Dear Council Members,

Let me kindly thank those who participated in the IUSS Inter-Congress-meeting and let me inform the others about it including the results of the election of the Honorary members 2020.

The **Inter-Congress Meeting** took place for the first time virtually (instead of a physical meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, which had been planned for September 2020) on 18-23 November 2020. It comprised three sessions each of both the Executive Committee Meeting and the IUSS Council Meeting as well as one Research Forum Meeting.

Main topics of the Council meetings were the past and future activities of IUSS Presidents, Secretariat and Treasurer, Standing Committees, Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups as well as the Research Forum, internal and international matters of the IUSS, preparation of the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS 2022 in Glasgow, Scotland), outlook to the Centennial in 2024 as well as the presentations of societies intending to bid for the WCSS in 2030.

Furthermore the **election of the new Honorary members** was carried out online during the meeting. The following scientists who provided distinctive contributions to soil science in general and the IUSS in particular were elected:

Jozef A. (Seppe) Deckers                     Belgium
Flavio Anastacio de Oliveira Camargo       Brazil
Rainer Horn                                              Germany
Carmelo Dazzi                                   Italy
Kazuyuki Inubushi                                     Japan
Kye-Hoon ‘John’ Kim                           Korea
Bal Ram Singh                                        Norway
Pavel Krasilnikov                                   Russia
Rosa M. Poch Claret                                Spain
Alfred Hartemink                                       USA

Congratulations to these candidates on being awarded Honorary Membership of the International Union of Soil Sciences!

It was the first time we carried out the voting online and we could not test the voting system in advance. Unfortunately, we had to face several challenges during the online voting. It was decided to extend the period of online voting by 22 hours so that registered and eligible Council members could vote also after the specific session of the Council meeting during their working hours. For future elections a robust and secure (user and password) online system shall be used and enough preparation time (days) will be given to the members registered for the Council meeting. The statutes and bye-laws will be changed accordingly.

As it was the first online meeting and we plan to organise the WCSS 2022 as a hybrid (combined physical and virtual) event, we kindly ask you for your **feedback to the IC meeting 2020** and proposals how to improve the Council meeting and what would encourage you to participate in the next Council meeting during the WCSS 2022. Please submit your feedback to iuss@umweltbundesamt.at by the end of 2020.

Best regards,

Sigbert Huber
Secretariat of International Union of Soil Sciences