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To whom it may concern

It is with enormous sadness that we hear of the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. In addition to his outstanding leadership of Thailand, His Royal Highness was globally recognised as a leader in the promotion of sustainable soil management. In Thailand this was epitomised by His establishment of the Royal Development Study Centres which ensured that the research targets of the scientists focused upon the needs of the farmers and other land users.

Following our World Congress of Soil Science held in Bangkok in 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences proposed, in recognition of the outstanding leadership provided by His Majesty in promoting practices of sustainable soil management to ensure Food Security, the international celebration of World Soil Day on December 5th, His Majesty's birthday. In further recognition of the outstanding leadership given by his Royal Highness two past Secretaries General of the International Union of Soil Sciences, Professor Stephen Nortcliff and Professor Winfried Blum, had the immense privilege to be granted an audience with His Majesty in April 2012 to present Him with the International Union of Soil Sciences Humanitarian Soil Scientist Medal. During this audience His Majesty discussed many aspects of sustainable soil management. It was through His Majesty's enthusiastic encouragement that the United Nations formally adopted December 5th as World Soil Day and furthermore pronounced 2015 to be The International Year of Soils. Through His Majesty's leadership soil scientists globally and in particular in South East Asia were provided with encouragement in the development of soil management strategies which are both sustainable and relevant to the farmers who use them. The passing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej is a great loss for Thailand but also to Soil Science. On behalf of the International Union of Soil Sciences and of all our Members worldwide we offer our deepest condolences to the Royal Family. The members of the International Union of Soil Sciences join with the people of Thailand in mourning the death of a truly great King and outstanding leader of sustainable practices of soil management.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Prof. h.c. Dr. Dr. h.c. Rainer Horn
 President



Prof. Dr. Rattan Lal
 President Elect



Prof. Dr. Jae Yang
 Past President



**International
 Decade of Soils**
 2015 - 2024