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JUNE 2017

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LLEIDA, SPAIN

1ST WORLD CONFERENCE

CONSOWA



SUSTAINABLE LIFE
ON EARTH
THROUGH SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION

SOIL
AND
WATER CONSERVATION
UNDER GLOBAL CHANGE

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ISCO
International Soil
Conservation Organization



ESSC
EUROPEAN
SOCIETY FOR
SOIL
CONSERVATION



SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

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Universitat de Lleida

WASER

ISCO
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1st WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION UNDER GLOBAL CHANGE (CONSOWA)

***“Sustainable Life on Earth through
Soil and Water Conservation”***

A joint Conference of the “International Soil Conservation Organization” (19th ISCO Conference), the “World Association for Soil and Water Conservation” (WASWAC), the “European Society for Soil Conservation” (8th ESSC Congress), the “International Union of Soil Science (IUSS-Commissions 3.2, 3.6), the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the “International Erosion Control Association”(IECA) and the “World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research“(WASER) in parallel with the VIII Simposio Nacional sobre Control de la Degradación y Restauración de Suelos (SECS)

12-16 June 2017, Lleida (Spain)

Sponsors: *Universitat de Lleida (UdL), Spanish Society of Soil Science (SECS), ISCO, WASWAC, ESSC, IUSS, SWCS, WASER, IECA and ICEA*

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Dear Soil and Water Conservation World Community

As President of CONSOWA 2017, I would like to invite you to participate in the “1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change” to be held from 12-16 June 2017 in Lleida (Spain). For the first time, all the main World scientific organizations promoting wise and sustainable use, management and conservation of the main natural resources, *soil and water*, responsible for maintenance of life in Earth, have decided to support and sponsor a joint Conference, with the following general objectives:

- To analyze the present and previewed future situation, at Worldwide level, of the conservation of soil and water resources, as influenced by Global Changes, including population growth and development, changes in land use and management, and human induced climate changes. This situation will be analyzed and discussed, taking into consideration the close and critical relation of the use and management of the limited soil and water resources with present and future climate changes, natural disasters, and with food and water supply for an increasing World population.

-To promote an increased collaboration, and even a full integration of their activities, to reach their goals more efficiently, of the main scientific international organizations promoting soil and water conservation research and activities at Worldwide level.

Main aspects to be considered will be the required research, regulations and activities to be taken to prevent future degradation of soil and water resources, and to avoid or counteract the negative effects of such degradation on climate change, sustainable food production and water supply, and environmental damages. This, in view of the present decrease of support and resources for well oriented and interdisciplinary studies and research, and the lack of appropriate regulations, while the worldwide and local problems of soil and water degradation and of their negative economical and social consequences on the population are increasing.

This joint conference came after some of us, active members for many years, founders, organizers of conferences and with different continuous responsibilities in the boards and councils of several of those organizations, decided to make a call for a closer coordination among their activities, to increase their efficiency. That call was supported immediately by many colleagues from different international soil and water conservation organizations, which in their last congresses and conferences approved to sponsor this World Conference. After that, other international organizations have also decided to support and sponsor the Conference.

During the Conference, parallel to the scientific sessions, there is planned to have an exchange of ideas and discussions about the different future strategies to promote more effectively soil and water conservation at Worldwide level, through more integrated activities of the different organizations. Besides, there will be the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the people of Lleida and Catalonia, and to visit some of their well renowned natural and man-made attractions. The programmed field tours will contribute to this purpose, but also will allow to appreciate some interesting problems of soil and water conservation and effective solutions to control them, related to the land use and management for dry-land and intensive irrigated agriculture, and for other purposes.

The seat of the Conference, Lleida, is a middle size city of Catalonia, with a pleasant atmosphere, crossed by the river Segre and surrounded by the largest irrigated fruit plantations in Spain. It is close to Barcelona (one hour by train) and to the main sky stations in the Pyrenees. The city has a long history as an important stronghold, during the pre-roman, roman, muslim and christian times. Many remnants of that history can still be appreciated today, like the old spectacular romanico-gothic cathedral. It is also the seat of the oldest University, founded in 1297, in the N of Spain. This University, that presently has the more important campus on Agriculture, Forestry, Food Technology and Environmental Sciences in N Spain, will be both the host and the seat of the Conference.

Welcome to Lleida, CONSOWA 2017

Prof. Dr. Ildelfonso Pla Sentís

President of ISCO

Vice President of WASWAC

Member of the Executive Council of ESSC

President of the Soil and Water Conservation Section of SECS