



MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE (MSSS)

NEWSLETTER

Aug 2016 Issue 2

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BIM 43rd Annual General Meeting



Balai Ikthisas Malaysia (BIM) conducted their 43rd Annual General Meeting on 28th July 2016, 6.00 pm at Dewan Tan Sri Hamzah, Royal Selangor Club, Bukit Kiara Sports Annex, Jalan Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. There were a total of 14 voting member-institutions attended this AGM. Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) was represented by our president, Dr Wan Rasidah Abdul Kadir accompanied by Hon. Secretary, Dr Rosazlin Abdullah. The AGM started when the presiding chairman Dato' LAR Ismail bin Ngah made a presentation highlighting BIM events and activities during his term in 2015-2016. Past President, Sr John S.C. Loh was nominated to be the Election Chairman and there were no objections from other members. Since there were no contests for all the positions, Dato' LAR. Ismail bin Ngah was re-elected as the President for the second term. Our MSSS president, Dr Wan Rasidah Abdul Kadir was elected for the position of Vice President of BIM. It is a great achievement for our society on her prestiged selection. On the same day, BIM conducted 'Hari Raya Open House' after the AGM. The MSSS's bowling team invited wer represented by MSSS Hon. Secretary; Dr Rosazlin

Abdullah alongside Dr Khanom Simarani and Miss Nur Sa'adah Abdul Halim. *Text and picture by Nur Sa'adah Abdul Halim, University of Malaya.*



**International
Decade of Soils
2015 - 2024**

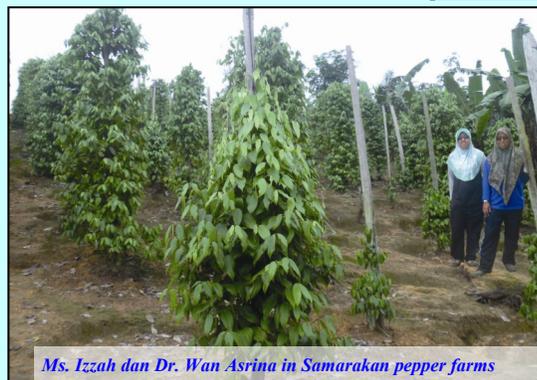
ISRIC WORLD SOIL MUSEUM



The World Soil Museum of ISRIC - World Soil Information in Wageningen can now be visited online. The museum has a collection of reference soil profiles from around the world. These 3D profiles, or monoliths, are used to explain main soil forming factors and to show the importance of the soil for ensuring food security, mitigating climate change, or in terms of their cultural value.

The need for precision agriculture for black pepper farming in Sarawak

Black pepper crop is grown between 0-1,500 m above sea levels and on soil ranged from sandy to alluvial. However, pepper is favourable to be planted at hilly area in order to avoid waterlogging and foot rot disease infection. The practise could potentially cause nutrient deficiency and soil erosion problems when unmanaged properly. For example, small scale farmers who practiced traditional farming techniques tend to remove cover crops and practice planting without terracing. Therefore, the aim of this research project was to determine NPK movement and loss in black pepper farms using spatial and temporal variations. Research was conducted on black pepper farms from five different divisions (Kapit, Bintulu, Sri Aman, Kuching and Serian) in Sarawak whereby a total of 128 soil and 66 plant samples were collected. Each division was represented with two different farms which were recommended by Malaysian Pepper Board. Generally, nutrient deficiency was observed at the farm with higher slopes due to nutrient loss. Although continues supply of NPK (12:12:17:2+TE) was administered, yet it was insufficient due to higher sand fractions that reduced the nutrient holding capacity combined with poor management. The observation from this research will be important to formulate suitable management practices that considers spatial and temporal variations related to precision agriculture. *Photo and text by Izzah Abd Hamid & Dr. Wan Asrina W. Yahaya, UPM Bintulu Campus*



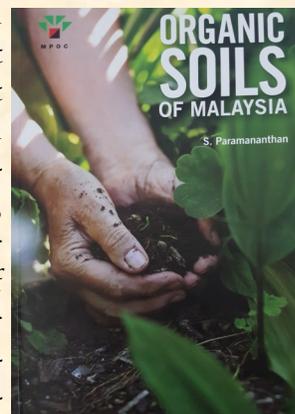
Inter Professional Game- Joint Bowling Tournament 24th July 2016

Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) again welcomed bowling lovers from all institutions registered under this committee to join the BIM-Inter Professional Game on July 24th, 2016 at Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort, Kuala Lumpur. The event was participated by 10 teams from Member-Institutions including BIM board members. Fundamentally, this inter-professional game was set up to provide opportunities for BIM professional members to interact and to network with professionals of other Member-Institutions. Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) again did not miss the opportunity and participated in this event which was represented by MSSS Hon. Secretary; Dr Rosazlin Abdullah alongside Dr Khanom Simarani and Miss Nur Sa'adah Abdul Halim who made up the one and only female team in this event. The game started at 11 am in the morning and ended at 1 pm. The first place of the game was won by The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILTM) with a total score of 779 while MSSS managed to grab the second place with a total score of 633 which moved up four places from the previous year ranking. The Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) won the third place with total score of 604. The prize for the best team (CILTM) was presented during BIM Hari Raya Open House on 28 July 2016, 8.00 pm, after the 43rd Annual General Meeting at Royal Selangor Club, Bukit Kiara Sports Annex, Kuala Lumpur. *Photo and text by Nur Sa'adah Abdul Halim, University of Malaya.*



Book review : Organic Soils of Malaysia

'Organic Soils of Malaysia' was written by Dr. S.Paramanathan and published by Malaysian Palm Oil Council in 2016. In general, this book focuses on the characteristics, mapping, classification and management of tropical peat for the cultivation of oil palm written in 10 different chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 provides an introduction and overview of tropical peat and its extend within Southeast Asia while the third chapter provides the detailed characteristic of tropical peat. Chapter 4 explains the mapping system of tropical lowland organic soils. This chapter covers the mapping methodology system, field survey, definition and kinds of tropical lowland peats, field legend for organic soils and other criteria for organic soils. Chapter 5 is mainly on the classification of organic soils of Malaysia. The chapter provides an overview of the various classification systems for tropical peat which is currently being used in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The writer also introduces a new classification system for tropical peats developed by him in this chapter. Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 focuses on conservation of tropical lowland peats and cultivation of oil palm on tropical peat. These chapters explain the land characteristics of organic soils and how it influences the growth and performance of oil palms. The idea for the need to draft the National Peatland Policy was also discussed. Information on land characteristics which influences the growth of oil palms on organic soils and land evaluation procedures for organic soils are written in chapter 7. Main limitations to crop production on organic soils and organic soil management groups and sub-groups are discussed in chapter 8 while the 9th chapter details the best management practices for development of peat swamps, current issues and findings on peat soils. The last chapter discusses the current issues and findings on problems faced with the rapid development of tropical peats to agricultural areas. Matters such as greenhouse gas emission, drainage and subsidence, peat fires and other important issues are all discussed in this chapter.



MSSS FELLOW

Name: Professor Che Fauziah Ishak

Current position : Professor, Environmental Soil Chemistry ,Soil Management Department, UPM

Education History: M.S. Chemistry (U. of Iowa, Iowa City, USA), Ph.D. Agronomy (U. Of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA)

Awards:Gold medal (2012) and Bronze medal (2011) in Research and Innovation Exposition, excellent book writing award (2010), excellent service award (2010)

Significant Publications: More than 90 journal articles from 1984 till 2014, 1 book and 7 chapters in books, more than 150 papers in proceedings

Research Interest:Heavy metals studies in the soil system and their interactions with plant uptake, and, land application of industrial by-products with emphasis on in-situ immobilization as heavy metals remediation technique

MSSS contributions: Vice- President (Peninsular Malaysia) from 2009 till present, and, Chief Editor of Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (2008 till present)

Outlook on soil science on the next 20 years: As long as man exist on this earth and depends on agriculture for their daily food, Soil Science will remain an important aspect of agriculture. However, soil degradation should be prevented so that the soil can function to its optimum level.

Key to success as a soil scientist: Always keep abreast of the current soil issues and scenarios. Also, keep up with advances in technologies and try to use them in research.



International Summit of Health & Lifestyle: Global Soil Health



The summit was organized by the Secretariat for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Islamic World (SASTIW) which is currently under the University of Tehran, Iran. There were 3 sessions for the summit which were Soil Degradation, Sustainable Soil Management and Soil and Human Life. Dr. Wan Rasidah Kadir as one of the invited speaker presented a paper entitled “Soils of Malaysia: Potential Threats and Strategies for Sustainable Soil Management under the Sus-

tainable Soil Management session. A closed door session was conducted on the second day to discuss the ideas and framework for global soil threats for all country representatives. The invitation is an honour to our MSSS President as most of the invited delegates were from the Near East-North Africa (NENA) region. Delegates from Russia and Turkey have pledged their interest to work together with the Malaysian counterparts in efforts to conserve soil resources and towards food security. Presentations from other NENA delegates provided insight information on soil threats management in their region which can be applied in Malaysia, such as effective irrigation for crops and low input farming. Photo and text by [Dr. Wan Rasidah Kadir, FRIM](#)

IPC 2016 GALLERY



International Peat Congress 2016 Report, 15- 19 August 2016

The 15th International Peat Congress with the theme **Peatlands in Harmony – Agriculture, Industry & Nature** was successfully held from 15th to 19th August 2016 in Pullman Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. It was organised by Malaysian Peat Society (MPS) in partnership with the International Peatland Society (IPS). This was the first time that this congress in its 60 years history was being hosted in Asia. The next Congress will be held in Estonia. This congress was officiated by Chief Minister Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Haji Adenan Bin Haji Satem and the Ministerial keynote address was delivered by YB Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia. It has marked a memorable history with **more than 1,000 participants** from countries of all parts of the world has gathered to share their ideas, experience and expertise. The objectives of the congress were to provide an ideal platform for networking development, knowledge sharing and disseminate scientific results and experience particularly to peat and peatlands in the tropics, to highlight the closely intertwined relationship of the environment, industry and socio-economic factors in relation to peat and to create an opportunity for all participants to develop a new networking, partnership and collaboration on important projects. **A total of 335 papers comprising of 1 plenary paper, 10 keynotes papers, 186 oral papers and 138 poster papers were presented.** The congress also had 6 symposiums and 6 Special Sessions to discuss on the following: Inventory, Biodiversity, Conservation and Functions of Peatlands, Peatlands and Ecosystem Management, Peatland After-use and Restoration, Peatland Technology and Agro-technology, Responsible Utilization and Management of Peatlands, Cultural, Educational, Medicinal and Socio-economic Aspects of Peatland and Peat and Special Sessions on Soft Soil Engineering, Peat for Horticulture and Energy, Publically Managed Peatland Carbon Storage, Ecosystem Services, and Management, Tropical Peatland Biodiversity and Conservation in Borneo and Sumatra, Peatland Restoration and Asiaflux. The plenary paper entitled **History of Tropical Peatland in Southeast Asia** was presented by Professor Emeritus Hisao Furukawa from Kyoto University and the other keynote papers were:

Shifting Paradigms In SE Asian Peatland Management – *Marcel Silvius*

Sustainable Nutrient Management Of Fen Grassland On Peat Soil – *Dr Juergen Pickert*

Carbon Balance of Tropical Peat Swamp Forest - *Prof. Takashi Hirano*

The Ring of Fire: Tackling Indonesia's Peatland Fire Dynamic – *Prof. Susan E. Page*

Emissions of Methane and Nitrous Oxide from Peatlands – *Prof. Ryusuke Hatano*

Communicating Peat Science to Society – *Dr Kalyana Sundram*

Agro-Environmental Management of Tropical Peatland – *Dr Lulie Melling*

What is The Way Forward on Indonesian Peatland? – *Prof. Supiandi Sabiham*

Planting Oil Palm in Peatland: My Experience, Challenges and Opportunities – *Datuk Amar Hamed Sepawi*

Biomass Recovery in Secondary Mixed Peat Swamp Forest, Coastal Riau, Indonesia – *Dr John Bathgate*

Participants also took part in the One-day Excursion to smallholder farms, oil palm industry, Semenggoh Nature Reserve and Bako National Park. The Congress General, Dr Lulie Melling from Tropical Peat Research Laboratory and the organising committee wish to records their profound gratitude to the Scientific Secretariat, sponsor, participants, private and government agencies for their contributions and support in ensuring the success of this event. It has been commented as one of the best peat congress in 60 years. *Photo and text by Ms. Immas Janggok & Dr.*

Lulie Melling (Note: Photos in previous page)

MSSS Publications for Sale!

BOOKS (RM 10/each)

1. Bibliography of Malaysian Soils
2. Recent Developments in Land Evaluation
3. Sustainable Land Management
4. Secondary & Micronutrients in Malaysian Agriculture
5. Developments in Soil Research In Malaysia
6. Soil Management for Food and Fruit Crop Production

PROCEEDINGS (RM 10/each)

1. Soil Science Conference of Malaysia year ('91, '93', '94, '95, '97, '98, '99)
2. Soil Science Conference of Malaysia year ('02, '03', '04, '06)
3. International Conference on Fertilizer Usage in the Tropics 1992
4. Workshop on Soil Science in Malaysia-Towards the year 2020
5. Proceedings of the International Conference on Fertilizer Usage in the Tropics (FERTROP) 1992

JOURNALS (RM 10/each)

1. Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (Volume 1–12)
2. Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (Volume 15–16, 18)

Announcements!

- [Introduction to Tropical Peatlands](#), Muar Johor, 24-26 Oct
- [GeoSmartAsia](#), Kuala Lumpur, 17-19 Oct
- [IUSS Inter Congress Meeting](#), Rio, Brazil, 20-25 Nov 2016
- [Soil Stakeholders Conference](#), Brussels, Belgium, 5 Dec
- [IUFRO-125th Anniversary Congress 2017](#)

Dokuchaev & Liebig Awards

Two awards are presented by the IUSS at each World Congress of Soil Science to recognize outstanding contributions in two areas: the IUSS Dokuchaev Award for basic research in soil science and the IUSS Liebig Award for applied research in soil science. Go to IUSS website



1. Lem Min Siang- 988
2. Wan Mohd. Razi Idris- 989
3. Nur Firdaus Rashid- 990
4. Mohd. Izuan Effendi Halmi-991
5. Dr. Arina Shairah Abdul Sukor- 992
6. Ho Hoong Yee- 993
7. Dato' tony Peng Shih Hao- 994
8. Jeffery Chong- 995
9. Chang Lung Teck- 996

Membership is open to all professionals and graduate students, within and outside Malaysia. Please visit our website <http://msss.com.my/apply.htm>

FEES : RM50.00 per year for ordinary membership, or RM400.00 for life membership

Margaret Oliver Awards

The award is named for Margaret Oliver, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to the promotion and encouragement of pedometricians in the early stages of their careers as well as her overall service to pedometrics

New publications!

- Organic Soils of Malaysia, S. Paramanathan
- Essential Soil Physics, Robert Horn et al
- Soil Phosphorus, Rattan Lal et al
- Soil: The Life supporting Skin of Earth, Ragnardottir & Banwart
- [Soil Organic Carbon Saturation Map](#)

1st Announcement

Registration Form

Full Name : (Prof./Assoc. Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs.) _____

Occupation : _____

Organization : _____

Mailing Address : _____

Contact Number : (HP) _____

(O) _____

E-Mail : _____

- I wish to attend the conference
- I wish to present a paper(s)
- I wish to present a poster(s)
- I wish to attend the conference dinner
- I wish to participate in the post conference tour

Title of paper/poster : _____

Signature : _____

Date : _____

All payment should be in the form of a Crossed Cheque /Money Order/Postal Order/Bank Draft payable to the **Malaysian Society of Soil Science** (Account details will be provided in the 2nd announcement).

Post Conference Tour

A conference tour will be organized on 6 - 7 April 2017. Additional payment will be required for those attending the conference tour to cover the cost of accommodation, logistics, material and meals.

Important Dates

Conference Date : 4 - 5 April 2017
 Conference Tour : 6 - 7 April 2017
 Early Bird Registration : Before 15 January 2017
 Extended Abstract Submission : 15 January 2017

Organizing Committee

Advisors : Dr. Wan Rasidah Wan Abdul Kadir
 Dr. Zamri Rosli
Chairman : Dr. Wan Astrina Wan Yahaya
Vice Chairman : Dr. Shahrul Razid Sarbini
Secretary : Dr. Mohd Zafri Hassan
Treasurer : Dr. Neilson Teruki
Secretariat : Dr. Noorasmah Saupi

Please mail, e-mail or fax this form with a copy of **Extended Abstract** to :

The Secretariat
International Conference on Sustainable Soil Management
 Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
 Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus
 97008 Bintulu, Sarawak MALAYSIA.
 (Attn : Dr. Noorasmah Saupi)

☎ +60 16 624 0057 (Dr. Hadi Hamli)
 📞 +60 86 855 375 (Dr. Mohd Zafri Hassan)
 📠 +60 86 855 415
 ✉ icssm2017@upm.edu.my
 🌐 www.icssm2017.upm.edu.my
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Jointly organized by :

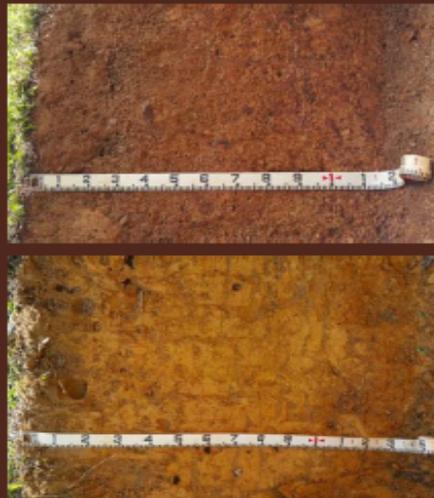



SOILS 2017
International Conference on Sustainable Soil Management
Quality Soil Drives Productivity

4 - 7 April 2017
 Parkcity Everly Hotel Bintulu, Sarawak MALAYSIA



DOA-MSSS SOIL CORRELATION 2016 (Sedentary Soils)



22nd & 23rd November
2016

Selaru-Tampin-Gemas,
Negeri Sembilan



Accommodation

Participants who require accommodation can book the hotel on their own in Gemas, Bahau or Tampin Negeri Sembilan.

Registration Fee

Fee amounting to RM750 per participant will cover tour bulletin, refreshment and meal during correlation and a tour kit (transport excluded).

Due to the limited space available participation will be on first come first serve basis.

Payment should be made to:

**MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF
SOIL SCIENCE**

and send to:

SOIL CORRELATION 2016

No. 11, Jalan Teknologi 3/6,
Taman Sains Selangor 1,
Kota Damansara,
47810 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia.
(Attn: Dr. Liew Yew Ann)

Name : Prof. / Dr. / Mr. / Ms.

Organization :

Mailing Address :

T-Shirt Size :

Contact :

e-mail:

Signature :

Date:

Please mail, e-mail or fax this form to :

The Organizer,
SOIL CORRELATION 2016
No. 11, Jalan Teknologi 3/6,
Taman Sains Selangor 1,
Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia.
(Attn: Dr. Liew Yew Ann)

e-mail : liewya@aaarsb.com.my
Tel : 03-61517924/5/6/7/8/9
Fax : 03-61517081

SOIL



International
Decade of Soils
2015-2024

Fun Run '16



Relay Run (Team of 3 Runners)

26 November 2016

Saturday, 7.00 am

**Institut Pertanian
Serdang, Selangor**

Organized by:



In conjunction with the International Decade of Soils 2015-2024, Department of Agriculture (DOA) co-organized by the Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) will organize a "fun relay run" that will incorporate games and education through the run. The run will involve exciting activities along the route, such as soil identification, soil play and other soil fun games and participants will be exposed to the soil diversity and their properties.

Registration Fee:

RM 45.00 per person

RM 35.00 per person (Student)

*Every registration must include 3 runners for each team.

Registration fees includes:

T-Shirt

Medal

Goodie Bag

Lucky Draw

For Enquiries, please contact us at:

Mr. Sukati 019 - 300 4455

Dr Rosazlin 012 - 704 1302

Mr. Fazrul 013 - 330 2928

Registration Form:

Team Name: _____

Team Member names:

1. _____ Student: Y/N T-Shirt Size: S / L / M / XL / 2XL Contact Person : _____

2. _____ Student: Y/N T-Shirt Size: S / L / M / XL / 2XL Mailing Address: _____

3. _____ Student: Y/N T-Shirt Size: S / L / M / XL / 2XL _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

Payment for registration fee is to be made payable to :

Malaysian Society of Soil Science

MAYBANK Acct #: (014057303489)

Please e-mail or fax this form to

E-mail: soilsciencemalaysia@gmail.com

Fax: 03- 62804629

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



We are a big group of almost 300+ soil enthusiasts and we like to hear from you! We are looking for article contributions on soil related issues, mainly

GENERAL ARTICLES: If you have a story/report about an activity related to soil, such as soil training/workshop/conference/meetings; please send it along. A one - two page article with color pictures are encouraged.

YOUNG SCIENTIST: If you are currently a young soil scientist (below 40 years of age) working on a research project related to soil dynamics, you may send in your research article about 500 to 600 words which states on the intro, justification, brief methods, results and conclusion. Please include a digital photo as well.

SENIOR SCIENTIST: If you are currently a senior soil scientist (above 40 years of age) working on a research project related to soil dynamics, you may send in your research article about 500 to 600 words which states on the intro, justification, brief methods, results and conclusion. Please include a digital photo as well.

THE EASTERN CONNECTION: Dedicated for any soil research endeavors and information from Sabah and Sarawak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Of trainings or educational opportunities, forthcoming meetings, conferences or other international announcement regarding soil, agriculture, forestry, etc.

BOOK/PAPER REVIEW: If you have come across a recently published article you think may be of interest to other MSSS members, please alert the Newsletter Editor and we will highlight it for our readers. We give priority to publications by MSSS members but anything on soil research is welcomed.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Submit your advertisement for RM 40 for half page and RM 80 for full page in our newsletter. Gain more visibility with your services and products!

Submission information: For text send a word document with Arial font (11) to jeanny@frim.gov.my or rosazlin@um.edu.my and for photos .jpg is preferred. All submission will be scrutinized by the Editorial Board for suitability before publishing. Once approval, the Editorial Board will inform you with further details.



MJSS - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (MJSS) is a scientific journal published by the Malaysian Society of Soil Science. It contains research papers in English on matters related to soil and soil-plant interactions. The journal welcomes original research works not previously or simultaneously published in any other scientific or technical journal from MSSS members as well as other scientists in Malaysia and abroad. The aim of the journal is to promote the development of soil science in Malaysia, other tropical and subtropical regions. **MJSS is a peer-reviewed, fully open access journal, is now indexed by Scopus and published annually.** Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website <http://www.msss.com.my/journals/instruct.php>

Contact us

Malaysian Society of Soil Science
Locked bag 254,
43409 UPM Serdang,
Selangor Darul Ehsan
Website: <http://www.msss.com.my/>
E mail: soilsciencemalaysia@gmail.com



The IUSS song

*It is our life! We call it soil
It is the stuff, in which we toil
From soil we've sprung, to soil we'll go
Protect the soil of this earth so we can grow*

IUSS has declared 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade of Soils