



International Union of Soil Sciences

Takashi Kosaki, Prof. Dr. President, IUSS Faculty of International Communication, Aichi University, 4-60-6 Hiraike-cho, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 453-8777, Japan kosakit8@vega.aichi-u.ac.jp	Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez, Prof. Dr. President Elect, IUSS National Autonomous University of Mexico FES-Cuautitlán Campus 4. C. P. 54750 Agricultural Engineering Department Cuautitlán Izcalli, Estado de México lbrs@unam.mx	Rattan Lal, Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. mult. Past President, IUSS Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center The Ohio State University Columbus, OH 43210, USA lal.1@osu.edu
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Cuautitlán Izcalli México, November 9 de 2019

Professor Dr. Paola Adamo
President of the Italian Society of Soil Science

The International Soil Science Union (IUSS)¹ during his 17th World Congress on Soil Science held in Bangkok Thailand launched a resolution in 2002 proposing to declare December 5 the “World Soil Day” (WSD), in order to highlight the importance of Soil as a critical component resource of the natural system and its vital contribution to the welfare of mankind.

Proposed by the current International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002, FAO has always supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness platform to soil preservation with the support of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the FAO-Global Soil Partnership.

The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013 and requested its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the UN General Assembly responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day. The date of December 5 for WSD was chosen because it corresponds with the official birthday of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand, who officially and strongly supported the soil subject from our IUSS 17th World Congress on Soil Science until its approval by FAO and the UN.

The impact and benefits that the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has had in the struggle for the preservation of the soil resource is great and undeniable, and in this fight the IUSS accompanies FAO creating a virtuous circle through the dissemination of all their activities among our scientists and its National Societies belonging to the IUSS, as well as through the effective participation of many of them in the ITPS and through all Regional Alliances around the world supporting the GSP activities, because *like FAO, the IUSS is committed to the sustainability of the resource that it studies and for whose preservation it works; our interest is the same.*

In the battle against land degradation, IUSS share with FAO subjects, objectives and tasks.

¹ Currently International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)



**International
Decade of Soils**
2015 - 2024



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We are committed to the same purposes, we face the same challenges and I am convinced that TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER, and we can win that battle working as partners.

That is why, as the elected President who has been designated by the IUSS Presidential Committee as her official liaison with FAO, I summon you all to respond to FAO's call and organize **together: IUSS and FAO** our World Soil Day celebrations, as well as to register our activities by labeling the title of your event on the “global map” though the link <http://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/worldwide-events/add-events/en/>, as is suggested below to make visible our work and our presence as National Soil Science Societies that belong to IUSS and that constitute a true Work Force in the fight for soil preservation as FAO partners.

For example, if members of the British Soil Science Society that is part of the IUSS, organize a conference at Bristol University, the LABELED TITLE to register this event on the FAO “global map” as suggestion would be: **Conference-Bristol University-BSSS-IUSS**

As elected president of IUSS, my will is fully committed to soil sustainability as our most important goal and I am convinced that WORKING TOGETHER ALL US: IUSS AND FAO can achieve it.

Therefore, as President of the Italian Society of Soil Science, I am kindly asking your collaboration to make this request known to your partners so that together we make of the World Soil Day a great world holiday.

Thanks, in advance for your kind attention.

Dra. Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez

President Elect of the International Union of Soil Sciences

“#ElSueloEsVida, #InTlalliTonemiliz, #LaTerraEsVida, #TheSoilIsLife
#LeSolC'estLaVie, #DerBodenistLeben, #LurzoruaBiziaDa, #JordaErLivet,
#SolEsteViata, #UdongoNiMaisha, #TloEZivot, #GlebaToŻycie”



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