

NEWS FROM REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Cooperation between IUSS and EurAgEng

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) was launched in 1924 under the logo of ISSS (International Society of Soil Science) with the main objectives of:

- Fostering all branches of soil sciences and their applications
- Linking and giving support to soil scientists in the pursuit of their activities.

In 1998, the ISSS was restructured into the IUSS following its admission as a Union member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) in 1993.

EurAgEng has embarked upon a programme of establishing links with like-minded organisations, and the following agreement has been reached with IUSS:

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng) are both international associations with the common aims of

- Setting up and improving networking systems to promote the role of Soil Conservation and Land Use, Planning and Management for Rural Development and Environment Protection at both European and world-wide levels
- Seeking cooperation from other regional and world-wide organisations whose interests impinge on similar issues.



Prof. Daniele De Wrachien

In this endeavour IUSS and EurAgEng have reached agreement on close cooperation and mutual assistance for the transfer of knowledge at international level. The Secretary General of IUSS Prof. Stephen Nortcliff and the President of EurAgEng Prof. Daniele De Wrachien, have signed, in Reading (UK) in March 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for the following:

- Nomination of representatives and deputy representatives to each other's relevant decision-making bodies as observers
- Publication of each other's announcements in their own media on a reciprocal basis, free of charge
- Cooperation in the planning and implementation of enterprises of common interest such as research projects, guidelines, workshop, conferences, training courses, etc.

Prof. Stephen Nortcliff, Secretary General IUSS
Prof. Daniele De Wrachien, President EurAgEng

Report on the 4th International Workshop on Research on Irrigation and Drainage Skopje, Macedonia, 24-25 March 2004

Agriculture will have to meet the future challenges to food security posed by increasing production while conserving natural resources. In the past, the increased demand for food was satisfied by the expansion of agricultural land. Today, the availability of new land for cultivation and of additional water resources is limited. This means that the

traditional methods of increasing production are facing a new challenge: reconciling agricultural development with the conservation of natural resources. Moreover, in the past irrigation and drainage schemes were designed on the assumption that the current climatic conditions would not change in the future. This will not be so in the years to come, due to global warming and the greenhouse effect. Therefore, engineers and decision-makers need to systematically review the planning principles, design criteria, operating rules, contingency plans and management policies for new infrastructures.

These themes were discussed during the International Workshop in Skopje on 24-25 March 2004. The event was organized, as part of the celebrations of the World Water Day, by the Macedonian National ICID Committee and with the patronage and scientific support of CIGR and EurAgEng.

The workshop focused on the following subjects:

- Water resources: availability, planning and infrastructures for multipurpose use and management
- Irrigation and drainage systems: design, construction, operation, modernisation and rehabilitation
- Catchment and river hydrology: forecasting, erosion and pollution control
- Wastewater: treatment, management and environmental impacts.

The event was attended by more than 100 participants from 22 countries. 51 papers were presented in oral presentations or as posters in the two official languages English and Macedonian. Workshop Proceedings are now available from the Macedonian National ICID Committee in Skopje. For further information please contact: Prof. Dr. Zvonimir Vukelic, Chairman of the Scientific and Organizing Committee (vukelic@gf.ukim.edu.mk).

Prof. Zvonimir Vukelic, Convenor of the Workshop
Prof. Daniele De Wrachien, President of EurAgEng

Report on the Second International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering

Rousse, Bulgaria, 3-4 June 2004

The Second International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering (EE&AE) was organized by the Bulgarian National Society of Agricultural Engineers "Engineering and Research for Agriculture" (ERA), the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR), the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng), the Association of Agricultural Engineering in Southeastern Europe (AAESEE), the Union of Scientists – Rousse, the Federation of the Scientific Technical Unions – Rousse and "Angel Kunchev" University of Rousse.

The conference was attended by representatives of 21 European, Asian and African countries. With 120 papers to be presented, the conference was subdivided into the following three sections:

- Renewable Energy and Advanced Technologies

- Machinery and Design
- Appropriate Mechanization and Technologies in Agriculture

In addition to these sections, holding five sessions each, a fourth section for students and young researchers was formed for the first time.

The importance of the event was underlined by the presence of the Secretary-General of CIGR Prof. P. Schulze Lammers, the President of EurAgEng Prof. D. De Wrachien, and the chairmen of the national societies of agricultural engineers of Turkey, Romania and Serbia. The presence of representatives of companies active in agricultural



Prof. Nikolai Mihailov

engineering suggests that the findings of the papers will be utilized in practice. The fact that the conference was held simultaneously with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Rouse gave the whole event a festive

atmosphere and further stressed its importance.

During the conference a round-table meeting of representatives of CIGR, AESEE, ERA and EurAgEng was held. The participants agreed to strengthen their efforts to concentrate conferences in the region of South-Eastern Europe in order to attract larger international audiences from other countries, particularly from neighbouring and Western European countries. The participants decided to resume their round-table meetings in February 2005 at the 33rd International Symposium "Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering" in Opatija, Croatia. They expressed a shared interest in a harmonization of study programmes in AgEng and similar programmes across Europe. Based on a credit point transfer system, such harmonization will effectively stimulate student mobility. The Presidents of EurAgEng and AAESEE underlined the necessity of strengthening the cooperation between the two regional associations.

The Third Conference on EE&AE will be held in 2006.

Prof. Nikolai Mihailov

President Organizing Committee & President AAESEE

CIGR-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

A chronological list of events in the field of agricultural engineering can also be found in our Events Calendar which can be consulted on CIGR's Website:

<http://www.cigr.org/>

2004 CIGR International Conference "The Olympics of AgEng"

This international CIGR conference will be held from **11 to 14 October 2004** in the International Meeting Centre of **Beijing, PR China**. With the sponsorship of CIGR, the Chinese Society for Agricultural Machinery (CSAM), the Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering (CSAE), and co-sponsored, among others, by AAAE, EurAgEng, CSAE and AOC, the conference is organised by the Chinese Agricultural University (CAU), the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanisation Sciences (CAAMS), and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering (CAAE). The conference language will be English.

Human beings are facing the new challenge of the growing of knowledge-based economy that affects our daily lives. Agricultural engineering knowledge and technologies have spread throughout the world with the development of information technology and multi-disciplinary activities.

As we move into the new millennium, advanced engineering technologies are being rapidly applied in agriculture, food and bio-systems. The need for increased cooperation and face-to-face exchanges among engineers, scientists, and commercial companies in the global village is evident. The 2004 CIGR International Conference aims to provide opportunities for researchers, scholars, managers and other professionals to exchange the latest information, and to provide a discussion forum on how to promote scientific and technological innovations on agricultural engineering into the new millennium.

The product shows, poster sessions and other academic activities of this conference will deal with subjects such as:

- Modern agricultural equipment and facilities (plant and animal production)
- Soil, water and environment
- Post harvest technology and biomass engineering
- Information technology for agriculture.

Agricultural engineers, institutions and companies are invited to participate in this congress and to submit a paper to the academic committee. Papers presented at the meeting will be available to the meeting participants on CD-ROM, and abstracts will be published officially for the participants.

Further information is available on the internet at <http://www.2004cigr.org/> or from the Conference Secretary Dr. Renjie Dong, PO Box 184#, China Agricultural University, No. 17 Qinghuadonglu Haidian district, Beijing 100083, PR CHINA. Email: 2004cigr@bjaeu.edu.cn or 2004info@bjaeu.edu.cn or info@2004cigr.org

1st CIGR Section VI International Conference on "Bioproducts Processing and Food Safety"

CIGR-Section VI deals with the engineering principles and technologies in post-harvest and processing of agro-food products. It is intended to follow the trends, promote the advancement and enhance the dissemination and the transfer of technology in post-harvest and processing at a global scale. Its missions are

- To bring together all those that are working in post-harvest and processing;