



MEETING MINUTES

THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS (IYS) STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)
FAO HEADQUARTERS (GERMAN ROOM, C269)
WEDNESDAY, 04 FEBRUARY 2014, 16:00 – 17:30

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Sompong Nimchuar (Chairperson, Thailand), Marcela Villarreal (Director OPC, FAO), Yon Fernandez Larrinoa (FAO), Sally Bunning (FAO), Tarekegn Tsegay Haile (Ethiopia), Gustavo O. Infante (Argentina), Roberta Maria Lima Ferreira (Brazil), Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Georg Friedel Cramer (Germany), Ivan Konstantinopolsky (Russia), Olthof Willem (European Union), Jirapa Inthisang Trochim (Thailand), Silvia Giovanazzi (USA), Narumon Wiangwang (Thailand), Sven Walter (UNCCD), Robert Delve (IFAD), Riccardo DelCastello (FAO), Craig Chibanda (FAO), Cristina Grandi (IFOAM), Marco Marzano de Marinis (WFO), Barrie Bain (IFA)

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The Chairperson, Mr. Sompong Nimchuar, opened the meeting by welcoming all the Members. The Chair expressed his deepest condolences for the passing away of the Germany ex-President, Mr. Richard von Weizsaecker.

Mr. Sompong Nimchuar went on to give the floor to Ms. Marcela Villarreal (Director of OPC at FAO) who introduced Mr. Yon Fernández de Larrinoa (Advocacy Officer, OPC, FAO), who will be working with her in the coordination of the IYS Secretariat and who will also be the direct point of reference for IYS. She further informed Members that OPC would lead the advocacy aspects, whilst NRL (hosting the GSP Secretariat) will be in charge of all technical issues in support to the IYS. She also welcomed Ms. Christina Grandi (Chief Food Security Campaigner) from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) as a new member of the SC.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA;

- The agenda of the meeting was approved with addition in AOB of the calendar of events and date of next meeting.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SECOND IYS SC MEETING (05 DECEMBER 2014);

- The minutes were available in advance of the meeting and were approved with no changes.

ITEM 3. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE IYS-SC TERMS OF REFERENCE

- All Members welcomed the inclusion of IFOAM in the SC and suggested that it should be added to the list of Members stated in the IYS-SC Terms of Reference.
- Members expressed their concerns about the procedure/criteria for including other organizations that are interested in becoming members of the IYS-SC. Some Members

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highlighted the importance of keeping the option of including new members in the future open, whilst others underlined the importance of maintaining a manageable number of Members.

- In order to accommodate the various concerns raised and to close the TORs, Members agreed that, as they arise, any additional Members would be agreed upon by SC members (i.e. including any other regional Soil Science Societies) and the following sentence was added into the TORs to reflect this decision: *“Any new Members should be approved by the IYS-Steering Committee”*
- Members agreed on all the changes that were made to the TOR and they were adopted with the changes.

ITEM 4. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IYS

- The Chairperson gave the floor to Ms. Claudia Nicolai (Information and Communication Officer, OCC, FAO) who informed the Members about the status of the IYS communication plan and the wide range of communication tools that were already in place to support the IYS.
- Ms. Claudia Nicolai informed Members that the final communication plan will be available soon, and she also highlighted that the following tools were already being used: IYS website, Communication toolkit (composed of the IYS logo in 23 languages), online communication materials (e.g. factsheets and infographics in all 6 FAO languages), and IYS social media campaign. She also stated that FAO (OCC) would provide support in response to requests for translation of the logo to non-official languages from decentralized offices and others.
- The IYS-Secretariat underlined that no funds from the regular program were being used to fund the IYS communication activities but a Trust fund had been set up to capture funds for all IYS activities.

ITEM 5. PLAN OF ACTION FOR IYS

- The Chairperson, Mr. Sompong Nimchuar, together with the Secretariat, emphasized that the Plan of Action (PoA) is a ‘living document’.
- Members organizing various activities linked to the IYS agreed to send more details about these events/activities to the Secretariat so that the information could be disseminated to all partners. The Secretariat informed Members that the upcoming Regional Soil Partnership (RSP) meetings will also be an opportunity to celebrate the IYS and a list of dates and places of RSP meetings will be provided to Members.
- Members requested an update on the nomination of IYS Ambassadors and the IYS-Secretariat responded by reminding Members that the nomination of ambassadors is the prerogative of the Director General however suggestions are welcomed. The Secretariat explained that during the IYFF, Special Ambassadors played an important role in promoting the Year using various additional audiences and networks, and that it is an additional low cost mechanism to get the message out.
- Thailand informed Members that it would update them about the World Soil Prize once it had all the information.

ITEM 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR IYS

- The Secretariat called upon Members to join forces and make financial contributions to ensure the funding of all the IYS activities.
- International Fertilizers Association (IFA) informed Members that it had made contribution of 50,000 EURO to the Trust Fund in support of the IYS.
- EU noted that it is providing substantial support to the GSP, which includes knock on support to IYS
- The IYS Secretariat also informed Members other contributions had been made by the Kingdom of Thailand (100,000 USD) and Switzerland (100,000 USD).The Secretariat thanked Members for their continued support of the Year.

ITEM 7. AOB

- The 2015 IYS-ISC Calendar of Meetings was approved with changes that the Members agreed upon. Members requested the IYS-Secretariat to book the German Room for all the other meetings, when possible.
- FAO confirmed that the World Soil Day (WSD) would be the closing event of the IYS, as detailed in the IYS Plan of Action and the World soil resources report, which is under preparation under the guidance of ITPS, would be launched on that day.
- IYS-Secretariat highlighted that the SC may consider celebrating WSD on Friday 4th December 2015, as it would be a more successful advocacy event with more participation than on Saturday 5th December.

The Chairperson summarized the main discussions of the meeting, thanked the Members for their assistance and contributions, and concluded the meeting at 5.45 pm.