



1. Title

Soil Information Exchange Standards and Systems

2. Type

Working Groups Symposium

3. Organizer(s) & Convener

Peter Wilson (Chair), CSIRO Australia,
Rainer Baritz (Vice-Chair) BGR Germany

4. Rationale

The IUSS Working Group on Soil Information Standards (WGSIS) is a new working group endorsed at the last IUSS Executive Meeting during the 20th WCSS in Brisbane Australia. The WGSIS has been active since that time in developing an understanding of existing soil information exchange standard initiatives, holding technical information modeling workshops, and engaging with the GlobalSoilMap and UN FAO Global Soil Partnership activities to embed the IUSS WGSIS within emerging processes.

Soil information management, exchange and improved accessibility and useability are essential for the promotion of the outcomes of the IUSS, and to ensure that globally consistent and integratable soil data and information are available for use in local, national, regional and international priority issues, such as climate change mitigation and global food security.

The development and endorsement of international soil information standards through the IUSS will provide soil science leadership in an ever increasingly information rich and hungry world.

Holding a focused IUSS WGSIS Symposium as part of the WCSS will highlight the importance of proper and effective soil data and information management and exchange, and ensure requirements for improvement in this space are not hampered through data management being effectively sidelined from soil research initiatives.

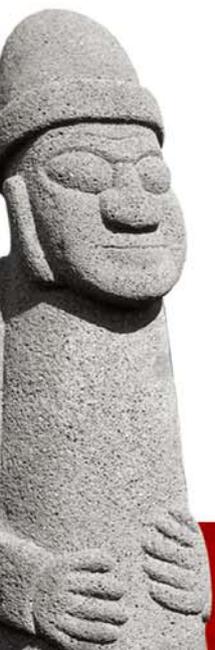
5. Objectives

To promote the need for improved management of soil data and information to facilitate greater visibility, accessibility and useability of these valuable assets to assist globally significant issues.

To discuss and communicate project, national and international activities and initiatives which are developing and implementing soil information exchange standards.

6. Description

The Symposium would focus on international, national and project based activities which are developing soil information standards for data exchange, and delivery through web





service based information system architectures. it would highlight the coordination activities of the IUSS WGIS, and explore options for better cooperation, sharing of ideas and alignment of services.

The Symposium would have 2 significant keynote addresses highlighting lessons and opportunities for the soil domain by using examples and experience from geosciences, water and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

A number of papers would focus on technical aspects and development and operational systems and applications, which highlight progress and opportunities for improved data sharing, access and use. Depending on numbers, presented papers would be 10-15 minutes. A poster session and display would be included.

