



X. Congress of Croatian Society of Soil Science  
Soil Functions in the Environment  
14 - 17 June 2006 :: Šibenik :: Croatia

Under the auspices of:

President of the Republic of Croatia - Mr. Stjepan Mesić  
Ministry of Science, Education and Sport  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction

In cooperation with:

International Union of Soil Science  
European Confederation of Soil Science Societies

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## Editorial Note

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After five years, following the tradition of the Croatian Society of Soil Science ([www.agr.hr/htd](http://www.agr.hr/htd)), the Jubilee X Congress was held in Šibenik from June 14 – 17, 2006. We also had the opportunity to celebrate the 75th anniversary of active and organized work of Croatian soil scientist in Croatia and abroad.

The Congress was organized in conjunction with the International Union of Soil Science ([www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org)) and European Confederation of Soil Science Societies ([www.ecsss.net](http://www.ecsss.net)) as a Croatian congress with international participation, which was evidenced by contributions of participants from 15 countries - Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Iran, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and Croatia.

First of all, what is a soil? Soil as a natural body and a thin surface layer, between Earth's crust (lithosphere) and the air (atmosphere), has been developed over a long period of time as the result of very complex interaction between climate, vegetation and living macro and micro flora and fauna. Due to such long formation we share the view of authors who describe soil as "conditionally renewable", because it may be renewed, but not within a single human generation. It should be pointed, that the available area of soil on Earth is limited. Soil is also very important natural resource because it can not be multiplied or transferred. Hence, it should be preserved as a very precious gift of nature.

Regarding mentioned reasons, multiple functions of soil in the environment are becoming an increasingly discussed topic. This concept is based on the fact that soil, apart from the function in agriculture, that has already been mentioned, has other functions too: Ecological and regulatory function of soil; Soil as a Source of Biodiversity; Spatial Role of Soil, Soil as a Source of Raw Materials and Cultural Role of Soil – Soil as a Medium of History. So, complex and different functions and roles of soil support the tenet:

Soil management = Life management

The Congress was prepared and organized by teams of organizers working in Congress committees of multidisciplinary structure, both with regard to professions, specialties, institutions and companies from which they were elected. The Congress was headed by Prof. Ivica Kisić, PhD, Congress president and president of the Croatian Society of Soil Science, Prof. Davor Romić, PhD, chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Assist. Prof. Stjepan Husnjak, PhD, chairman of the Organizing Committee. The Honorary Congress Committee was made up of the leading Croatian and international soil scientists.

After the three plenary lectures, given by the President of the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies Wilfried E.H. Blum (New Research Concepts for the Protection of Soil in Europe) from Austria, Zed Rengel from Australia (Plants Alter Chemical, Physical and Microbial Properties of Rhizosphere Soil) and Željko Vidaček (State and Perspectives of Soil Science Development in Croatia), congress work proceeded in the following sections:

- Standardization and Soil Data Management;
- Soil Fertility as an Ecosystem Concept;
- Microbial Indicators of Soil Quality;
- Soil, Water and Climate Changes;
- Trace Metals in Soils: Origin, Speciation and Bioavailability;
- Soil Degradation Indicators: Assessment, Forecast and Prevention;
- Sustainable Soil-Water-Plant Management, and
- Soil Fertility and the Environment.

The program included 55 oral and 26 poster presentations.

The gala dinner involved presentation of prizes for the best posters and awards of the Croatian Society of Soil Science: "Prof. Mihovil Gračanin" to the best research assistants, and deserving scientists for their contribution to the development of soil science in Croatia.

The Congress reflected good traditions of the Croatian Society of Soil Science and was, in a way, the "crown" of its efficient work in current mandate period, but also an incentive to continue its activities in an even better way. The number and enthusiasm of participating research assistants is a guarantee for such expectations.

Ivica Kisić  
Congress Chairman

