

# **The Senate Room, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland**

## **IUSS Inter-Congress Council Meeting 30 June, July 3 and July 4 2008**

**Monday 30 June 2008.**

### **Part 1**

The meeting was brought to order by the President, Roger Swift.

During the meeting the following individuals attended for all or part of the time:-  
Lyn Abbott, Paul Bertsch, Winfried Blum, Wolfgang Burghardt, Brenda Buck, Flavio Camargo, Jean Chapelle, Doug Chung, Celine Collin Bellier, Martti Essala, Juan Flores-Margez, Jim Gauld, Bob Gilkes, Mike Grundy, Robin Harris, Teruo Higashi, Rainer Horn, Imamul Huq, Dr. Inubushi, Kye-Hoon Kim, John Kimble, Jiri Kulhavy, Alex McBratney, Mike McLaughlin, Neal Menzies, Ahmet Mermut, Erika Micheli, Paolo Nannipieri, Stephen Nortcliff, Marcello Pagliai, Toni Patti, Roland Poss, Steve Raine, Chuck Rice, Sandra Sa, Daniela Sauer, Chris Smith, Roger Swift, Ester Szein, Bob White, Larry Wilding, and Jae Eui Yang.

36 Members and Observers present

#### 1. Introduction by the President Roger Swift

The President outlined a series of housekeeping matters including the voting procedure and distributed the voting cards to National Member representatives, Honorary Member representatives and the Executive Committee.

The programme for the week was outlined.

#### 2. Minutes of the Council Meeting in Philadelphia July 2006

The Minutes of the meeting had been distributed and following normal practice were approved electronically. A summary of the key points had been published in the Bulletin and presented on the IUSS website.

Some items which are linked to these Minutes are included in the published agenda. No additional matters arising from these Minutes were identified, but Members were asked to raise with the Secretary General any further matters that came to light during the day, which will be discussed on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

#### 3. The Bureau met in May 2007 in St. Lucia, University of Queensland.

Matters discussed included:-

Planning of the 19<sup>th</sup> WCSS

Divisional activities were discussed in detail; in particular attention was drawn to the lack of any real signs of activity in some Commissions.

Following a prolonged period during which there was little response from the Chair of Division 4 an exchange of messages between the President and the Division 4 Chair, the individual involved voluntarily resigned and he was replaced by Lyn Abbott.

The current suite of Working Groups was reviewed; a number appeared to be relatively inactive and the recommendation was that Council should consider closing down these WG. Additionally it was noted that there was a considerable overlap amongst the Working Groups and the some of the Working Groups seem to overlap with core Commission activity. Ideally WG should cut across Divisions or Commissions.

The election process was discussed and minor revisions made.

Chairs of Standing Committees were discussed and how the positions should be appointed.

The Bureau supported the proposal to cease printing the Bulletin, but recognised there was a limited need for published copies.

IUSS Alerts were commended as an excellent innovation.

Outreach activities were reviewed.

IYPE, World Soil Council and the logo were discussed.

#### 4. Executive Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> June

The President outlined the key points raised at yesterday's Council Meeting. Many of the significant matters raised at this meeting will be addressed within the current meeting programme.

#### 5. Report of the Secretary General

Stephen Nortcliff outlined in addition to links with National Members, the activities involving the SG and bodies outside the IUSS environment; increasingly important amongst these is our active involvement with ICSU.

ICSU (International Council of Science) is an organisation which brings together the National Academies and affiliated Unions to support and promote science in a global context. There is sometimes a potential tension within the ICSU 'family', because much of the funding comes from Academies, whilst the science input is predominantly from the Unions. Given the mix of membership of ICSU we have considered it important to have collaboration with other Unions and Academies. ICSU frequently sends out reports which require a response from members, within IUSS this has principally been the role of the Executive Committee and a small number of members who are willing to review and respond in the often limited time frame available. An increasing but small body of members have indicated their willingness to comment on these reports and their support is recognised and appreciated by the Secretary General.

Within ICSU we are part of an important GeoUnions Grouping. This originally was a grouping to determine the voting groups for representation on the ICSU Executive Board, but in the case of the GeoUnions the activity has significantly widened and the group now meet and communicate across a broad range of matters, some not directly related to ICSU but of common interest to the Unions. The Unions currently involved in addition to IUSS are IUGS, IUGG, IGU, URSI, INQUA, AIU and ISPRS

Two areas in which individual from National Members have supported the IUSS involvement in ICSU activities are: the ICSU initiative on the Science of Health and Wellbeing where Chuck Rice has had and continues to have a substantial involvement

and the ICSU theme on Natural Hazards and Disasters where Ahmet Mermut contributed to a meeting in Paris during November 2007.

Partly as a consequence of our close ties with the ICSU GeoUnions we became a founding member of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) which had been initiated by IUGS. This required a financial commitment, but has been successful in developing the links across the Geosciences and in particular as a focus for some of our outreach activities.

Outreach has been a developing theme during the last two years with both material developed in the context of IYPE and independently. We are pleased to recognise the support of members in translating some of these documents.

#### 6. Report of the Deputy Secretary General, presented by Stephen Nortcliff

The report was in the form of a PowerPoint Presentation and included a review of activities by the Deputy-Secretary General (Alfred Hartemink) with a particular focus on web-based activities.

*The Bulletin* has long been a bi-annual means by which the Society and then the Union have communicated with members. When membership was by individual subscription rather than by national membership the practice had been to distribute two issues of the Bulletin each year to member. With the inevitable enlargement of the membership this became financially and logistically impracticable. The paper version of the Bulletin continued until Bulletin 111, but with a much restricted print run. The practice had developed that the Bulletin was placed on the IUSS website in pdf format. By 2006 the downloading of the pdf files had far outstripped the number of printed editions. And following an electronic ballot of Council Members it was agreed to switch to predominantly electronic publication of the Bulletin from 112, with a small number of paper versions distributed separately. With the shift to a primary electronic format the layout of the Bulletin has been changed including a move to two column format.

Given that the Bulletin provides an element of archival record of the Society and Union. The decision has been taken to scan the complete set of Bulletins and these are now accessible on the IUSS website.

The *IUSS website* first established in 2001 has developed rapidly and continues to do so (from July 2008 the size of the website has been significantly increased). The format of the website is changing and the amount of information held continues to increase. This appears to be much appreciated by the IUSS membership. There is a large amount of both current and archival material held on the site.

*Outreach* activities including IYPE have also been a key focus of activities both in paper format (although the aim has been to limit this) and in electronic format. Colleagues are thanked in the assistance provided in translating documents in to a range of languages.

The *Proceedings of WCSS* are a valuable part of the archives of the Union. Many of these documents are of very limited availability. To increase the access all the proceedings of the previous WCSS have been scanned and are accessible on the website. At present they are not indexed. To index the Proceedings the cost would be of the order of €200 000 and it was suggested IUSS should seek to find a sponsor to support this.

Following discussions at the Bureau meeting in May 2007, the DSG presented a series of possible options for new *IUSS logos*. Whilst the logos were illustrations of what might be introduced they were also an opportunity to raise the issue and encourage the membership to think about his matter.

Lyn Abbott proposed (seconded by Larry Wilding) that **‘We congratulate Alfred Hartemink on his considerable efforts on developing the website, both in terms of its breadth and its accessibility.’** Approved unanimously.

### **A new logo?**

Discussion on the proposal that we should consider developing a new logo was wide-ranging. Roger Swift reiterated that the Bureau had discussed this in 2007, agreeing that this should be discussed at the Council Meeting in 2008, but had not agreed that the change was necessary. The discussion that followed included the following points.

Roger Swift suggested that we need to consider why we are changing the logo.

Neil Menzies commented that it is often easy to decide that you may be dissatisfied with the current logo, but you need to be very careful in the process of the choice of a new logo which will stand the test of time.

Rainer Horn stated that we need to maintain the current logo because it is part of the IUSS identity.

Steve Raine stated that the current logo has evolved, but on a theme. Maybe the path forward would be to develop the current logo, changing colours, adding some additional material.

Winfried Blum- reiterated earlier comments that the logo has two functions:-

- a. Corporate identity
- b. Outside identity – e.g. within ICSU the logo is well known and recognised.

The changes should be developments on the current logo rather than a completely new logo. During his time as SG he heard no adverse comments on the logo.

Larry Wilding suggested that the way forward was to develop the current logo which has an element of institutional memory.

Wolfgang Burghardt expressed his satisfaction with the current logo which he saw as representing soil and life in a global context.

Celine Collin Bellier stated that she considered the current logo outdated and lacking dynamism.

Stephen Cattle considered the logo as austere and in need of change to something more dynamic.

Robin Harris supported the notion of the connection between soil and life as with the current logo.

Following this discussion the following motion was proposed by John Kimble (seconded by Ahmet Mermut)

**‘We keep the broad design of the current logo with modifications; for example changes in colour and possibly shape of the current logo’**

For: 26

Against: 4

## 7. Report of the Chair of Standing Committee on Budget and Finance

Robin Harris presented a PowerPoint Report

Documents tabled:-

- a. June 30 Document summarising the position in relation to the budget set for 2008
- b. June 30 Full Member IUSS subscription payments and related member numbers for 2007

Robin Harris reviewed each of the Tables in turn and provided a commentary on the Tables.

Part 1 Membership With respect to subscriptions RH drew attention to Bye-Law 7.2. Some National Members pay directly related to the declared membership of their National Societies, others pay at rates above the quota determined by their membership numbers.

In relation to Membership dues there was wide ranging discussion, including the following points.

Paul Bertsch (USA) expressed concern about the proportion of IUSS dues paid by NAS, and would hope that some of the other National Members should increase the amount paid in relation to their dues.

Roger Swift highlighted that the number of poor countries within IUSS is larger than many other Scientific Unions.

Flavio Camargo (Brazil) highlighted that not all Unions are supported by their National Academies so that the funding has to come from payments by members.

Within Group III there may be countries (e.g. China and India) for which the categorisation in Group III may not be appropriate.

In some cases the reported number of members per country probably does not necessarily reflect the true membership (e.g. China).

For non-dollar based countries the weakness of the dollar has been a 'windfall'

Part 2 Overview of Budget The effects of currency changes and increased expenses balanced against increased income were noted. Is the Outreach Campaign cost effective? We have to evaluate whether the expenditure on outreach is sustainable and justifiable. The target is for \$120 000 in the chequing account and \$160 000 in deposit.

Rainer Horn reinforced the need to focus on outreach. In Germany a group was established with an industry/soil protection focus, and this has resulted in an increased demand from industry for the services of soil scientist. He also stressed that the DBG receives funds for membership of IUSS from DFG and the amount is limited because of other demands.

Alex McBratney pointed out that the distribution of subscriptions was very unusual and this needs to be addressed. He also reinforced the impact of the US \$, and suggested that we need a 'hedging strategy' in terms of payments, e.g. payment in € We also need to think of raising funds from other areas.

Erika Micheli drew attention to the use of funds for the benefit of Category III members. We endeavoured to do this in 2006, but our attempts were frustrated by the problems related to visas.

Winfried Blum suggested that we should seek a SG who is fully funded by an organisation. In relation to Outreach the greatest impact often arises when there is a large global problem. Things are changing at the present time in relation to the current food shortage and within Europe the problem of sealing.

RSS suggested we need a corps of members who would be willing to act as spokespersons on behalf of IUSS to respond to the media on these issues.

It was suggested that rather than use the GNI we should perhaps use the graduate salary as the basis for determining the category of membership as this would be a more objective basis related to ability to pay.

J. Kimble (seconded by L. Wilding) proposed the Motion:

**‘We require the Executive Committee to consider, as a matter of urgency, the fees paid by National Members, in particular the disproportionate contribution from the USA and to bring forward proposals.’**

Carried without opposition.

#### 8. Presentation of the Accounts by the Treasurer Jim Gault

The Treasurer prefaced his presentation with the following remarks:-

A key task during his stewardship of the accounts has been to produce professionally audited accounts

The financial management of the Union has progressed well because of the close links with Robin Harris (Chair of Budget and Finance).

It is increasingly important to deal promptly with payments and expenditure and to track their progress.

JG presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the key features of the accounts.

He explained that IUSS runs a \$ account and he would argue against taking a risk with Union money through switching to other currencies (e.g. € or by making potentially risky investments).

Stephen Cattle asked about the Divisional expenditure. It was explained that the decisions on how these funds were to be spent were the responsibility of the Divisions, but that the annual proposals were reviewed by the Treasurer and Secretary General. Before funds were transferred.

Alex McBratney asked whether the Commissions should be expected to run without any funding from IUSS. In response Winfried Blum outlined that in the development of the new scientific structure, the responsibility of supporting the Commissions was considered to be addressed through the Divisions.

Ahmet Mermut outlined that in Division 1 with 6 Commissions allocating \$500 to each Commission would spend 60% of the Division allocation. He noted that in 2007 most of the funds were spent in relation to the activities of the Division Chair.

Rainer Horn considered that in preparing their annual budgets Divisions it was imperative that Divisions seek expressions of potential expenditure from Commissions and Working Groups within their remit for a forthcoming year.

John Kimble that the Bye-Laws outline how the Divisions and Divisional Committees (Divisional Chair and Commission Chairs) use the funds allocated to the Divisions. The meeting anticipated that the Divisional Committees would be fully involved in the development in the Divisional of the budget and should meet (virtually) at least once per year to develop the Divisional Programme of activities.

Lyn Abbott proposed (seconded by Winfried Blum) that

**‘The Report of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Audited Accounts be accepted.’**

This was agreed without opposition

Meeting closed at 17.10

## **Part 2**

The Meeting reconvened on July 3 at 11.45 in the Senate Room of the University

The President welcomed colleagues who were not present at our first meeting.

40 Members and observers were present.

The President proposed that the agenda should be modified with item 7 revisited, then proceed to the normal agenda.

### Item 7a. Revision of Fee Structure

The background to the proposals for changes in the subscription rate was outlined by the Secretary General.

**‘Council increase subscriptions by a factor of 1.25. We would also encourage National Members to increase the numbers of their registered members.’**

As riders to this:

- a. We encourage any National Member to make additional payments in accordance with the Bye-Laws. Where membership is paid by the National Academies we would encourage National Members to make additional payments.
- b. We must also ask that National Members to report more accurately their membership numbers, especially where they are understated.
- c. We also note that based on the GNI indicators some Category III countries had now moved in to category II. It was resolved that we should note these adjustments in Country categories and consider amending the associated membership payments in 2009.

This increased income would enable us to continue to promote the outreach programme and enable IUSS to provide increased funds for the Divisions/Commissions activities. In addition there are additional fees payable to organisations such as ICSU.

The Chair of B&F briefly outlined the details of the new proposals with reference to a revised spreadsheet and the earlier documents which had been circulated from the B&F Committee.

The contribution of the USA to the total will significantly reduce.

The President stressed that these proposals were interim proposals until the Council Meeting in 2010.

It was noted that the actual numbers on the tabled document are indicative rather than accurate values.

Some points of clarification from Members were provided by the President.

The motion was put to Council and carried.

For: 29

Against 0

Abstentions: 2

## 9. Report from Chair of Structure and Statutes

### *Frequency of Meetings*

The proposal from ASSI was to hold Congresses every two years.

The Executive considered this proposal and considered that the shift to a two year cycle was an inappropriate move. We noted that in the ISSS days the Commissions were active in holding substantial international meetings during the period between Congresses.

Winfried Blum noted that we have a number of active regional groups which hold meetings, for example: Latin American Group, East and SE Asian Group, African Group, East African Group, West African Group, European Confederation of Soil Science Societies.

Rainer Horn requested that more details of meetings of other ICSU Unions should be reported on the IUSS websites.

Alex McBratney asked at what sort of level we expect change to take place in our discipline. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century changes take place much more rapidly than in previous years and as a consequence the meetings should be more frequently.

Martti Essala suggests that increasing the frequency would increase the costs to members and probably reduce the attendance. The more formal involvement of regional groupings perhaps should be considered by the Executive Committee and the Committee on Structures and Statutes.

Stephen Cattle proposed (seconded by Ahmet Mermut)

**‘Council make the necessary arrangements to move to a two year cycle for WCSS meetings’**

For 2

Against 28

Rainer Horn proposed (seconded by Jean Chapelle)

**‘Council reiterates and wishes to ensure that Divisions, Commission and Working Groups should have at least one international meeting between WCSS.’**

For: 30

Against: 0

*(It was noted that the funding allocated to Divisions and Commissions might be dependent upon the completion of these meetings).*

Stephen Cattle proposed (seconded by Paul Bertsch) that

**‘The Executive Committee develop a full proposal for submission to Council to provide the necessary procedures and changes to Statutes and Bye-Laws and financial implications for the position of President to be elected separately from the hosting of the Congress.’**

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

There was a range of discussion on this topic; most expressions were in favour of this proposal, although there were differences in the details of how it might work. There was some concern that the removal of the Presidency of the hosting country might have some negative consequences in relation to the standing of the organisers of the host country, and may affect their fund raising activities. Neal Menzies pointed out that when Australia set up its committee to obtain the approval to hold the WCSS there was not any feeling of an necessary direct ‘tie up’ to the Presidency and much of the local support as obtained well in advance of having the Presidency.

It was noted that if this change was to occur a proper title and role (Vice President) on the Executive Committee should be defined for the senior representative from the host country.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 13.30 and reconvened after lunch.

Cycle of post holder This will be included in the proposal to review the Presidency

Task Forces – The President be allowed to appoint ‘Task Forces’ to undertake activities such as Search Committees. These will be time limited to undertake a specific task. (This would be addressed by an amendment to the Bye Laws).

Winfried Blum proposed (seconded by Larry Wilding)

**‘The President or Council be able to create ‘Task Forces’ to advise for specific purposes for specific lengths of time.’**

For: 31

Against: 0

The Meeting agreed to the notion of producing a set of informative Appendices to the Statutes and Bye-Laws on matters such as submissions for Host Countries of WCSS, expectations of Commission Chairs, duties of Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, etc.

John Kimble was thanked for his report and continuing work on matters related to Statutes and Structures.

#### 10. Reports from Divisional Chairs

##### *Division 1 – Ahmet Mermut (Chair of Division)*

The general structure and outline of the Division was presented, with its 6 Commissions.

A list of meetings which have taken place or will take place in the near future linked to the Divisional activities was outlined (these are available on the IUSS website).

The proposed WG on Global Soil Change was outlined.

The use of funds to support individuals from Cuba and Africa to attend meetings hosted by Commissions within the Divisions, plus some support for 5 PG students to attend the Soil Micromorphology Meeting in China in September 2008.

The Division has also supported development of Commission websites.

The Symposia for the WCSS in 2010 was outlined.

The proposal for Divisional medals/awards raised by this Division was discussed later in the meeting.

##### *Division 2 – Chris Smith (Second Vice Chair)*

A brief summary of selected activities was presented (again details of meetings are provided on the IUSS website).

The procedures for arriving at the nomination of candidates as Officers in Division 2 was presented.

Overview of the proposed Symposia for the WCSS has highlighted some overlap and these proposals will be revised in the light of the discussions during the meeting here.

It was stressed that through the Division there are attempts to strengthen links between IUSS and The Soil Systems Group in European Geophysical Union.

The Soil Mineralogy Commission probably needs to strengthen its links with unions and scientific organisations outside IUSS.

For the Symposia in 2010 it was suggested that it might be appropriate to have a sessions across the subjects of soil-water-energy, and there probably needs to be a refocusing of the topics in some cases.

Within the Division there had been suggestions for a Soil Physics Awards (these Divisional Award Proposals were discussed later). It was proposed that each Commission should present an award for the best poster within the Poster Symposia within their remit at the WCSS in 2010.

In discussion it was noted there appeared to be overlap between some of the planned symposia in the Divisions. The Divisional Chairs will meet to discuss the potential overlap.

### *Division 3 – Wolfgang Burghardt (Chair of Division)*

The structure of the Division was outlined with 5 Commissions and 4 Working Groups.

Developing an electoral list proved to be a difficult task, particularly when endeavouring to obtain potential candidates from South and Latin America and the areas of Africa and the Middle East.

The Divisional and Commission proposals for the WCSS Symposia were outlined together with two cross-Divisional proposals. (1. Practical applications of basis soil science; 2. Precision techniques in relation to land use.)

Meetings attended by the Chair on behalf of the Division were outlined.

A list of Commission based meetings were listed, illustrating in part the different levels of activity in the Commissions.

The Division asked for some guidelines on the design of documents and materials to be presented to Council (this would be one of the informative Appendices added to the Statutes and Bye-Laws).

The Division expressed a wish to have dedicated space on the IUSS website. In the ensuing discussion this seemed feasible, but there is a need to ensure that information is kept up to date and topical.

### *Division 4 – Lyn Abbott (Chair of Division)*

The structure of the Division was outlined. Division 4.4 is the least active, 4.5 the most active with a regular newsletter and a book on 'Soil and Culture' to be published in time for the WCSS.

Three of the Commissions are working together in the context of the ASSSI NZSS conference being in New Zealand in December 2008.

The Division has established an Advisory group to guide the activities of the Division and ensure continuity in the activities of the Division and Commissions.

This Division and its Commission functions with links to the public and the press and arrangements to allow this should be made by the organisers.

To meet the obligations of the Division the symposia will include panel discussions in addition to the normal paper presentations.

## 11. Election Process 2007-8

Stephen Nortcliff made a brief presentation about the election process and the problems arising from some misunderstandings about the manner in which votes are recorded and forwarded to the SG. It was clear that not all of the submitted results actually reflected the votes cast by members of National Societies.

In the light of the subsequent discussion it was decided that:

### **T. Miano should be elected Vice Chair of Commission 2.2**

Proposed by Roger Swift (seconded by Winfried Blum)

## 12. The WCSS 2010

### Conference Organisation

The Mike Grundy (Chair of the Organising Committee) presented the broad organisation provisional structure of the meeting from 1-6 August 2010.

*'Carillon'* is the Professional Conference Organising Company supporting the local Organising Committee in the development of the organisation of Congress locations, Accommodation, Management of bookings, etc..

all the information will be on the web site [www.19wcoss.org.au](http://www.19wcoss.org.au)

It is essential that National Members support the dissemination of this information to their members through their own websites and published material.

Sponsorship strategy was to target the 'top 10' sponsors. The Queensland Government has agreed to act as sponsor; a decision from the Federal Government is awaited. Once these are agreed other sponsors will begin to be approached in a cascading manner.

There is a range of supporting activities proposed such as a specialist philatelic issue from Australia Post Office. An Art exhibition is planned, and there have been initial enquiries to bring forward part or all of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibition. A broad scientific text on Australian Soils and Landscapes has been mooted, it is hoped to launch a digital version of the Soils Map of Australia.

The Conference Tours are most likely to focus on pre-Conference Tours organised by State Soil Science Societies. There will be a full day tour on the first day of the Conference and a half day mid-conference.

Winfried Blum stated that the mid-Conference excursion might be a whole day, the internet access in the Conference Centre, an approved airline.

Rainer Horn asked about the cost and emphasised the importance of the internet access in the Conference Centre.

Chris Smith asked about the poster sessions, and whether there will be poster sessions as independent entities or directly linked to Symposia.

The proposal is that the cost of the Congress excursions will be included as part of the Conference Fee. This should encourage participation and also remove a significant financial and planning uncertainty. Questions were raised about the appropriateness of this strategy.

There will be a student registration fee, and there will also be one-day registration fees.

The question was raised whether there will there be crèche facilities for young and slightly older children? It was reported that there has not been a full consideration of

this matter, but it may not be financially feasible because of Federal and State laws and regulations.

### Science Programme

Neil Menzies presented details of the Scientific Committee who are drawn from across Australia and stressed that the local Science Committee's role is one of co-ordination of the Divisional Committees suggestions.

Each day will begin with a Plenary Session to address the key themes of the Congress. It is proposed that one of the key speakers in these sessions will be from outside Soil Science and there will then be a talk by a Soil Scientist in response to the first speaker.

There might be a need to think more carefully about the programme on a particular day, for example focusing on one day a series of symposia which might have relevance to the press, the non-soil science scientists or the general public.

Poster Sessions – It was the opinion of many that in Philadelphia the poster sessions and associated presentation theatres did not work particularly well. The current suggestion is that the poster sessions will be linked to tea, coffee or beer times to encourage the involvement of participants. There will be some encouragement for poster presenters to present (format not yet defined) in a verbal manner the information in their poster.

Currently the broad structure of the week is 9 Plenary Sessions; 8 Divisional Symposia; 42 Commission Symposia; 10 Working Group Symposia.

Some lessons have been learnt from colleagues in the USA in respect of the format and timing of Pre-Conference Field Tours. These lessons will inform the planning of the longer pre-Conference tours.

### 13. Election of Honorary Members

At the request of the President, John Kimble briefly introduced the Statute B7. John highlighted that there were two criteria to be considered when electing Honorary Members:

**Great distinction in Soil Science and substantial contribution to IUSS.**

The list of Nominations had been previously circulated to all Council Members, additional copies were available.

Taking account of Statute B7, the full list of nominations had been considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June and the following were recommended to Council.

Jaume Bech  
Christian Feller  
Kikuo Kimuiazawa  
Kazutake Kyuna  
John Ryan  
B.A. Stewart  
Victor Targulian  
Tengiz Urushadze

Gyorgy Varallay  
J.S.P. Yadav

Discussion amongst Council Members followed in which all the nominations were considered, in particular, attention was given to the contributions made to IUSS and its activities by the nominated individuals.

Following these discussions it was resolved to proceed to a vote of the Council Members by secret ballot. As a result of the secret ballot the following were elected as Honorary Members of IUSS:

Christian Feller  
Kikuo Kumazawa  
Kazutake Kyuma  
John Ryan  
B.A. Stewart  
Victor Targulian  
Gyorgy Varallay  
J.S.P. Yadav

It was noted that Peter Bullock (United Kingdom), who had made a substantial contribution to Soil Science in addition to being very active in ISSS and IUSS had died between the receipt of his nomination and the formal presentation of the proposals at the Council Meeting. Arising from this Council reaffirmed that at the time of election, Honorary Members must be alive. This will be clarified in the Bye Laws.

Although guidance on the format of the nominations had been provided there was still considerable diversity in the style of nominations received. Guidance on the format of a nomination will be provided in an Appendix to the Bye Laws.

#### 14. WCSS 2018

##### ***Brasil***

Flavio Camargo made a short and illuminating presentation on behalf of the Brazilian Soil Science Society outlining the activities of the Brazilian Society and the publications of the Society directed at a range of audiences. The proposal has strong support from a wide range of national and Regional bodies scientific, political and commercial within South and Latin America.

Within Brasil there are 36 departments of Soil Science and 26 graduate Courses at Masters and Doctoral levels in Soil Science. Brasil faces many environmental problems where the solution lies to a degree in sustainable soil management.

Brasil would be very pleased to host the WCSS in 2018.

##### ***Italy***

Marcelo Pagliai made a presentation on behalf of the Italian Soil Science who wishes to be considered as hosts of the 2018 WCSS in Firenze. The Society has strong

support from a number of National Ministries and regional bodies. The excellent Conference facilities available in Firenze were briefly outlined.

There is very strong support from other colleagues in the Italian Soil Science Society who have been actively involved in the activities of IUSS.

The President thanked Flavio and Marcelo for their brief but informative presentations and looked forward to fuller presentations at the Council Meeting in the 2010 WCSS.

The meeting closed at 17.55

### **Part 3**

The Meeting reconvened on July 4 at 09.00 in the Senate Room of the University.

#### 15. The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and related Outreach activities

Paul Bertsch (Chair of the US Soil Science Committee) drew attention to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit within the Natural History Museum, 5000 sq. ft. exhibit which is likely to be seen by in excess of 6 million visitors. This will be based at the Smithsonian for 18 months. There is a fund raising campaign to develop a travelling exhibit based on the Smithsonian exhibit. The audience will be split between US nationals and visitors. A launch symposium 'Soil Sustaining Life on Planet Earth' on July 19 is organised by the US National Committee for Soil Sciences and co sponsored by IUSS and SSSA. This event to be held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, will include four keynote presentations:- David Montgomery; Dan Richter; Diana Wall; and Rattan Lal.

SSSA have developed a children's book based on soil. It was suggested by the President that IUSS would be interested in promoting the book as an international text, possibly assisting with translations.

Within the USA, in late June Resolution 440 was passed in the US Senate which recognised Soil as a key natural resource and Soil Scientists as key workers in the environmental management of the Earth's resources. In addition SSSA has established a Soils Policy Office; there is also a House Soils Caucus which enables soil scientists to inform staff members from Congress and Congressional Officers. SSSA has identified a 'rapid response team' through the SSSA Washington Policy Office to get a list of possible respondees to current scientific and environmental issues.

Council was also informed that the UN Commission on Sustainable Development has been holding a series of technical meetings in 2008. It was interesting to note that soils have featured in these discussions

## 16. The changing paradigm in Soil Science

Winfried Blum gave a brief presentation of the changing paradigms in Soil Science. He asked how the Soil Science community would respond to the changing focus of Soil Science. During the last 30 years of the last Century the emphasis shifted from a focus in food production towards environmental issues. This development had occurred in USA and also in Europe. The focus was on the protection of natural resources. This paradigm shift towards soils in an environmental context has been reinforced in recent years. It was identified in European political quarters however that we had not addressed sufficiently the 'knowledge-based bio-economy', highlighted by water shortage, food shortage, switch towards a more meat based economy rather than a direct grain based economy and an increased use of biofuels. This is coupled with a continuing growth in population and a shift from rural to urban settlements, which places more stress on the food production economy. In this context there are a number of stresses; food versus fuel; water shortages; energy costs (increasing fertiliser costs); population growth. At present there is an information gap amongst soil scientists in many of these areas; decisions are often taken by economists with little attention towards soil based issues.

There is an increasing shift back to soil scientists being concerned with food production whilst at the same time taking account of the broader environmental issues. This fits very well with the theme for the 2010 WCSS.

## 17. The contributions of Honorary Members.

Stephen Nortcliff presented some of the thoughts sent to him by D.R. Nielsen. The thoughts are for a much more active involvement of Honorary Members in actions of IUSS. Whilst recognising the substantial contributions made by our Honorary Members Council considered that the contributions were just part of the wide range of contributions.

Council invited a formal proposal from Don Nielsen to be circulated amongst Council Members.

## 18. Chairs of Standing Committees

The Executive Committee had considered a list of possible nominees for the Chairs of the Standing Committees. These had been noted but the President would continue to seek suggestions before making nominations before the next meeting of Council 2010 Congress. John Kimble suggested that a Search Committee seek out a broader regional representation for membership of Standing Committees. The union also needs to consider the role of the other members of the Standing Committees and how their inputs may be optimised. A new Task Force will consider both the roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committees.

**Council confirmed Jean Chapelle as a member of the Standing Committee on Structure and Statutes.**

## 19. The position of Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General

The President indicated that he had established a Task Force/Search Committee for these positions with Don Sparks as Chair, with Winfried Blum and Bob Gilkes.

As a first task this group have produce a brief description of the SG position which has been circulated to Council. To date the discussions have been electronic coupled with a 60 minute conference call.

In addition to having the appropriate skills, the holder of the position must have the institutional support for the candidate.

The aim is to produce a list of possible candidates by late 2009 which will be circulated.

## 20. World Soil Day

Stephen Nortcliff outlined the very limited progress towards the formal establishment of World Soil Day. We may need to take further action on this possibly through a different 'political' pathway, although it would be good to maintain the link with the Thai monarchy because of the Royal Family's commitment to soil and soil conservation. Within Germany there is some political progress on moving this issue forward through the Minister of Agriculture in Schleswig Holstein and UBA.

## 21. Review of Existing Working Groups

Acid Sulphate Soils – Continue

*Cryosols*– Continue

*Digital Soil Mapping* – Continue

*IASUS* – has finished its active life

*Land Degradation* – At the meeting it was recommended this WG be discontinued because of inactivity. It was subsequently reported that the leadership of this WG and under the new leadership the WG was active and they were organising the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Land Degradation in Bari, September 2008.

*WRB*– Continue

*Salt Affected Soils* – Continue

*Forest Soils* – Continue

*Urban Soils* – Continue

Acceptance of these decisions was proposed by Lyn Abbott (seconded by Winfried Blum).

For: 26

Against: 0

## 22. Proposed Working Groups

*Paddy Soils* – Establish a new Working Group (For: 26; against: 0)

*Rare Soils* – Best accommodated within the current Division 4 structure (possibly more accurately described as 'Heritage soils') (For: 26; against: 0)

*Proximal Soil Sensing* – Establish a new Working Group (For: 24; against: 0; Abstentions: 2).

*Global Soil Change* – Establish a new Working Group (For: 19; against: 6; Abstentions: 1)

Council considers that this Working Group addresses issues across all Divisions and asks the Divisional Chairs to consider the appointment of WG Officers.

## 22. The 20<sup>th</sup> WCSS

Jae E. Yang made a PowerPoint presentation outline the state of current plans for the 20<sup>th</sup> WCSS.

Council confirmed the appointment of President Elect and Vice-President Elect,

President Elect: Dr. Jae E. Yang

Vice President Elect: Dr. Kye-Hoon John Kim

## 23. Prizes and Awards

Winfried Blum outlined that within IUSS we have two IUSS prizes the **Dokuchaiev Prize** and the **Liebig Prize**, which are awarded every four years on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Prizes and Awards.

In addition to these IUSS prizes we have established prizes within Division 1 in Micromorphology (Kubiena Prize) and Pedometrics (Webster Prize).

Divisions 2 and 3 had discussed the development of Commission and Division Prizes. This development was welcomed.

Following discussions on Prizes and Awards it was proposed:

**‘That we maintain the two main Prizes (Dokuchaiev and Liebig Awards) as IUSS Prizes, but that the other prizes should be managed by the Divisions, with any financial prize and medals funded by the Divisions. IUSS Council would receive reports from the Division and adopt the recommendation made by Divisional Committees.’**

Proposed by Winfried Blum (seconded by Jean Chapelle).

For: 26

Against: 0

These awards would be presented at the WCSS.

## 24. Co-operating Journals

Stephen Nortcliff briefly outlined the history of the Co-operating Journals within the history of ISSS and subsequently IUSS.

Professor Inubushi (Japan) asked what were the procedures required to propose a Journal be a Co-operating Journal. Specifically with respect to the Japanese Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, the meeting suggested that there should be a correspondence between the Japanese Soil Science Society, the Publisher of their Journal (Blackwells) and the Secretary General.

## 25. Nomenclature and Taxonomy

Paul Bertsch on behalf of the US National Committee raised that IUSS on behalf of Soil Science needs to address the problem of our lack of a common language within the Soil Science community, particularly in relation to the taxonomy of soils.

There followed some discussion of the background and structure of the Soil Taxonomy and the World Reference Base, in particular stressing that WRB was originally designed to act as an 'umbrella' for National Soil Classification Systems, rather than as a specific soil classification system.

**'Council recommends that IUSS through its WRB Working Group should make steps towards the establishment of uniform definitional observations and criteria and appropriate quantification within the various soil classification systems.'**

Proposed by Winfried Blum (seconded by Rainer Horn).

For: 26

Against: 0

26. Council expressed a Vote of Thanks to Peter Kopittke and his colleagues for their support during the meeting.

27. The President thanked colleagues for their participation in the meeting.

Meeting Closed 12.57.

Stephen Nortcliff  
Secretary General IUSS,  
Reading, UK