

16 February 2017

Sigbert Huber
Secretariat
International Union of Soil Sciences

Report to the IUSS: 5th International Soil Classification Congress

The 5th International Soil Classification Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Commission 1.4 (Soil Classification) was presented from 1-7 December 2016 in South Africa. The congress is presented every four years, between the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) congresses.

The 5th International Soil Classification Congress and field workshop was supported by the University of the Free State, TerraSoil Science (Consulting firm), the NoordWes Koöperasie (Northwest Cooperation), University of the Northwest, Omnia (Fertilizer company), the Soil Science Society of South Africa, and the International Union of Soil Sciences.

The scientific committee comprised Arwyn Jones (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission), Augusto Zanella (University of Padua, Italy), Cezary Kabala (Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland), Cornie van Huyssteen (University of the Free State, South Africa), Curtis Monger (Natural Resources Conservation Centre, United States), Erika Micheli (Szent Istvan University, Hungary), Ganlin Zhang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), John Galbraith (Virginia Tech, United States), Lucia Anjos (Universidade Federal Rural de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Maria Gerasimova (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia), Peter Schad (Technical University of Munich, Germany), and Stephan Mantel (International Soil Reference and Information Centre, Netherlands).

A total of 54 delegates from 17 countries attended the congress and field workshop and presented a total of 30 oral and 11 poster presentations. The congress commenced with a preconference field workshop of four days, that started in Pretoria, progressed to Lichtenburg, Potchefstroom, Parys, and ended in Bloemfontein. The three-day congress proper followed the field workshop in Bloemfontein. The field workshop guide and conference proceedings are included for your perusal.

The first day of the conference was on 5 December 2016, coinciding with the international day of soil. This day was celebrated through a presentation made by Prof. Erika Micheli and through the award ceremony of the Guy Smith Medal to Dr. Juan Comerma (Venezuela). He is the fourth recipient of this award.

Through the funding received from the IUSS, three participants were able to attend the conference free of charge and I was able to subsidise the conference registration of an additional 2 South African students and three other South African participants. The three international delegates that received funding all prepared their own reports and it is included here for your perusal.

Yours faithfully



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