



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

HOT NEWS

Issue 11, 2015



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Cover photo: Soil conservation in Pianguan County, Hebei Province, China. The photographer is Ms Xu Haixia.

Editors: Dr Du Pengfei, Contributors include Prof. Li Rui, Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, Prof. José Luis Rubio, Shiva Hari Khatri, and Dr Panos Panagos.



IRTCES Building

(Where the Secretariat of WASWAC is located)

The Secretariat of WASWAC

No. 20 Chegongzhuang Road West, Beijing 100048, P. R. China

Tel: +86-10-68786579

Fax: +86-10-68411174

Email: waswac@foxmail.com waswac@163.com

For ISWCR paper submission:

<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-soil-and-water-conservation-research/>

WASWAC Website: www.waswac.org

Announcement of WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award 2016 (DATUM)

The World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) initiated the Outstanding Youth Paper Award at the 'International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation' (IYFSWC) in Nanchang, China. There were 10 young scientists from 6 countries won the award that received high and warm praise from young generation in the scientific community.

In order to further encourage young scientists to contribute to soil and water conservation in the world, the WASWAC will continually launch the WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award 2016 (DATUM) at the Third World Conference of Word Association of Soil and Water Conservation (<http://3rdwaswacconference.sfb.bg.ac.rs/index.html>), which will be held on August 22-26, 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia. The WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award 2016 (DATUM) is launched with generous support from the Beijing Datum Technology Company.

This award is presented to 10 outstanding research papers on soil and water conservation by the scientists of 40 years old or younger by the end of 2016. The award consists of a Certificate from the WASWAC and a \$1000 (USD) honorarium. In case of multi-author papers, the award will be presented only to the first author.

Eligibility

- The first author of the manuscript should be 40 years old or younger by December 31, 2016.
- The papers should have creativity and originality, as reflected in new insights, interpretations, facts, innovations, methods, or applications.
- The papers should be written in English and should be clear, concise, comprehensible, and jargon-free, so it is easy to read and understand.
- The papers submitted for award should not have been published, and the authors should submit the paper for oral presentation at the Third World Conference of Word Association of Soil and Water Conservation and agree to publish the same in 'International Soil and Water Conservation Research' (ISWCR).
- The 2015 awardees could not apply for the award in 2016

Procedure

- **Application:** The author should submit the abstract along with the application form duly filled in by January 31, 2016. The full paper must be submitted on May,31, 2016 or before .
- **Nomination and Peer-reviewing:** The Award Committee will screen and nominate the research papers for peer-reviewing by the experts.
- **Evaluation and selection:** Based on the results of peer-reviewing, the Award Committee will select the Outstanding Youth Paper Awardees.

Significant Dates:

Submission of application form/Paper abstract: January 31, 2016

Submission of Full paper: May 31, 2016

Nomination announcement: July 31, 2016

Final awardees announcement: August, 2015

Please sent your application form, abstract/full paper to: katarinalazarevic001@gmail.com or natalijamomirovic@rocketmail.com

For more information please visit <http://3rdwaswacconference.sfb.bg.ac.rs/index.html>

or <http://www.waswac.org/>

Contact:

Dr Katarina Lazarevic, katarinalazarevic001@gmail.com

Ms. Natalija Momirovic, natalijamomirovic@rocketmail.com

Dr Qu, Liqin +86-10-68786416 liqin.qu@iwhr.com

Appendix: WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award Application form

Appendix



World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

The Secretariat of WASWAC

No. 20 Chegongzhuang Road West, Beijing 100048, P. R. China

Tel: +86-10-68786579

Fax: +86-10-68411174

Email: waswac@foxmail.com waswac@163.com

Website: www.waswac.org

WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award 2016 (DATUM)

Application Form

Name (First, Last)			Sex	
Date of birth		Professional field		
Nationality				
Affiliation				
Email address				
Post address				
Title of presentation				
Abstract				
<p><i>Please prepare your full paper according to the guide for author of the International Soil and Water Conservation Research</i></p> <p>International Soil and Water Conservation Research</p> <p>Guide for Authors</p> <p>https://www.elsevier.com/journals/international-soil-and-water-conservation-research/2095-6339/guide-for-authors</p>				

**THE THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE
OF WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

WASWAC World Conference III

August 22-26, 2016

Belgrade, Serbia

**NEW CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN THE
CHANGING WORLD SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES**

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

English will be the working language.

DEADLINES

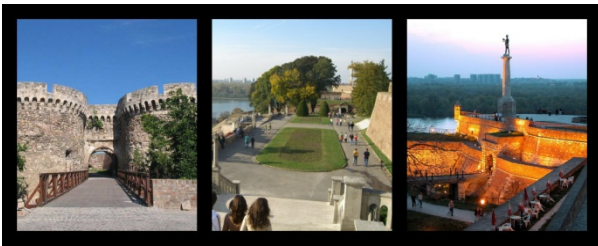
- Abstract submission: March 31, 2016.
- Abstracts Acceptance: April 15, 2016.
- Full paper submission: May 31, 2016.
- **Registration fee** (Registration fee up to May 31, 2016; after May 31, 2016):
 - For non WASWAC and ESSC members: 300 EUR; after May: 350 EUR

- For WASWAC and ESSC members: 200 EUR; after May: 250 EUR
- For students: 100 EUR; after May: 150 EUR
- For accompanying persons: 100 EUR; after May: 150 EUR

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Conference is planned to be held in the capital of Serbia, in Belgrade.

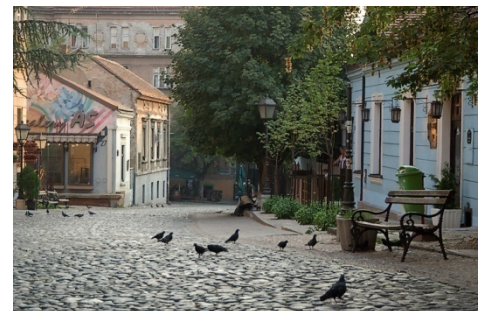
Belgrade (Beograd) is the capital of Serbia, having about 1,65 million inhabitants. Located in the south-east of Europe, in the Balkan Peninsula, at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Belgrade is one of the oldest cities in Europe and since ancient times has been an important focal point of traffic, at the intersection of the roads of Eastern and Western Europe. Belgrade is the center of Serbian culture, education, science and economy. While in the course of its tumultuous history, many nations were living in Belgrade for centuries, the majority of its current population (90%) are Serbs of Orthodox Christian religion. The official language is Serbian, while foreigners are recommended to use English in communication.



Kalemegdan is Belgrade's central park and fortress complex lying on a hill overlooking the [Sava](#) and [Danube](#) confluence, on the eastern side of the river Sava. This has been the sight of the [ancient Roman city of Singidunum](#), the [medieval](#) and [Turkish era Belgrade](#) and

was converted into a park in the mid 19th century. It is home to several galleries and museums, restaurants, sports courts, and the [Belgrade Zoo](#).

Skadarlija - The old bohemian quarter of Belgrade dates back to late 19th and early 20th century. It was back then when its kafane (taverns and restaurants) were a meeting place for many of the greatest figures of the cultural scene of the period. It is often compared with the Montmartre in Paris, both for its appearance and the cheerful, vigorous artists' atmosphere.



This neighbourhood was made popular and attractive because it was in the immediate vicinity of the National Theatre and former operetta, as well as musical halls housed in today's Balkan Cinema. By tearing down the café Dardaneli in 1901, which was on the site of today's National Museum, artists, writers, poets and ordinary visitors moved to the small cafe-restaurants of Skadarlija, bringing along the bohemian

lifestyle and spirit. The significant cafe-restaurants of modern Skadarlija, such as Tri šešira, Dva jelena, Dva bela goluba, Velika Skadarlija, Zlatni bokal, Ima dana and Šešir moj, are worthy successors of the former Skadarlija. Judging by the beauty of its girls and young men, whose passion is widely known, we can count Belgrade in one of the most beautiful Serbian cities.

Excursion day: *Belgrade rural surrounding (terraces established by local people), Deliblato sands, small accumulations, ...*

Post Conference Tour: *Tara Mountain*

CONTACT US

Conference Organizer Institution Contact:

University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry, Kneza Višeslava 1, 11030 Belgrade, Serbia;

Phone: +381 11 3053 905/ +381 11 3053 904;

Fax: +381 11 2545 485

Conference organizer's contact:

Prof. Miodrag Zlatić¹, D.Sc., Professor, President of Organising Committee

E-mail: miodrag.zlatic@sfb.bg.ac.rs;

Prof. Nada Dragović¹, D.Sc., Professor

E-mail: nada.dragovic@sfb.bg.ac.rs

Mirjana Todosijević¹, D.Sc., Assistant Professor

E-mail: mirjana.todosijevic@sfb.bg.ac.rs

Katarina Lazarević¹, Researcher, Conference Secretariat,

E-mail: katarinalazarevic001@gmail.com

Conference Secretariat:

Katarina Lazarević, Researcher,

Conference Secretariat,

E-mail: katarinalazarevic001@gmail.com

Natalija Momirović, Researcher,

Conference Secretariat,

E-mail: natalijamomirovic@rocketmail.com

COMING MEETINGS

ISRIC Spring School 2016

5-day training course on soil mapping, classification and assessment for soil and environmental scientists

The purpose of the spring school is to introduce participants to world soils, soil databases, software for soil data analysis and visualisation, digital soil mapping and soil-web services. The 4th edition of the Spring School will be held on the Wageningen Campus from 9 - 13 May 2016. We offer participants the optional "Introduction to R" tutorial and "Introduction to soils and their properties" lecture on Friday 6 May 2016.

Hands-on Global Soil Information Facilities (GSIF) Course on methods and tools for 2D and 3D soil analysis, mapping and visualisation based on the GSIF framework.	World Soils and their Assessment (WSA) Course on international standards for soil classification and assessment.
Lecturers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomislav Hengl (Structures and classes for soil data in R, 3D soil mapping and visualisation) • Gerard Heuvelink (Geostatistics for soil mapping, Uncertainty assessment) • Bas Kempen (Introduction to R, Regression modelling for soil mapping) • Guest lecture by Dr. David Rossiter 	Lecturers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephan Mantel (Soil classification, Soils in the World Soil Museum) • Niels Batjes (Soil classification; Soil databases) • Thomas Caspari (Soil classification and description) • Johan Leenaars (Soil classification) • Seppe Deckers (KU Leuven; Soils of the World) • Guest lecture by Dr. David Rossiter

Important dates:

Deadline for Early-Bird registration: 31 December 2015

Deadline for registration: 21 February 2016

Confirmation of participation: 1 March 2016

Letter of invitation (for visa application): 7 March 2016

Deadline for payment of the registration fee: 5 April 2016

Final programme of the spring school: 10 April 2016

Spring school: 9-13 May 2016.

Venue:

The spring school will be held at the Wageningen Campus in Lumen (building 100) Gaia (building 101) and Atlas (building 104).

Selection criteria:

Each course is limited to 30 participants per course. In case of a larger number of applications, priority will be given based on time of application (first-come first-served).

The selected spring school participants will receive a confirmation of participation by 1 March. Letters of invitation that can be used to apply for visa for The Netherlands will be send before 7 March.

Details at: <http://www.isric.org/content/isric-spring-school-2016>



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Living in the Soil

A snail, a worm and a group of young people are some of the characters who star in ‘Living in the Soil,’ a comic produced in the context of ‘The International Year of Soils’ that aims to raise awareness about the most significant environmental and social issues related to soil and its need for protection. Through some 60 sketches, the authors report various aspects of the characteristics, functions and implications related to the use of this non-renewable resource. It reflects both the view of humans and the living organisms that inhabit soil. The comic, which is conceived as an educational resource, is aimed both at children and the general public and for students at all educational levels.

The web-links are:

Introduction (in Spanish): <http://www.suelos2015.es/materiales/comic/vivir-en-suelo>

Comic in Spanish:

http://www.ciudadciencia.es/doc/files/comic/COMIC%20castellano%20WEB_ok.pdf

Comic in English:

http://www.suelos2015.es/sites/default/files/pdf-materiales/living_in_the_soil.pdf

Authors: M^a Pilar Jiménez Aleixandre, Estudio Tangaraño, María Teresa Barral Silva and Francisco Díaz-Fierros V. (2015). Co-ordination: Montserrat Díaz-Raviña

Report by:

José Luis Rubio

Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación- CIDE

(CSIC, Universitat de Valencia, Generalitat Valenciana)

Carretera Moncada-Naquera Km 4,5

Apartado Oficial

46113 Moncada

Valencia

Spain

E-mail: jose.l.rubio@uv.es

ICIMOD Annual Report 2014 Released



The Annual Report 2014 gives a brief overview of ICIMOD's activities over the past year. It presents progress and impacts across the broad areas of uptake of innovation, capacity building, putting science and data to use, influencing policy, facilitating regional cooperation, and global engagement. Highlights include global recognition of a community-based flood early warning system, cutting-edge research on the future flow of Himalayan rivers, and contributions to bring attention to mountain food security in Pakistan's Agriculture and Food Security Policy.

The report also covers progress in three transboundary landscapes – Kangchenjunga, Karakoram-Pamir, and Far-eastern Himalayas – based on learning from ICIMOD's flagship Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative. ICIMOD's efforts to promote collaboration in river basin management across the region – including the development of a regional flood outlook and efforts to bring China, India, and Nepal together to tackle erosion – are also captured. The report also covers ICIMOD's efforts to

provide platforms to support effective decision making in the region, which includes the launch of the Regional Database Initiative and support provided to the development of Bhutan's National Geospatial Portal.

The Centre's audited financial report is also included in the report to ensure that ICIMOD maintains fiscal accountability and transparency.

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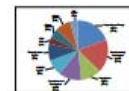
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Download here: <http://lib.icimod.org/record/31131/files/AR2014.pdf>

Soils Are Endangered, But The Degradation Can Be Rolled back

4 December 2015, Rome - The world's soils are rapidly deteriorating due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, loss of soil organic carbon, soil sealing and other threats, but this trend can be reversed provided countries take the lead in promoting sustainable management practices and the use of appropriate technologies, according to a new UN report released today.

The Status of the World's Soil Resources produced by FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils brings together the work of some 200 soil scientists from 60 countries. Its publication coincides with World Soil Day which is celebrated on 4 December and also the end of the UN International Year of Soils 2015 an initiative which has served to raise global awareness on what has been described as "humanity's silent ally".

"Let us promote sustainable soil management rooted in proper soil governance and sound investments. Together, we can promote the cause of soils, a truly solid ground for life," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message for World Soil Day.

Soils are vital for producing nutritious crops and they filter and clean tens of thousands of cubic kilometres of water each year. As a major storehouse for carbon, soils also help regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, thus fundamental for regulating climate.

Yet the overwhelming conclusion of the report is that the majority of the world's soil resources are in only fair, poor or very poor condition and that conditions are getting worse in far more cases than they are improving. In particular, 33 percent of land is moderately to highly degraded due to erosion, salinization, compaction, acidification, and chemical pollution of soils.

"Further loss of productive soils would severely damage food production and food security, amplify food-price volatility, and potentially plunge millions of people into hunger and poverty. But the report also offers evidence that this loss of soil resources and functions can be avoided," said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva.

The impact of population growth, urbanization and climate change

Changes to the condition of soils are primarily driven by population growth and economic

growth, factors that are expected to persist in the decades to come.

The report notes how to feed a global population that has grown to some 7.3 billion today, over 35 percent of the Earth's ice-free land area has been converted to agriculture. The result is that soils that have been cleared of natural vegetation to grow crops or graze livestock suffer from sharp increases in erosion and steep losses in soil carbon, nutrients and soil biodiversity.

But urbanization is also taking a major toll. The rapid growth of cities and industries has degraded increasingly wide areas, including by contaminating soils with excess salt, acidity and heavy metals; compacting them under heavy machinery; and sealing them permanently under asphalt and concrete.

Climate change - which is currently the focus of the UN COP21 conference in Paris - is a further strong driver of soil change, the report finds.

Higher temperatures and related extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and storms impact on soil quantity and fertility in a number of ways, including reducing moisture and depleting the layers of nutrient-rich topsoil. They also contribute to an increase in the rate of soil erosion and shoreline retreat.

Achieving healthy soils

The report focuses on the 10 main threats to soil functions: soil erosion, soil organic carbon loss, nutrient imbalance, soil acidification, soil contamination, waterlogging, soil compaction, soil sealing, salinization and loss of soil biodiversity.

It notes how there is a general consensus on soil-related strategies that can, on the one hand, increase the supply of food, while on the other, minimize harmful environmental impacts.

The solution proposed is one that centres on sustainable soil management and which requires the participation of a broad level of stakeholders ranging from governments to small-holder farmers.

Erosion, for example, can be curbed by reducing or eliminating tillage - digging, stirring, and overturning of soil - and using crop residues to protect the soil surface from the effects of rain and winds. Similarly, soils suffering from nutrient deficits can be restored and

yields increased by returning crop residues and other organic material to the soil, employing crop rotation with nitrogen-fixing crops, and making judicious use of organic and mineral fertilizers.

The report identifies four priorities for action:

- ✚ Minimize further degradation of soils and restore the productivity of soils that are already degraded in regions where people are most vulnerable;
- ✚ Stabilize global stores of soil organic matter, including both soil organic carbon and soil organisms;
- ✚ Stabilize or reduce global use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer, while increasing fertilizer use in regions of nutrient deficiency; and,
- ✚ Improve our knowledge about the state and trend of soil conditions.

Such actions need to be supported by targeted policies, including:

- ✚ support for the development of soil information systems to monitor and forecast soil change;
- ✚ increasing education and awareness on soil issues, by integrating this into formal education and across the curriculum - from geology to geography, from biology to economics.
- ✚ investing in research development and extension, to develop test, disseminate sustainable soil management technologies and practices.
- ✚ introducing appropriate and effective regulation and incentives. This could include taxes that discourage harmful practices such as excessive use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides. Zoning systems can be used to protect the best agricultural soil from urban sprawl. Subsidies could be used to encourage people to purchase tools and other inputs that have a less harmful impact on soils, while certification of sustainable crop and livestock practices can make produce more commercially attractive at higher prices.
- ✚ supporting achievement of local, regional and international food security by considering countries' soil resources and their capacities to manage them sustainably.

Some of the report's key findings:

Erosion carries away 25 to 40 billion tonnes of topsoil every year, significantly reducing crop yields and the soil's ability to store and cycle carbon, nutrients, and water. Annual cereal production losses due to erosion have been estimated at 7.6 million tonnes lost each year. If action is not taken to reduce erosion, a total reduction of over 253 million tonnes of cereals could be projected by 2050. This yield loss would be equivalent to removing 1.5 million square kilometres of land from crop production – or roughly all the arable land in India.

Lack of **soil nutrients** is the greatest obstacle to improving food production and soil function in many degraded landscapes. In Africa, all but three countries extract more nutrients from the soil each year than are returned through use of fertilizer, crop residues, manure, and other organic matter.

Accumulation of salts in the soil reduces crop yields and can completely eliminate crop production. Human-induced salinity affects an estimated 760,000 square kilometres of land worldwide – an area larger than all the arable land in Brazil.

Soil acidity is a serious constraint to food production worldwide. The most acidic topsoils in the world are located in areas of South America that have experienced deforestation and intensive agriculture.

Copy from: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/357059/icode/>

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VACANCIES

1. 11 Ocean Science PhD Positions



TOSST is a joint, transatlantic graduate research school linking two major centres of ocean research on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean, in Maritime Canada (Dalhousie University), and Kiel, northern Germany (University of Kiel). TOSST is closely linked to an equivalent School HOSST (Helmholtz Research School Ocean System Science and Technology) funded from Germany.

To apply for 1 of 11 PhD positions, please visit our website at www.tosst.org

Each fellowship covers tuition and living expenses for four years. For more information on financial support, please visit our website at www.tosst.org

Program Start: May 2016 or September 2016

We will begin reviewing applications on January 15th, 2016 for a May start date and June 10th for a September start date.

For any questions, please email tosst@dal.ca or visit the TOSST website at www.tosst.org

2. Assistant Professor (UD) Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Management

Group



The department develops remote sensing based methods embedded in geospatial models to support exploration of geothermal systems, or forms (particularly hydrothermal) systems and studies oil and gas seepage in petroleum basins. We integrate this with geodynamical modeling of earth processes (earthquakes, earth structure). Besides that the

department focuses on natural hazards and disaster risk management. We analyze and simulate natural hazards, their geophysical and climatic drivers, and their impact on society as a result of physical and social vulnerability. In particular, we aim to understand short term and long term spatial and temporal dynamics of risk (both hazards and vulnerability), to improve disaster management. The department has earth scientists expertise in (hyperspectral) reflectance spectroscopy, gamma ray spectrometry and satellite gravity, and has a strong track record in the development of spatial data driven and physical models and decision support systems, and use field, remote sensing and UAV based data in our analyses. ESA has a strong track record in research and capacity development projects all over the world, with emphasis on East Africa, South East Asia and the Central America/Caribbean.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Your excellent research contributes well to the ESA department, resulting in publications in high impact journals. You develop education and teach at MSc level for an international class room, and supervise research at the graduate level (MSc and PhD). You have or are willing to obtain in the near future, a basic teaching qualification. You join in research and capacity development projects and help in project acquisition.

YOUR PROFILE

The position requires a PhD degree in a relevant field and a competitive record of publications. You have a track record or high potential for generating funds in research and/or consultancy projects consistent with your career level. You are internationally oriented across cultural boundaries and are prepared to travel on short missions. You are fluent in English.

Additional information about the position can be obtained from prof. dr. Victor Jetten (e-mail: v.g.jetten@utwente.nl). You are also invited to visit our homepage.

Please submit your application through the form before 1 January 2016
<https://www.utwente.nl/en/organization/careers/vacancies/!/vacature/563054>

Details at: <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/climate/twente15123.html>



WASWAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (Issued 120501)

(For applicants from all countries)

Name: (Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr.)..... Gender: ☐F ☐M
 Institution:
 Postal address:
 State/Province:..... Zip/Postal code:..... Country:.....
 Phone:..... Fax:.....
 Emails (Please give at least 2 addresses to ensure uninterrupted contact): (1).....
 (2)..... (3).....
 My specialized field(s):
 Please sign me up for the WASWAC membership in category*: ☐1(IM)☐2(LM)☐3(OM)☐4(SM&GM)
 Membership for the year(s).....@US\$.....= US\$
 Donation for developing country membership, etc. US\$
 Donation to the Moldenhauer Fund US\$
 Total US\$

***Membership categories & rates** from July 18, 2005, amended March 3, 2007 and March 4, 2010.

- 1.** IM (Individual membership): US\$20 for 5 years for developing countries **(In China, members pay 130 yuan RMB)**; US\$40 for 5 years for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide.
- 2.** LM (Life membership): US\$80 for developing countries **(In China, members pay 520 yuan RMB)**; US\$160 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. Persons who have passed their 60th birthday pay only half of these LM rates.
- 3.** OM (Organization membership): For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/year for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/year for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/year for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/year for an additional 100 persons or part thereof.
- 4.** SM&GM (Student membership & Gift membership): US\$5/year worldwide, to be purchased to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.

▲ How and where to submit this form and the money: You may send this form by e-mail (preferred), fax or post – and membership due – to:

Dr. Xiaoying Liu. WASWAC Treasurer, c/o IRTCES. No. 20 Chegongzhuang Road West, Beijing 100048, China. Tel: +86 10 68786413; Fax: +86 10 68411174; Email: waswac@foxmail.com; waswac@163.com. Membership fee can be sent through **Check, Bank Draft, Bank Transfer** and **WESTERN UNION**.

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Bank Name and Address: China Construction Bank, Shoutinanlu Branch, Beijing, China, No. 9 Shoutinanlu Street, Haidian District, Beijing, P R China

A/C NO.: 1100 1042 7000 5301 6996

Message to write on the Bank Sheet: WASWAC Membership due for Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr., Country

NOTE: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from the amount of money to send. **2.** For sending money by wire/bank transfer or check please add US\$7 per transaction to compensate for the charge at the receiving bank in Beijing. This additional charge does not apply for **WESTERN UNION** or any payment of US\$50 or more.