

28 May 2018

Objet : Nomination of Professor A.B. McBratney for IUSS presidency

To:

Dr. Roger Swift
Chairman of the Nominating Cie of the IUSS
University of Queensland
Australia

Dear Dr. Swift,

I hereby strongly support the nomination of Prof. Dr., Alex McBratney to be President of the International Union of Soil Science. I have worked with Prof. Dr., McBratney and respect him not only as an eminent scientist but also admire his ability to work with and stimulate colleague scientists.

Prof. Dr. Alex McBratney is internationally recognized for his outstanding contributions to soil science. He received the Dokutchaevev medal from the IUSS (that can be considered as the 'Nobel price' in soil science), and the Richard Webster medal which recognizes outstanding researches in Pedometrics. His level of publication is exceptional (h-index in Wos = 61; h-index in research gate = 77). Alex McBratney is currently recognised by Clarivate as a Highly Cited Researcher because of a large number of Highly Cited papers. Alex McBratney leads one of the strongest university-based research groups on soil resource assessment internationally, working on the basic theoretical, methodological and applied aspects. Prof. Dr. McBratney has been elected fellow of the Australian Science Academy and has been recently cited by 'food-tank' as one of the 13 most influential soil scientists in the world. Prof. Dr. Alex McBratney has demonstrated strong leadership and highly-effective interpersonal skills as demonstrated by his collaborations with people from all parts of the world.

Regarding his involvement into the IUSS, Prof. Dr McBratney has been very active for a very long time. He initiated and developed the Working group on Pedometrics which subsequently became the Pedometrics Commission. He acted as Secretary (1990-1994) and Chair (1994-1998) of this Working Group. He initiated the successful newsletter Pedometron. He has been involved in a series of biennial conferences which have all been

published as Special Issues of Geoderma. He stood for Chair of Division 1 in 2002 and 2006. He proposed, initiated and developed the Working Group on Digital Soil Mapping and chaired it (2005-2006). He initiated a successful set of global workshops on digital soil mapping (Montpellier 2004, Rio de Janeiro 2006, Logan 2008) resulting in a number of books. He has been vice-Chair of Division 1 (2006-2010) and had a major role in organizing the WCSS 2010 in Australia. He is Editor-in-Chief of one of the most influential IUSS cooperating journals of soil science (Geoderma).

Prof., Dr McBratney is very active and effective in communicating with governments, policy makers at all levels and in developing and promoting interfaces between soil science and society. I strongly believe that he will be the best ambassador to represent the IUSS and to advocate for soil in the media and in international forums such as United Nations entities.

I am sure he will be an excellent President of the IUSS.

Dr Dominique Arrouays, Senior Soil Scientist, past-president of the French Soil Science Society, Chairman of the WG soil monitoring and the WG Global Soil Map of the IUSS

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