

FROM THE SPHERE OF SCIENCE

International Conference of the Czech Society of Soil Science and Joint Meeting of the Czech Society of Soil Science and the Soil Science Society of America

Mezinárodní konference České pedologické společnosti
a společné zasedání České pedologické společnosti
a Americké pedologické společnosti

Czech Society of Soil Science, Division of Soil Science of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague and Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation in Prague, in cooperation with Soil Science Society of America, organized between September 16 and 20, 2001 in Prague the International Conference of the Czech Society of Soil Science and Joint Meeting of the Czech Society of Soil Science and the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) with general theme *Soil Science: Past, Present and Future*. The conference consisted of two days of plenary sessions and two days of field trips.

Scientific session was divided to four topics. In the first topic, *Interpretation of soil data at different scales in time and space*, some recent methods for soil data evaluation were presented, such as state-space approach (L.C. Timm) or multivariate geostatistics (L. Borůvka), as well as modern scale-specific methods for the measurement of soil properties (J.W. Hopmans). Some papers were devoted to forest soils, especially their acidification (J. Hruška) and CO₂ production (P. Formánek). The second topic, *Soil geographical information systems*, included presentation of the state and development of soil survey and soil GIS in the Czech Republic (J. Kozák), and application of information systems on alluvial soils of Southern Moravia (S. Tewari). In the frame of the third topic, *Transport processes in soil with special reference to preferential flow*, contributions dealing with broader overview of water and solute transport in soil were presented (L.W. Dekker, F. Doležal), as well as papers describing transport models and their errors (S. Matula, C.J. Ritsema, M. Boger). Some

special problems of soil water transport were also presented (M. Kutílek). The fourth topic, *Heavy metals and organic pollutants in soils*, included papers on soil pollution monitoring (M. Sáníka, V. Podrázský), papers dealing with different indicators of soil pollution (D.C. Adriano, N. Jordanova), and also a study on lead desorption (W.E. Dubbin). In total, 24 oral papers were presented; other 13 contributions were presented as posters. The proceedings were prepared on CD and are available from the author of this information.

The first field trip showed three soil profiles in Southern Bohemia and included a visit to the historical town of Český Krumlov. The second field trip led to Northern Bohemia, where the open-cast brown coal mining and different stages and ways of soil reclamation on the dumpsites were shown.

In addition to Czech and American scientists, there were participants from Austria, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Israel, Hungary, and Slovakia. The organization and final program of the conference were strongly affected by the tragic events in New York of the 11th of September 2001. Only four soil scientists from the U.S.A. finally came, instead of 14 expected. Also Dr. Robert J. Luxmoore, the President of the SSSA, had to cancel his participation, even if he was involved in preparation and support of the meeting.

Both scientific and cultural program of the conference enabled the exchange of scientific ideas and information and creation of international contacts. The meeting also helped to international presentation of the Czech Society of Soil Science and Czech soil science in general.

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