

Blair McKenzie

## ⌘ Nanjing 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference 14 – 18 September 2015

It is still possible to register for the Nanjing conference. This can be done on the conference website (<http://istro2015.csp.escience.cn>). The conference team have reserved accommodation for delegates and accompanying persons at the conference hotel – the 4 star Shijiyuan Hotel, which is also the conference venue. To book **accommodation** simply email the hotel ([578171638@qq.com](mailto:578171638@qq.com)) with your name(s), dates of arrival and departure and whether you need a single or double room. The price and information about the hotel can be found on the website. Confirmation of booking will be by return email. Delegates will pay for their stay at check-out in the normal manner i.e. credit or debit cards can be used.

## ⌘ VISA and travel information for the Nanjing 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference

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 delegates do need a letter of invitation, 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  
71 Beijing East Road, Nanjing, China  
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!

## ⌘ Constitutional updates coming

The new draft constitution is available on the website - just click the organisation tab on the website ([www.istro.org](http://www.istro.org)) and you will see another tab that provides a pdf of the Constitution and Bylaws. Much of the constitution was prepared before electronic communication and electronic publication of journals, and hence is in need of updating.

Please take a few minutes to look at the amendments. Comments prior to the conference should be emailed to Secretary-General Doug Karlen ([doug.karlen@gmail.com](mailto:doug.karlen@gmail.com)). During the ISTRO General Assembly at the conference the board will seek approval from the membership for the amendments.

## ☞ Follow up to the Brazil working group meeting

As reported in recent issues of ISTROINFO a very successful meeting combining the Subsoil Compaction and VSEE working groups was held in Brazil with an aim of comparing different visual assessments of soil structural quality. As a result, the French “profil cultural” method was deemed to require some modifications to be better suited for no-till situations. I thank Hubert Boizard for the following report.



### Day 1 in the field near Lyon

To test these possible modifications another workshop was held at Lyon (France) between the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. It brought together nine users with a good practice of the “profil cultural” method. Seven members were from technical institutes and universities in France. They were joined by Carolina Sasal from Argentina and Fatima Guimaraes from Brazil who provided their experience of no-till in South American conditions.

On day one several soil profiles were studied in no till fields near Lyon. Then, Carolina and Fatima presented some results from South America and their proposals for the adaption of the method were discussed.



### Under the watchful eyes of local farmers

Discussion about the adaptation of the method continued into the second day. Proposals of the groups were related to the description of the effects of biological activity (plant roots, earthworms ...) and climate (type of cracks) on soil structure, these processes being the main drivers of soil structure dynamics in no till soils.



### The profil cultural development group

Following this workshop, a test of the adaption of the “profil cultural” method will be organized in different locations, in France, Brazil and Argentina with the intentions of presenting the developments for refereed publication. The group thanks ISTRO and INRA for financial support.

## ☞ Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Agriculture in Nature and Environment Protection Vukovar Croatia 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

"Agriculture in Nature and Environment Protection" was the topic of the 8th International Scientific & Professional Conference which, for the 8th time, will be held in Vukovar, Croatia. Plenary presentations were by:

Ferdo Bašić - "The soil as a guarantee of sustainable development Croatia"

Gyorgy Varallyay - "Soil as potential moderator of extreme hydrological events"

Márta Birkás, Igor Đekemati, Zoltán Kende, Ivica Kisić - "Excess water phenomena – long-lasting remediation"

Ante Ivanković, Klemen Potočnik, Mirjana Baban, Jelena Ramljak - "Dairy production technology and marketing" and

Vesna Gantner - "Livestock grazing and climate change"



A group of younger delegates at registration.

Sections included topics on sustainability ranging through agricultural and biological perspectives, the role of livestock in rotations, connections with plant breeding and the role of machinery in agricultural efficiency. In addition to the plenary sessions there were 53 presentations.



Prof Ferdo Bašić delivers his Plenary talk



Several round table discussions were held to generate points of interest for the local media.

As with previous meetings in this series delegates had time for a field trip including a relaxing lunch during a farm visit.

## ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> International CTF conference 17 – 19 June 2015 Czech University of Life Sciences

A report will be presented in the next issue of ISTROINFO.

## ⌘ Soil Functions and Climate Change – do we underestimate the consequences of the new disequilibria in soil properties - SUSTAIN.



You are invited to the **International Congress - SUSTAIN - on the occasion of the International Year of Soils 2015**, supported by the **IUSS** and in combination with the celebrations of the 350<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the Christian Albrechts University zu Kiel. The congress will take place in **Kiel, Germany** from **September 23-26, 2015**. For further detailed information see <http://www.soils.uni-kiel.de/de/sustain-2015>

Take advantage of the opportunity to complete our conference program with your current research. We kindly request your active support by submitting your scientific contributions to the following main topics, which will be further subdivided according to the submitted contributions.

Topics include: Soil structure and pore rigidity effects as prerequisites for quantification of physicochemical processes: Effects of (limited) pore rigidity and soil resilience: Innovative approaches to predict climate change induced affected sinks and sources and Modelling approaches to quantify effects of (limited) soil rigidity on mass flow and diffusion at various scales- from the micro- to macroscale.

International speakers confirmed include Prof. Dr. Donald Sparks (USA) Prof. Dr. José Dörner (Chile) Prof. Dr. Dani Or (Switzerland) Prof. Dr. Jirka Simunek (USA) Prof. Dr. Xinhua Peng (China) PD Dr. Hans Gerke (Germany) Prof. Dr. Rattan Lal (USA) Dr. Luca Montanarella (Italy) Prof. Dr. Paul Hallett (UK) Prof. Dr. Henry Lin (USA)

For more information contact: Christian - Albrechts - University zu Kiel, Institute for Plant Nutrition and Soil Science, Hermann- Rodewald- Str. 2, D-24118 Kiel. Mrs. Pia Lüttich Phone: +49 431 880 – 2573

## ⌘ Upcoming meeting in Uruguay

IV National Symposium of Agriculture and the VII Meeting of the Soil Science Society of Uruguay.

“Seeking the path for sustainable intensification of agriculture” is the topic of this biennial scientific and professional symposium organized for the 4<sup>th</sup> time by the Facultad de Agronomía of the University of Uruguay and the International Plant Nutrition Institute -Latin America Southern Cone. This year will collaborate the Soil Science Society of Uruguay (SUCS) & Uruguayan ISTRO Branch, the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Uruguay (MGAP) & FAO, and the National Institute of Investigation in Agronomy (INIA). It will be held in Paysandú, Uruguay on 28-29, October 2015. One of the international speakers confirmed is Dr. Andrew Sharpley (USA). For more information contact

Dr Mónica Barbazán in the Departamento de Suelos y Aguas, Facultad de Agronomía Universidad de la República on [mbarbaz@fagro.edu.uy](mailto:mbarbaz@fagro.edu.uy)

## ⌘ Other upcoming meetings.

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](http://www.som2015.org)

18-23 October 2015 Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The 9th International Symposium on Plant-Soil Interactions at Low pH.

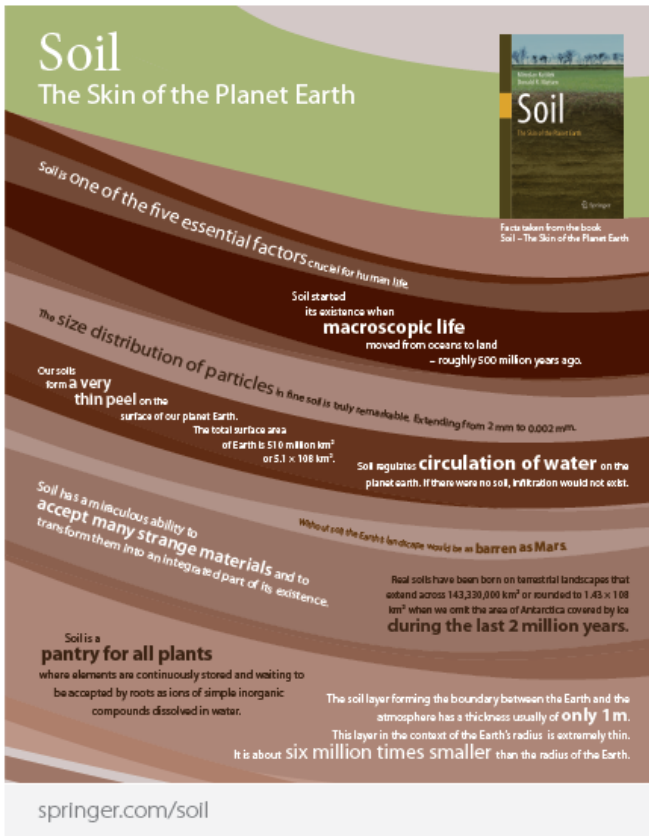
<http://www.agroekologija.eu/9thpsilph/>

2018 21st World Congress of Soil Science, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## ☞ New Book by ISTRO member



springer.com



## ☞ Final comments

The Nanjing conference is now only 11 weeks away. I am looking forward to catching up with many ISTRO members including meeting some of the many that have joined since we last met as a full conference in Montevideo.

Travel safely and see you there.

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Available in hard copy and as an e-book. The main focus of the book is to explain the important role of soil and the environment to a broad audience. More information at

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9789401797887>

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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.