

Lars J. Munkholm

First, I would like to welcome the new members of ISTRO who are receiving ISTRO INFO for the first or the second time. During the last months we have registered many new members from various countries and academic networks. I get noticed when a new member is registered and I add his/her e-mail address to our ISTRO INFO e-mail list. You are most welcome to send inputs to ISTRO INFO (lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk) - announcements of meetings, reports from meetings, book releases etc. ISTRO INFO is circulated quarterly (January, April, July and October).

The 21st ISTRO Conference in Paris is getting close now and I am very much looking forward to meet new and old ISTRO members at the conference. The coming months will be busy with the last preparations for both the organizers and the participants. For the latter it is time for registration and organizing travel and accommodation. In our research group, we are also busy with finalizing measurements and data analysis for the planned presentations. The organizers have laid the foundation for a successful conference and are now busy with reading abstracts and the last details regarding the program.

The soil compaction workshop to be held in May was unfortunately cancelled due to too few participants. The workshop was thought of as a warm-up to the Paris conference but maybe it was placed too close to the conference. Soil compaction is a classical and still very hot ISTRO topic— there will be many papers on it at the Paris conference. We encourage participants with an interest in soil compaction to attend the soil compaction working group meeting during the Paris conference and take part in the discussions on how to proceed with the important work in working group.

☞ Update from the Secretary General

It has been great to see numerous membership applications for ISTRO coming through the system. So I thought I would take this opportunity to

welcome new members and update existing members on ISTRO activities. Although there had been many previous meetings and discussions, ISTRO formally came into existence in 1973 as a group of scientists and engineers wanting to ensure food security while protecting and nurturing the soil resource. Essentially that remains the objective today. We aim to deliver on that purpose by promoting contacts, conferences, excursions and demonstrations for those undertaking research on managing soil (including by tillage in all its forms or even in its absence). So as the “R” in ISTRO represents, we are a Research Organization. We want research and promotion of that research on agricultural practice.

One of the early things that the founders of ISTRO did was to establish the journal, Soil & Tillage Research. Elsevier are the publishers for Soil & Tillage Research. Our constitution includes consultation (that does happen) between the publishers and ISTRO for editorial appointments to Soil & Tillage Research. Importantly Elsevier pays ISTRO an annual stipend. This is a major part of our finances and allows us to support our objectives including sponsoring ISTRO meetings and providing scholarships. To foster this synergy between Elsevier and ISTRO, members are encouraged to publish in and review for Soil & Tillage Research. Plans are underway for a special issue of Soil & Tillage Research from material presented at the Paris conference. Note Elsevier have on-line resources to help with the preparation of manuscripts and presentations (<https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/>).

Voting for new members of the ISTRO board is complete and it is with pleasure that I announce the new ISTRO board members (for 2018 – 2024) are Danijel Jug (from Croatia) and Guillermo Siri-Prieto (from Uruguay). I want to thank all those that stood for election – like any organization we need members who are prepared to contribute. We will endeavor to use the skills of all those who offered their services to help develop ISTRO. I mention that Danijel is from Croatia and Guillermo is from Uruguay in the context that our constitution

suggests that the Board should reflect different disciplines and regions. The regional (continental) diversity of board has been a feature for as long as I have been involved. Congratulations to Danijel and Guillermo.

One way ISTRO uses resources to fulfil our objectives is to provide four scholarships for young ISTRO members to participate in the conference. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to all young ISTRO members with the other three for young researchers from countries that are not high-income. I am very happy to announce that the young researchers being supported to attend the Paris conference are Joanna Cloy (Cees van Ouwerkerk winner) and Peter Bilson Obour, Mehdi Ramati and Raman Jeet Singh. Congratulations to the four of you – I look forward to hearing your presentations and talking with you in Paris.

Blair M McKenzie

ISTRO Secretary-General

☞ Join us in Paris for the 21st International ISTRO Conference

Early Bird Registration extended to June 15, 2018

The deadline for submitting an abstract is closed. The good news is that more than 210 abstracts have been submitted. The conference is attractive! Some topics, classical for an ISTRO conference, as soil compaction, soil conservation or design and assessment of soil tillage strategies, had a great success. However, all the nine sessions will be open, with interesting presentations in each of them.

Now it is time to register! Early bird limit has been extended to June 15, 2018.

Agenda of the conference is in progress

All the Keynotes speakers have accepted our invitation: Dr. Rattan Lal, Pr. Dr. Claire Chenu, Pr.

Paolo Bàrberi, Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari and Dr. Thomas Keller (Please visit the conference webpage to get more details from their CVs). A special issue of Soil & Tillage Research has been planned. It will gather the keynote presentations as well as some of the best contributions selected in the different sessions of the conference.

We are planning about 100–110 oral presentations with an equal number of posters. Three poster sessions will be organized.

During the field trip, we will visit the ARVALIS experimental station in Boigneville (one hour trip southern Paris) where we are preparing a tour including five small workshops on the following topics: crop establishment and seeding technologies; cover crops; dynamics of soil structure; visual assessment methods of soil structure and compaction. The trip will end with a visit to the castle of Fontainebleau historically very important (although less known than Versailles).

The conference dinner is planned on Thursday night in a typical parisian brasserie (However, this may change if we find an even better place).

We are also finalizing the program for accompanying persons. Do not hesitate to bring your companion in Paris. This tour will be an opportunity to discover Paris in an original way.

Register for the post conference tour!

This 4-day post conference tour will be a good opportunity to discover Central and Eastern France, while visiting some of the major places where soil research is active in France. The tour will go through the burgundy vineyards and will end in the historical city of Lyon (Please visit the conference webpage for more information on the organization).

Event's Partners

The conference is supported by CMI Roullier, Michelin, AGCO, KUHN and Eijkelkamp.

Jean Roger-Estrade

ISTRO President

⌘ Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 2018

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

Webpage:

<http://fao.msgfocus.com/q/1m5F0wn5rICaX043ZqWo/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://21wcss.org/>

September 2018

Conference "Soils genesis and evolution in landscape". September 6–7 in Warsaw, Poland.

Webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/site/sgesggw/home>

13th Congress of Croatian Society of Soil Science - „Utilizing potential of soil and land resources: Key roles of science and effective policy“. September 10–14 in Vukovar, Croatia.

Webpage: <http://www.tloznanstvo.eu/kongres/>

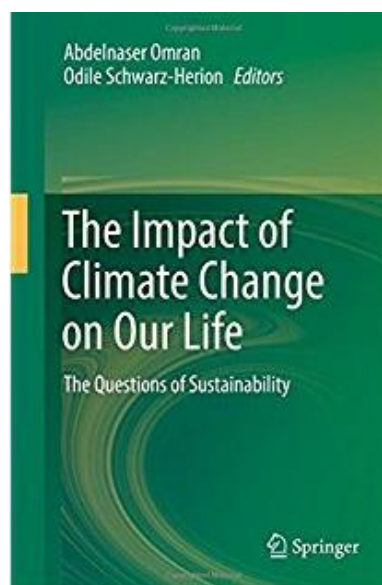
International field workshop WRB soil classification 2018. September 16–23 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/view/wrb-romania2018>

⌘ New Books

The Impact of Climate Change on Our Life –The Questions of Sustainability

Editors: Omran, Abdelnaser, Schwarz-Herion, Odile



This book introduces topical issue from many different angles, sensitizing readers for the ample challenges to human life due to climate change

Proposes alternative solutions, strategies, and best practices such as project financing initiatives which have proven to be efficient in developed countries to public authorities in developing countries

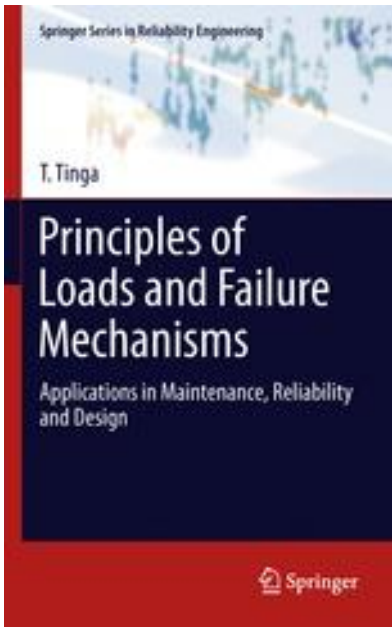
Covers developing countries such as Nigeria, Malaysia, Libya, Romania, and etc to deal with problems caused by climate change

More information on this book:

<https://www.springer.com/la/book/9789811077470>

**Principles of Loads and Failure
Mechanisms- Applications in Maintenance,
Reliability and Design**

Authors: Tinga, T



Provides a complete overview of failure mechanisms. Presents a unique range of applications in the fields of maintenance, reliability and design. Demonstrates the benefits of understanding the physics of failure

More information on this book:

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9781447149163>

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