennium Assessment. He has authored, reviewed and edited 1,200 journal articles and publications during his career, and has published in a variety of journals including Science and Soil & Tillage Research. He has presented numerous keynote seminars around the world, including the prestigious Presidential Lecture chaired by the President of Iceland.



Rainer Horn is currently a Professor of Soil Science (Chair) at the Institute of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science, Christian Albrechts University zu Kiel, Germany. He works in the broad area of Soil Physics: soil mechanics: stress strain effects in structured soils, soil structure effects, chemical as well as hydraulic processes in structured soils, unsaturated 3 dimensional flow and transport processes, waste deposit management capping systems, soil tillage effects on soil properties, soil hydraulic properties, chemical and biological aspects of soil aggregates. He has published more than 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 58 bookchapters, and 12 books apart from more than 70 unreviewed papers and reports. Dr. Horn has served as the president of International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO), and President of Germany Soil Science Society, and is now president of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS).



Professor Claire Chenu is Chair of Soil Science at UMR Bioemco, AgroParisTech in Grignon and Paris, France. Claire was a speaker at the Soil Carbon Sequestration Summit co-hosted by the US Studies Centre and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Sydney in February 2011. Her research interests include interactions between soil organic matter, microorganisms and soil mineral matrix. Understanding these interactions is crucial for managing soil structure and enhancing carbon sequestration in soil using appropriate cropping systems. Claire has been associate editor of several international journals, leader of the soil organic matter group in Grignon and of the Soil Science Department in INRA Versailles.

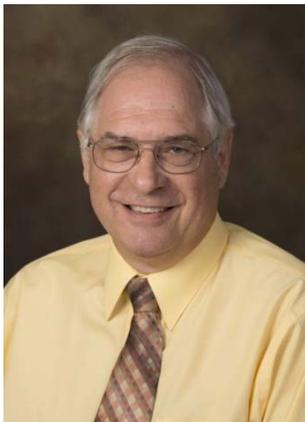


Professor Bing Cheng Si earned a Ph.D in Soil Physics from the University of Guelph, Canada in 1998. He joined the faculty at the University of Saskatchewan in 2000 and has been Professor since 2009 in the Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He was selected into the "Thousand Talent Plan" in 2012 in China and is now a national specially-appointed Professor in the College of Hydraulic and Architectural Engineering, Northwest University A&F. Dr. Si's research focuses on soil hydrology, particularly on spatial scaling, soil water and solute transport mechanisms. His research has improved our understanding on effects

of soil water and pollutants on groundwater quality and quantity, soil water and temperature on greenhouse gas emission, soil physical and hydrological processes on forestry and grassland diversity and productivity, and soil physical properties on land reclamation and eco-restoration. In the last 14 years, Dr. Si and his lab published more than 110 SCI-indexed journal papers. The majority of his publications appears in the reputable Soil Science Society of America Journal, Geoderma, Journal of Hydrology, Water Resources Research, European Journal of Soil Science, Advances in Water Resources, Geophysical Research Letter, Journal of Geophysical Research, Agricultural and Forestry Meteorology, Environmental Science & Technology and others. He was Associate Editor of Soil Science Society of America for 6 years and Media Review editor for 3 years. He is Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science.



Dr. Henry Lin is a Professor of Hydropedology/Soil Hydrology in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at The Pennsylvania State University, USA. He has been active in hydropedology research and education since 2001 and has served as the founding chair of the Hydropedology Working Group of the Soil Science Society of America and of the International Union of Soil Sciences. He organized and chaired the First International Conference on Hydropedology in 2008. He has published over 100 papers and edited six special issues of various scientific journals related to hydropedology. His research interests include fundamental understanding and practical applications of integrated soil and water sciences, soil architecture and preferential flow across scales, complex systems view of soil formation and soil functions, and the holistic understanding of the Earth's Critical Zone.



Professor Douglas L. Karlen is a Research Soil Scientist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment (NLAE) in Ames, IA. He conducts research on soil quality and sustainable biomass feedstock production. Doug also serves as team leader for the ARS Resilient Economic Agricultural Practices (formerly the Renewable Energy Assessment Project) or REAP team. REAP is a multi-location research and technology transfer project focused on sustainable agricultural production and harvest of crop residues for bioenergy and bio-products. Doug served on a U.S. National Academy of Sciences Panel associated with the America's Energy Future project and was a contributing author for the "Alternative Liquid Transportation Fuels" chapter. His research program uses soil quality assessment as a tool to quantify effects of soil and crop management practices including tillage, crop rotation, nutrient management, manure management and most recently crop residue removal on the sustainability of agricultural management systems. He is a native of Wisconsin and has his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Michigan State University, and Kansas State University, respectively. He is author or co-author of 212 peer-reviewed journal articles and 140 refereed proceedings, book chapters, and non-technical publications. Doug is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America and Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is also serving as Secretary General for the International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) and is recognized as an adjunct faculty member in the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University.

🌀 Post-Conference Excursions – 3 options

Line One: 7-day Xi'an and Beijing Excursion

Price: 915 USD for double-bed room for 5 nights OR

1190 USD for single-bed room for 5 nights

Line Two: 2-day Yellow mountain and Hong village Excursion

Price: 185 USD for double-bed room OR 200 USD for single-bed room

Line Three: 4-day Yingtan Red Soil Station-Hangzhou Excursion

Price: 355 USD or 2190 RMB for a double-bed room for 3 nights OR 420 USD or 2580 RMB for a single-bed room for 3 nights

Line One: 7-day Xi'an and Beijing Excursion

Departure date: 19th, Sept, 2015

Number of person: Around 30 (Only open to international participants)

Hotel: Four-star hotel

Price: 915 USD for double-bed room for 5 nights OR 1190 USD for single-bed room for 5 nights

Including: Flight ticket from Nanjing to Xi'an, CRH train ticket from Xi'an to Beijing, coach ticket, hotel, gate ticket, food, travel insurance, and guide service (English).

Itinerary:

Sept. 19, 2015: Morning: Nanjing - Xi'an. Arriving at hotel, Afternoon: City wall, Drum Tower. Meal: Dinner

Sept. 20:

Xi'an: Terracotta Warriors Museum and the Terracotta Warriors Replica's Factory, Huaqing Hot Spring, Tang Dynasty Show and Dumpling Feast.

07:30-08:30 Enjoy your breakfast at hotel.

08:45-09:30 Depart for the Terra-cotta Warriors Museum

09:30-10:30 Explore a factory which manufactory the Terra-cotta Warriors in the original way.

11:00-13:00 Visit the significant archeological excavations of the 20th century, the amazing Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, which boasts the title of the World's Eighth Great Wonder. Here, you may see the clay soldiers and horses of distinct facial expressions and positions orderly arranged in battle formations and the famous Bronze Chariots and Horses, as well as many delicate bronze weapons, presenting a real scene of war in ancient China.

13:00-14:00 Lunch at a local restaurant
14:00-16:00 Followed by a visit to the Huaqing Hot Springs (also called Huaqing Pool) which is famed for both its dainty spring scenery and the romantic love story of Emperor Xuanzong (685-762) and his concubine Yang Guifei in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).
16:00-17:00 Return to the hotel for short rest.
17:40-18:30 Depart for the Dumpling restaurant to enjoy the famous Dumpling dinner and followed by the Tang Dynasty Cultural Show.
21:30-22:00 Return to the hotel. Meals: Western buffet breakfast, Chinese lunch & dumpling dinner
Sept 21:

Xi'an: Wild Goose Pagoda, Today we will take you to visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Tang Ruins Park.
08:00-09:00 Enjoy your buffet breakfast at hotel
09:10-10:00 Depart for the Big Wild Goose Pagoda
10:00-12:30 Visit the Pagoda and learn the Chinese Buddhism Culture.

The Big Wild Goose Pagoda is a seven-storey square cone-shaped tower which was built in the Tang Dynasty, about the 7th Century. It was used to house the Buddhism scriptures and statues brought back from India by Master Xuanzang. The nearby Music Fountain Square is a great place to get to know the local Xi'an people. Followed, you will have chance to explore a Jade Factory and Gallery.

13:00-14:00 Lunch at local restaurant.
14:30-16:00 Visit the Tang Dynasty Ruins Park.
Meals: Western buffet breakfast,
Chinese lunch & dinner

Sept. 22:

Take CRH train to Beijing. Wangfujing Pedestrian Shopping Street.

06:30-07:00 Buffet breakfast at hotel
07:00-08:00 Depart for the train station
09:00-13:53 Take CRH train to Beijing (Lunch box to be taken to the train)
13:55-16:00 Upon arrival, meet your guide and to be transferred to the hotel.
16:00-17:00 Rest in the hotel
17:00-18:00 Visit the Wangfujing Pedestrian Shopping Street and the night food Market.
18:00-18:30 Depart for the Roast Duck Restaurant
18:30-20:00 Enjoy a welcome dinner at a Roast Duck restaurant.

Meal: Western buffet breakfast,
Chinese lunch & roast duck dinner

Sept. 23

Beijing. Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Silk Factory.

07:30-08:30 Enjoy your buffet breakfast at hotel
08:45-09:00 Depart for the Tian'anmen Square & Forbidden City

09:00-12:00 To visit the Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City. First, you will have a stroll on the world's largest city center square, Tiananmen Square, Which can hold millions of people for gathering. Then, pass through the Golden Water Bridge and enter the well-preserved imperial palace complex, the Forbidden City. 'Forbidden' to the common people in ancient times, this mysterious imperial palace was first unveiled to the public in 1925 as a museum to display the royal lives, magnificent constructions and precious historical relics. Since then, it has been a top travel destination in China.

12:30-13:30 Lunch at a local restaurant
13:30-16:00 Transfer to visit the Temple of Heaven, join in the locals for daily Exercise or Taichi training (if available).

16:30-18:00 Explore a silk factory where you will learn how the Silk Fabrics are created.
18:30-19:30 Dinner at a local restaurant and then return to hotel.

Meal: Western buffet breakfast,
Chinese lunch & roast duck dinner
Sept. 24.

Beijing: Great Wall, Sacred Way of Ming Tombs.

07:00-07:30 Enjoy your buffet breakfast at hotel
07:45-09:00 Depart for the Great Wall.

09:00-11:30 Hiking on the wall. For visitors it has for long been a must to ascend the wall and appreciate it winding up and down according to the mountain ridges.

12:00-14:00 Lunch at a Friendship Store and followed by exploring the Cloisonne factory which is part of the Friendship Store.

14:30-16:00 Visit the Sacred Way of Ming Tombs.

16:00-17:00 Return to hotel for rest.
18:00-19:30 Enjoy a farewell dinner at local restaurant.

Meals: Western buffet breakfast,
Chinese lunch & dinner

Sept. 25. Departure for airport

Line Two: 2-day Yellow mountain and Hong village Excursion

Departure date: 19th, Sept, 2015

Number of person: Around 30 (Only open to international participants)

Hotel: Four-star hotel

Price: 185 USD for double-bed room OR 200 USD for single-bed room

Including: Coach ticket, hotel, cable ticket, gate ticket, food, travel insurance, and guide service.

Itinerary:

Sept. 19. Gather in front of the hotel after breakfast, then take tourist buses (about 3 hours) to the world cultural heritage site—Hongcun(Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui) for visiting and expedition.

Sept. 20. After breakfast, take tourist buses at 6 am. to the world cultural heritage site—Mount Huang(tour takes about 7 hours).

Sept. 20. At 3-6 pm: Take tourist buses at 3 pm. to return to Nanjing (about 3 hours) after the end of the pleasant trip in Mount Huang.

Line Three: 4-day Yingtan Red Soil Station-Hangzhou Excursion

Departure date : 19th, September

Number of tourists: Around 30 (Open to all international and domestic participants)

Price: 355 USD or 2190 RMB for a double-bed room for 3 nights OR 420 USD for 2580 RMB a single-bed room for 3 nights

Including: CRH train ticket from Nanjing-Yingtan-Hangzhou, coach ticket, food, gate ticket, travel insurance, and guide service (English).

Itinerary:

Sept. 19.

Take the train of G7621 from Nanjing railway station to Hangzhoudong railway station then take the train of D97 to Yingtan

13:01 Arrive Yingtan in 13:01pm, then take the bus to the hotel

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-17:30 Visit Yingtan Red Soil Station, erosion plots, long-term fertilization plots, lysimeters

17:30-18:30 Return to the town.

18:30-19:30 Dinner at local restaurant and then rest in the hotel Sleep in Yingtan

Sept. 20.

06:30 Morning call
07:00-08:00 Breakfast
08:00-12:30 Visit Sunjia Watershed, Hydrological Monitoring, paddy soil profile
12:30-13:30 Lunch
13:30-18:00 Visit Danxia geology landscape
18:30-19:30 Dinner at local restaurant and then rest in the hotel Sleep in Yingtan

Sept. 21.

06:30 Morning call

07:00-08:00 Breakfast

09:17-13:08 Take the train of D94 back to Hangzhou

13:30-14:30 Lunch

15:00-17:30 Visit Hangzhou

18:00-19:00 Dinner at local restaurant and then rest in the hotel Sleep in

Hangzhou

Sept. 22.

07:00-09:00 After breakfast, end of this trip.

For more information and how to enrol in these tours contact the conference organizers at istro2015@issas.ac.cn

☞ ISTRO 2015 ballot for office bearers and board members

In the next few days members (those whose subscriptions are up to date) will receive from Doug Karlen (ISTRO Secretary-General) ballot information to elect office bearers and board members. If you do not receive ballot information then it is likely that your subscriptions are not up-to-date. To pay dues owing please contact Allen.Torbert@ARS.USDA.GOV

Below is a copy of the information on all the nominees that will be sent to members in good standing – but note that this is for information only and ballot information from the Secretary-General will be needed to vote.

Blair McKenzie, currently Assistant Secretary-General will automatically assume the duties of Secretary General following the 20th Triennial Conference in Beijing, China. He will be serving a 6-year term through 2021.

Assistant Secretary General

DSc. Lars J. Munkholm from Denmark

Lars currently serves as a Senior Scientist at Aarhus University in Denmark. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen in 2001 and a D.Sc. degree from Aarhus University in 2013. During his research career, Lars has been a visiting scientist at the University of Guelph, Canada and at the University of Tennessee, USA. His research focuses on soil management effects on soil structure and plant growth, with four areas receiving special emphasis: (1) soil fragmentation during tillage, (2) interactions between tillage tools and soils, (3) tillage and traffic effects on root growth conditions, and (4) overall effects of tillage and traffic on plant production and the environment (*i.e.*, greenhouse gas emissions, N leaching). Lars has authored and co-authored 48 papers in refereed journals and books and published more than 110 other scientific publications. He is a member of the editorial board for *Geoderma* and is an associate editor for *Soil Use and Management*. Lars has a good working knowledge of ISTRO. He became a member of ISTRO in 1997, shortly after attending the Triennial Conference in Pulawy, Poland and has attended all conferences since then. Lars became a member of the ISTRO Board in 2012 following the conference

in Montevideo, Uruguay and also serves as secretary for ISTRO's Visual Soil Examination and Evaluation (VSEE) Working Group. Lars helped organize the joint 2014 workshop in Maringa, Brazil between the VSEE and the Subsoil Compaction Working Groups. In 2011, Lars organized the ISTRO workshop on applications of visual soil evaluation in collaboration with Bruce Ball and Tom Batey. He is also involved with international research as a member of the Cropland Group under the Global Research Alliance on greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Lars states that "I would be honored to serve as Assistant Secretary General for the next 6 years and later for 6 years as Secretary General. Today, ISTRO is a vibrant and highly professional global meeting place for researchers interested in soil tillage and field traffic research. If elected I will work to promote these core values of ISTRO".

President Elect

Prof. Nicholas Holden

Nick is Head of Subject, Agricultural Systems Technology in the UCD School of Biosystems Engineering. He holds a PhD in geographical and soil sciences and worked as an NERC research fellow in the UK and a Newman Scholar in Ireland, focusing on water and nutrient transport processes in soils and the controlling influence of soil structure. Nick's research since joining the Biosystems Engineering discipline in 1998 has addressed environmental impacts of agricultural systems (with a particular focus on animal production from grasslands). His research projects have focused on management of nutrient and pathogen loss, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change impacts, soil quality and soil carbon. Nick's expertise is at the interface of soil science, agrometeorology, farm system modelling and life cycle assessment. He has used the nexus of these skills to develop an understanding and knowledge that can be applied for agricultural decision support, environmental risk assessment, environmental impact assessment and policy development. Nick's research has been funded by national grants (FP6 and FP7) and has supported many graduate students and post-doctoral research projects. It has also resulted in many journal papers, conference publications and book chapter contributions

associated with agriculture, soil science, environment science and Biosystems Engineering. Nick's current research on soils is designed to develop visual tools for soil structural quality and the use of spectroscopic methods for soil quality assessment. Nick looks forward to hosting the 22nd ISTRO Conference in Dublin in 2021 and has already presented an exciting proposal package to the Board.

ISTRO Board

NOTE – There will be three vacancies on the ISTRO Board as a result of Lars Munkholm being affirmed to assume the duties of Assistant Secretary General. Therefore, two of the following candidates will be chosen for a six-year terms and the other for a three-year term. The person filling the 3-year term will be eligible for reelection in 2018. Please circle 1 for your first preference for Board Service, 2 for your 2nd preference, and 3 for your 3rd. Thank you.

Dr Ranjan Bhattacharyya from India

Ranjan is a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture in New Delhi. He received his Ph.D. in 2009 emphasizing Soil Science and Soil and Water Conservation at the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. Ranjan's Ph.D. research was recognized by ISTRO through his selection as a "Young Scholar" which provided him an award that enabled him to attend the 18th Triennial ISTRO Conference at Izmir, Turkey. He became a member of the *Geoderma* Editorial Board in April 2013, and in January 2014, Ranjan was recognized as a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in India. He is currently conducting collaborative research focused on (1) Conservation Agriculture, (2) Efficient use of N, Zn and water for enhancing rice, wheat and maize productivity, and (3) adaptation of Indian agriculture to climate change. Ranjan is a member of the Indian Society of Soil Science, Indian Society of Agro-Physics, Indian Society of Agronomy, Indian Society of Plant Physiology, Indian Society of Soil and Water Conservationists, Indian Science Congress Association and National Environmental Science Academy. He is also an annual member of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, International Soil and Tillage Research Organization, World Association of Soil

and Water Conservation and International Union of Soil Science. He is willing to serve on the ISTRO Board and will strive to effectively represent his Indian colleagues and others throughout the world.

Dr. Hubert Boizard from France

Hubert is an agronomist working at INRA, the French National institute for Research in Agriculture, Environment and Food Processing. Since 1984, his research has been focused on soil structure within different cropping systems. From 1989 to 2008, he conducted a major long-term field experiment in northern France. Located on a deep silt loam, mouldboard ploughing and reduced tillage systems were compared over a wide range of soil compaction intensities, created by different crop rotations and rules of decision-making. This research contributed to a much better understanding and quantification of how different factors affect soil structure dynamics (*i.e.*, compaction by agricultural machinery, regeneration by tillage as well as climate and / or biological activity). Hubert has co-authored about 30 scientific papers primarily based on the results of this experiment. Throughout the project, Hubert consistently tried to combine a morphological approach and physical measurements at the field scale to characterize soil structure, with a special interest for its spatial and temporal variations, induced by weathering, tillage and traffic. The results were also used to design a simulation model, in collaboration with other French colleagues. Hubert is a well-known specialist of the "*profil cultural*" method; he is working presently on the adaptation of this method to the specific conditions of no tillage. He is member of the ISTRO working group "Visual Soil Examination and Evaluation" and organized the first field meeting of this group in France in 2005. In 2013, he visited Uruguay and Argentina with the purpose of discussing potential collaborations on this topic, with South American ISTRO members and other soil scientists.

From 2008 to 2013, Hubert was the head of the "Agro Resources and Environmental Impacts" Research Unit. This Unit has 10 permanent scientists and engineers, approximately 10 PhD. students and postdocs, 13 technicians and administrative personnel who strive to quantify the impacts of agricultural practices on soil quality, nitrate leaching, C and N storage in soils and greenhouse

gas emissions. During this period, Hubert set up another long-term field experiment, whose objective is to survey various environmental impacts of industrial crop management systems. He also initiated a new research program focused on the design of innovative cropping systems for bioenergy. Hubert has been an active participant in ISTRO activities since 1994 and is very committed to this organization. His participation on the Board will also be of assistance for organizing the 21st ISTRO conference in France in 2018.

Dr. Joshua Olaoye from Nigeria

Joshua Olanrewaju Olaoye graduated from the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria with B. Eng. degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1990. He received his M. Eng. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the same University in 1995 and 2004, respectively. Joshua conducts research in agricultural mechanization and analysis of agricultural productivity. His research focuses on farm operations, including influence of tillage on soil properties and yield components of some staple crops. He conducts on-farm field research and model field experiments for applied research, testing and development of methods for physical soil analysis, analysis of the motion of weeding tools and development of a rotary power weeder. He has also designed, fabricated and evaluated the performance of a multipurpose row planting machine and the effects of land clearing operation on tillage mechanization for high crop productivity. Joshua helped organize the ISTRO-Nigeria Symposium that was held successfully in 2011 on Tillage for Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Sustainability. As a team player, his role as Technical Secretary, ISTRO-Nigeria Branch has led positively to the reorganization of ISTRO - Nigeria Branch. The branch is one of the branches with the largest membership as of today. His goal is to promote and resuscitate active regional Branch activities in Africa so as to achieve global focus and affect core values of the organization.

☞ Report on Uruguayan Branch conference August 2014

Uruguayan Congress of Soil -VI Meeting of SUCS Uruguay 6-8th August 2014

This report on the Congress has been prepared by the Soil Science Society of Uruguay (SUCS) and the Uruguayan Branch of ISTRO. The Uruguayan Congress of Soil -VI Meeting of SUCS "Intensifying the knowledge of soil and environment to produce more and better" was held under the SUCS organization (Soil Science Society of Uruguay) and the Uruguayan Branch of ISTRO (International Soil Tillage Research), from 6-8 August, 2014, Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay.

The Congress was attended by about 300 participants from Argentina, Brazil, USA, Germany, Venezuela, and Uruguay, with 76 papers divided on 10 main topics:

1. Soil physical, chemical, biochemical, and biological properties
2. Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition
3. Soil management and soil conservation. Drainage. Irrigation.
4. Soil Classification. Cartography.
5. Soil and environment quality.
6. Precision Agriculture.
7. Bioenergy.
8. Climatology.
9. Agroindustries residues.
10. Teaching Soil Science.

Papers are in the page of the Congress at the ISBN 978-9974-99-587-1.

Plenary presentations

Children of a primary school of Montevideo (Uruguay) under the charge of Beatriz Bellenda and her team presented the work: Horticulture in Education Centers Program: From School. Also, undergraduate and graduate students presented in two minutes a poster with the objectives and main results of their thesis. Moreover, a summary of the evolution of the studies of soils were presented in a video with interviews to former investigators.



Agr. Daniel Zorrilla de San Martin (Agronomist Society of Uruguay) The role of the Agronomist in the Implementation of the Use and Natural Resource Management Plans



There were 11 plenary presentations:

Dr. Walter Baethgen, Columbia University, USA
Climate Variability and Change in the Agricultural Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Miguel Cabrera, University of Georgia, USA
Hormones and Antibiotics in Surface Runoff

Dr. Norbert Claassen, Universität Göttingen, Germany
Agricultural and Recycling Strategies for Efficient Use of Phosphorus

Prof. Oswaldo Ernst, University of Uruguay
Attainable Yield and Gap in the Wheat Production in Continuous Crops in no-till

Dr. Mario García, University of Uruguay
Field Crops: Irrigation or not irrigation?

Dir. Mariana Hill, Government of Uruguay
Plans for Responsible Use and Management of Soils

Daniel Jorajuria, University of La Plata, Argentina
Compaction in Traffic Systems Farming Without Continuous Cultivation

Dr. Antonio Mallarino, Iowa State University, USA
Integrated nutrient management in crops: keys to a modern and efficient agriculture

Dr. Gervasio Piñeiro, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Following the dynamics of carbon and nitrogen in soil by stable isotope

Dr. Ariel Szogi, USDA, USA
Waste Management of Intensive Animal Production Utilization and recycling of nutrients

Conclusions and actions from the Congress

During the Congress the Directive of the SUCS elaborated a letter expressing its concern regarding the continuation of regulations of plans of use and management of the soil for the coming government. The letter was read at the end of the Congress and published in several web pages. More information is available at www.suelos.com.uy

☞ Other upcoming meetings

November 2014

6th Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping, 11-14 November, 2014, Nanjing, China. More details at <http://dsm2014.csp.escience.cn> The full-length papers will be published in a monograph by Springer after peer review.

National Soil Science Conference MCG Melbourne Victoria Australia 23-27 November 2014. www.soilscience2014.com

Latin America Soil Science Congress, Cuzco Peru 9-15 November

2014 http://www.slcs.org.mx/img/XX_Latinamerican_Soil_Science_Congress_Cusco_Peru.pdf

December 2014

New Zealand Society of Soil Science 'Soil Science for Future Generations' The University of Waikato Hamilton 1-4 December 2014 Abstracts open Feb 1 and close Sept 1 Early Registrations open 1 March and close 24 October

Conference on Conservation Agriculture for Smallholders in Asia and Africa 7-11 December 2014

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh Bangladesh <http://www.scac2014.org/>

January 2015

14th ISSPA International Symposium for Soil and Plant Analysis 26-30 January 2015 Kona Beach Hawaii 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 or contact icsci2015@gmail.com

18th 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

7th 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 2nd 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/>
5th International Symposium on SOIL ORGANIC MATTER. September 20-24, 2015, Göttingen, Germany. www.som2015.org

Final comments

To those members supervising PhD students: there is still the opportunity to nominate successful candidates for 3-years free ISTRO membership. Simply send an email to Doug Karlen Secretary General doug.karlen@gmail.com giving the name of the recent PhD candidate and the title of their thesis. An abstract of the thesis can also be published on the ISTRO website.

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