



The Malaysian Society of Soil Science Newsletter

Locked Bag 254, 43409 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Tel: 03-89466964; Fax: 03-89434419

Email: newsletter@e-msss.com; Web: e-msss.com/newsletter

Issue: 01/2003

Aug-Sept-Oct. 2003

The Return

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that, after a few years of dormancy, the newsletter of the Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) is back. Yes, we do aim high, but shortage of manpower, time and resources always seemed to plague our newsletters. But, hopefully, with some young blood in the editorial team and with slightly lower and more realistic ambitions, we trust our newsletter will, once again, be beneficial and reach all members regularly. In particular, we trust that our newsletter will be an excellent source of information about MSSS' activities, as well as related activities elsewhere. Finally, I appreciate any feedback regarding this newsletter.

Best wishes.

Dr. C.B.S. Teh, *Editor*

Membership fees

As agreed in the last AGM (15 April 2003), the annual membership fee will increase from RM40 to RM50. This is to include an automatic membership into the IUSS (International Union of Soil Science). This means members of MSSS will also be members of the IUSS. However, this new fee rate has yet to be implemented. (*note: take advantage of this to pay up your annual fees!*)

Tribute to Retired Society Members

The management committee has agreed to organise a special luncheon or dinner for retired members (as well as for those who are about to retire) as a tribute to their contributions to soil science and to MSSS. The committee is currently scrutinising the organising details.

MSSS Management Committee 2003/04

After the AGM election on the 15th April 2003, the management committee of MSSS for 2003-04 are:

President	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khanif Yusop (president@e-msss.com)
Immediate Past President	Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Hj. Shamsuddin (zulsham@agri.upm.edu.my)
Vice-president (Peninsular Malaysia)	Prof. Wan Mohamad Wan Abd. Kadir (vp_peninsular@e-msss.com)
Vice-president (Sarawak)	Mr. U.T. Pupathy (vp_sarawak@e-msss.com)
Vice-president (Sabah)	Mr. Baba Musta (vp_sabah@e-msss.com)
Hon. Secretary	Dr. Christopher Teh Boon Sung (secretary@e-msss.com)
Hon. Treasurer	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anuar Abdul Rahim (treasurer@e-msss.com)
Hon. Asst. Secretary	Mr. Ismail Abu Bakar (asst_secretary@e-msss.com)
Hon. Asst. Treasurer	Ms. Wan Hazira Wan Mohamad (asst_treasurer@e-msss.com)
Members	Dr. Hawa Jaafar (hawazj@mardi.my) Dr. Zainol Eusof (zainol@apac-aces.com) Dr. Zin Zawawi Hj. Zakaria (zinz@mjob.gov.my) Mr. Denamany Gangadharan (dena@koko.gov.my) Mr. Goh Kah Joo (aarsb@po.jaring.my) Tuan Hj. Latif bin Kerya (latif@risda.gov.my)

Note: Committee members can also be reached collectively at committee@e-msss.com

Co-opted committee member

Prof. Madya Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd. Haniff (UPM) has been co-opted into the management committee on June 11, 2003. He can be reached at husni@agri.upm.edu.my. He is also the co-chairman for the Petronas-MSSS International Urea Conference to be held next year.

SOILS 2003

The Soil Science Conference of Malaysia for 2003 was held successfully at Kota Bharu, Kelantan from 15-16 April 2003. The conference was officiated by YB Datuk Seri Haji Mohd Sharif bin Haji Omar, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia. A total of 170 participants, from various agencies and including school students, had attended the conference. The conference also enjoyed a total of 27 oral and 40 poster paper presentations. These numbers exceeded that of last year's conference at Kangar, Perlis. The conference also included a one-day post-conference tour of Kelantan on the 17 Apr. 2003. During this conference, two books written by MSSS members were launched officially. The book authors were both from MARDI: Dr. Ghulam Mohammed Hashim and Mr. Ismail Abu Bakar.

Nonetheless, one persistent problem during the conference was the rather uncomfortable heat at the conference venue (New Pacific Hotel) which was due to the faulty hotel air-conditioners. The organising committee has agreed to write a formal letter of complaint to the hotel about this matter. The other problem was the very late cancellation of the tour of southern Thailand due to the SARS epidemic at that time. The original three-day trip was reduced to a one-day trip of local agriculture activities in Kelantan. A total of 30 participants had registered for this tour. The tour included visits to the aquaculture project at Pergau Dam (as well as lunch with a water front view!) and vegetable and other short-term crops at Lembah Sireh farms.

SOILS 2004

The Soil Science Conference of Malaysia for 2004 will be held at Penang Island with a possible post-conference tour of Sumatra. Nonetheless, the situation in Aceh is being monitored. The chairperson of the organising committee is Prof. Madya Dr. Siti Zauyah Darus (UPM).

Student membership

University students studying at any local Malaysian institutions are now required to seek an additional approval from their university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs. As such, a new membership form has been prepared in view of this additional requirement for university students.

New members

The committee has approved the following memberships: Tengku Adeline Adura bt. Tengku Hamzah (Jab. Geografi, Universiti Malaya); Dr. Ismail Che Haron (MARDI Kubang Keranji); Lim Ah Hong (MARDI, Kuala Lumpur); Chin Siang Hong Melvin (UPM); Zaharah Ariffin (MARDI Telong); Janice Asing (MARDI Kuala Lumpur); Mohd. Ghazali b. Mohd. Satar (Jab. Pengurusan Tanah, UPM); Ahmad Afandi b. Murdi (MPOB Lahad Datu); and Subramaniam a/l Semenchalam (Woodman Sdn. Bhd, Bintulu, Sarawak).

Calendar

1. Seminar "Advances in Soil, Plant and Fertilizer Analysis" (ASPFA 2003). 9-10 Sept. 2003. Kuantan, Pahang. PSF-MSSS. Contact: En. Ahmad Sarwani (Tel: 03-31202311; Email: asa@goldenhope.com).
2. Seminar "Managing Soils of the Miri-Bintulu Area, Sarawak" & Soil Familiarisation Tour 2003. 22-25 Sept. 2003. Miri-Bintulu Area, Sarawak. MSSS-Param Agricultural Soil Surveys. (Tel: 03-79597036).
3. 2nd International Symposium on Phosphorus Dynamics in the Soil-Plant Continuum. 21-26 Sept. 2003. Perth, Australia. (www.agric.uwa.edu.au/soils/P_Symposium/index.html).
4. Inter. Symposium on 25 Years of Assessment of Soil Erosion. 22-26 Sept. 2003. Ghent, Belgium. (soilman.rug.ac.be/symposium_erosion/).
5. International Conference on Mechanisms and Regulation of Organic Matter Stabilisation in Soils. 5-8 Oct. 2003. Munich, Germany. (www.wzw.tum.de/bk/hk/).
6. Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water. 20-23 Oct. 2003. Massachusetts, USA. (www.umasssoils.com).
7. Hawaii International Conference on Sciences, 15-18 Jan. 2004. Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (www.hicsciences.org).

8. 13th International Soil Conservation Organization Conference, 4-9 July 2004. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. (www.icms.com.au/isco2004/).

9. 2nd International Conference and Field Workshop on Soil Classification, 3-9 Aug. 2004. Petrozavodsk, Karelia, Russia (biology.krc.karelia.ru/soil04/). ©