

Lars J. Munkholm

In January a whole year lies ahead of us— it may seem like plenty of time for the research activities, meetings etc. scheduled for 2018. I know by hard-learned experience that detailed planning is needed to be able to accomplish most of the desired activities.

The Paris conference in September is of course on top of my personal to-do-list for 2018. I hope that most of you have also included it in your 2018 schedule. The organizers have put together a very interesting program including excellent mid and post conference tours (<http://istro2018.webistem.com/>).

As a warm-up to the Paris conference, the soil compaction working group are organizing a 2-day meeting in Zürich on May 7–8, 2018 as detailed below. Recent soil compaction research as well as future activities of the working group will be discussed.

⌘ Inputs from the General Secretary

ISTRO board elections

All should now be aware that voting us under-way to fill two posts on the ISTRO board that will become vacant at the Paris conference. The last issue of ISTROINFO contained details of the three candidates standing for the two posts. The candidates are:

José Dörner (Chile)

Daniel Jug (Croatia)

Guillermo Siri-Prieto (Uruguay)

Details of the three candidates can be found in the recently-distributed ISTROINFOExtra of December 2017.

It is great that ISTRO has members who are prepared to work for the organization. On January 20, I emailed everyone who my records show have membership fees up-to-date, and thus are eligible to vote in the election. If anyone did not receive the voting notice, but believes their membership fees

are up-to-date, please contact me (blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk) and we can check your voting rights. Note that voting closes at midnight GMT on Friday February 16.

Paris conference

One of the things that separates ISTRO conferences from many other conferences stems from the direct connection between ISTRO and our journal Soil & Tillage Research. As we plan for attending the 21st Triennial conference in Paris it is worth noting that Soil & Tillage Research will have a significant presence at the conference. Those who were in Nanjing will remember the excellent presentation from Young Wu who as a publishing editor for Elsevier deals with all their Agriculture, Forest and Soil Science journals. There were some useful tips on how to get the best from graphical abstracts. In a phone conversation with Young last week she confirmed that she expects to attend the Paris conference. Also several of the Editors-in-Chief and members of the Editorial Advisory Board of Soil & Tillage Research will attend the conference as ISTRO members, but there should be opportunities for attendees to discuss manuscripts in preparation and publication strategies. I encourage members to come and take advantage of these extra opportunities that the ISTRO conference presents.

Recent PhD graduates

Just a quick reminder that while ISTRO does have a student membership category, we make a particular effort to support scientists and engineers who have recently completed their PhDs. We know that this is often a time of change for people moving from established networks, moving location, starting new posts etc. So we want to support people during these transitions by keeping them up-to-date with events, meetings etc. Also we can help to promote their research by placing an abstract of their thesis on the ISTRO website. So we offer 3-years free membership of ISTRO to those who have completed a PhD in a relevant subject and who are nominated by an ISTRO member who was part of the supervisory team. ISTRO members who have PhD candidates about to graduate can simply email me

(blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk) to make the arrangements.

⌘ Updates on ISTRO Conference 2018



The registration for the ISTRO Conference (Monday the 24th and Thursday the 27th of September 2018) is open via <http://istro2018.webistem.com>.

Please notice that the deadline for abstract submission (March 1) is approaching.

Conference topics

1. Soil conservation
2. Soil compaction and structure remediation
3. Soil ecology and Ecosystem services
4. SOC sequestration and management
5. Biogeochemical processes in soils
6. Advances in soil structure characterization
7. Tillage and smart farming
8. Tires, tillage and seeding equipment design
9. Design and assessment of soil tillage strategies

Important dates:

Deadline for abstract submission: March 1, 2018
Notification of abstract acceptance: May 1, 2018
Deadline for early bird registration: May 15, 2018

Early bird fees:

ISTRO members: 500€; non-ISTRO members: 600€;
PhD students: 200€

For more details consult <http://istro2018.webistem.com>.

⌘ ISTRO working Group B Soil Compaction Meeting

To be held on May 7–8, 2018 at the Agroscope Research Institute in Zürich, Switzerland

Meeting outline:

- 1.5 days of informal presentations and discussions, including a visit to a field experiment on recovery of compacted soil.
- The meeting will start on May 7 after lunch (lunch organized for those who want), allowing participants to travel to Zürich in the morning of May 7, and end on May 8 around 15:00 hours, allowing participants to catch late afternoon/evening flights back home (the Agroscope research institute is just 15 min from the airport by taxi).
- Workshop dinner on May 7.

Objectives:

- To present and discuss recent soil compaction research and to identify research needs
- To discuss future activities and efforts of the working group

Presentations:

Presentations will be a mix of a few longer presentations, short science flash presentations, and discussion-oriented presentations. We welcome presentations on the following topics: quantitative understanding of stress transmission and deformation processes (measurements and modeling); crop responses to soil compaction (measurements and modeling); long-term effects of compaction and recovery of compacted soil; compaction remediation by biological tillage or subsoiling; spatial distribution and extent of soil compaction (field, regional, country, continent scale); geophysical methods in soil compaction research; decision support tools for prevention of soil compaction.

Registration – Please register before April 5, 2018:

- By email to Thomas Keller, thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch
- Indicate whether you will join for lunch on May 7, and whether you will join for dinner on May 7
- Let us know food allergies and special diet requirements
- Hotel room: number of nights, and approximate check-in time
- If you would like to give a talk: title of your presentation and a short (max 200 words) abstract

Accommodation in Zürich

We will pre-book a number of rooms in hotels (it is probably not possible to accommodate all participants in the same hotel). Costs per night around 150 CHF.

Costs

The workshop costs include handouts, meals and coffee breaks. The costs are not fixed yet, but will be low-cost (envisaged costs < 100 CHF). Hotel costs are not included in the registration fee, each participant pays by her/himself directly in the hotel.

Convenors: Mathieu Lamandé and Thomas Keller, ISTRO soil compaction working group

Contact: Thomas Keller, thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch

☞ Report from the Fifteenth Iranian Soil Science Congress

The Fifteenth Iranian Soil Science Congress was held on September 6–8, 2017 at the Isfahan University of Technology. The congress, with the theme: “Soil, Health, Life” was attended by more than 800 professors, researchers, experts and students of soil science. The Iranian ISTRO Branch was well represented at the meeting. The congress was successful with presentations and lectures, and the implementation of workshops and scientific field excursion. Some of the outcome from the congress, in the form of final statements to scientific communities, policy makers and honorable managers of the country are as followed:

1. Serious attention should be paid to the implementation of the decrees on soils.
2. Due to the close relationship and the important role of soil management and conservation in solving Iran’s water crisis, it is recommended that the Supreme Council for Water be renamed to the Supreme Council for Water and Soil.
3. The vast and important soil resources of the country are currently lacking a dedicated executive manager.
4. A national land use planning should be prepared as soon as possible.
5. Implementation of a study program, identification, and preparation of soil maps in scale of 1: 25000, and establishment of the National Soil Information Center as an important step in sustainable management of soil resources is necessary.
6. Training of soil science graduates to work in private sector cooperatives, greenhouses, irrigation systems, land drainage projects, etc.
7. Involving young specialists in organizing and improving the status of soil resources.
8. More attention should be given to the state and importance of the soil to address the economic, social and environmental problems in the country.
9. Direct and continuous monitoring of soil quality and the health of agricultural products are essential for the community health.
10. Provision of soil conservation and environmental assessment for all projects to address natural disasters such as floods, droughts, dust storms and landslides.
11. Adopting standards and awareness, and proper education can help address problems related to the accumulation of pesticides and pollutants in soils.
12. The presence of experts and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant organizations at the congresses related to soil sciences is important to strengthen the relationship between scientific and executive sectors.

Appreciation

The Iranian Soil Science Society would like to appreciate Isfahan University of Technology and the Department of Soil Science on this occasion and thank all the distinguished participants and supporters. We hope that the achievements of this congress will be the light of the way forward for efforts to reduce the problems and organize the soil resources, and improve agriculture and the environment. Like in the past, the Iranian Soil Science Society announces its readiness to cooperate with authorities in policy making and implementation of sustainable soil and land management programs in the country.



☞ Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 2018

Intersol 2018: Polluted sites and soils: A challenge for major urban projects! March 27–29, 2018 in Paris, France.

Webpage: <http://www.intersol.fr/accueil.php>

42nd Annual Conference of Soil Science Society of Nigeria “Sustainable Management of Soil and Water Resources for Food Security, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”. March 12–16, 2018. Institute for Agricultural Training and Research, Moore Plantation, Ibadan – Oyo State, Nigeria.

Webpage: <http://soilsnigeria.net/soils/?p=10165>

April 2018

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2018. April 8–13, 2018. Vienna, Austria

Webpage: <https://www.egu2018.eu/>

May 2018

GSOP18 - Global Symposium on Soil Pollution. May 2–4, 2018. FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy

Webpage:

<http://fao.msgfocus.com/q/1m5FOwn5rICaX043ZqWo/wv>

Conference on Soil Classification and Education.

May 18–20, 2018. Toruń, Poland

Webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/site/facesconference/>

August 2018

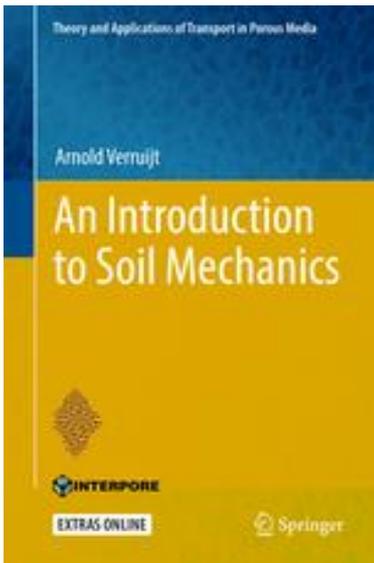
21st World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) on the theme: “Soils to feed and fuel the world”. August 12–17, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Webpage: <http://21wcsc.org/>

☞ New Books

An Introduction to Soil Mechanics

Author: Verruijt, Arnold



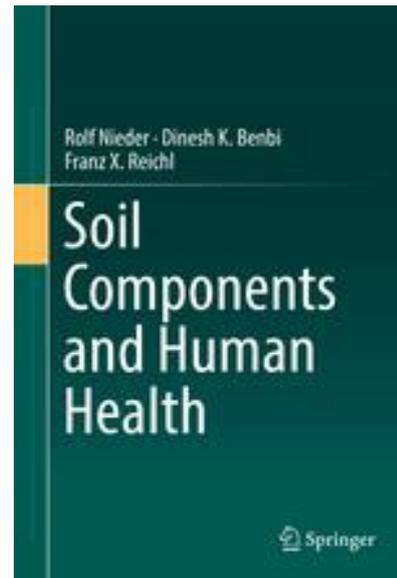
This textbook offers a superb introduction to theoretical and practical soil mechanics. Special attention is given to the risks of failure in civil engineering, and themes covered include stresses in soils, groundwater flow, consolidation, testing of soils, and stability of slopes.

More information about this book:

<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319611846>

Soil Components and Human Health

Authors: Nieder, Rolf, Benbi, Dinesh K., Reichl, Franz-Xaver



This volume highlights important links existing between soils and human health which up to now are not fully realized by the public. Soil materials may have deleterious, beneficial or no impacts on human health; therefore, understanding the complex relationships between diverse soil materials and human health will encourage creative cooperation between soil and environmental sciences and medicine.

More information about this book:

<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789402412215>

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