

Publication of the e-proceedings of the Conference on Land Degradation in Dry Environments

Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, March 8-14, 2009
(090324)

Samran Sombatpanit
Past President and Coordinator General
World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC)
sombatpanit@yahoo.com, samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com



Dear all participants to the Conference on Land Degradation in Dry Environments in Kuwait-UAE,

The Conference on Land Degradation in Dry Environments took place in Kuwait and United Arab Emirates recently, with almost 100 people from 20 countries attending. The conference was organized by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, Kuwait University under the direction of Prof. Jasem Al-Awadhi and sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, in cooperation with KISR, UAE University, UNEP, COMLAND, International Association of Geomorphologists and WASWC.

The organizers have accomplished very well in inviting well-known scientists from many countries who have diverse experience in land degradation and related natural resources management to present their works. The WASWC sincerely congratulates them for the accomplishment.

The post-conference task from now comprises editing a number of papers to publish in a single volume of a peer-reviewed journal. For this task, Prof. Jasem Al-Awadhi, Chairman of conference organizing committee, will take care of it. Those interested in publishing her/his paper should send your paper to him at jawadhi@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw and jasemalawadhi@gmail.com.

For other materials, I have discussed with Prof. Jasem Al-Awadhi and we agreed as follows:

As a cooperator of this conference, WASWC has a pleasure to publish an e-proceedings by using all other materials and put into a DVD and will present to every participant at no cost. The materials that may fit to include in this e-proceedings include:

1. Papers that accompany the talks at the conference that the authors do not want to publish in the journal. There will be no peer-review, but a light editing only, for these papers, so at least we can correct some typos. Those who have such papers may send them to me at sombatpanit@yahoo.com and samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com. You can start to send to me now and may send until the third week of April. After that we will start tidying them up and finalizing soon after that. The paper to send should be in **Word** format to make 'light editing' possible.
2. Other papers concerning land degradation or related subjects that have been previously published by participants who attended this Kuwait conference. These can be the authors' published papers that the publishers allow to get included in the DVD (can send in **pdf** format, with no further editing), or unpublished reports or other documents of note (should send in **Word** format to make light editing possible).
3. The powerpoint presentations that were shown at the conference. We encourage all participants to share their works as a way to learn more of each other's activities, since the time spent together in the meeting room was insufficient to absorb all wealth of information. **If you want to keep some slides that their contents have not been published, you are welcome to do so by removing them from the file. You may alternatively send one (or more) of your previous ppt file(s) as a way to show the 'spirit of sharing' among conference**

participants. *Note:* The pictures below have been taken from the ppt file of Prof. Andrej Kranjc from Slovenia as an example. Bringing such works to put in the DVD will enable participants to learn sufficiently and gradually about the presentation, though not fully as when being shown in the meeting room; but without this, all participants will be close to a total loss, since the time we saw each slide was just a few seconds, and in case of the concurrent sessions being held, attendees of other room(s) will not have a chance to see such presentation AT ALL. We therefore urge EVERY ONE of us to cooperate in this very useful work.



4. Some good photos taken from the conference, the field trip in Kuwait on March 11 and in UAE on March 12-15, with a few words for the caption of each of them. We are sure after 4-5 days together we still do not know the name of all of us and where we are from; sending your candid photo or group photo, at the conference venue or in the field - with your name and country - will help strengthen the relationship between the conference participants. Some exposure like this will help bring more invitation to subsequent meeting events – who knows?
5. Some videos that show certain aspects of land degradation and related matters such as the natural heritage of your country or your particular areas. Pls make sure they are permitted to include in the DVD by the owners.
6. Materials other than those stated before that deserve sharing. (One DVD contains > 6CDs.)

WASWC will use such information along with the photos supplied by the organizers and some other works that we already have in hand and burn a DVD (with a nice screen that depicts this conference) to distribute to all participants for free and will present a number of copies to Dr Jasem Al-Awadhi for the use of the University of Kuwait – as a gift from the conference cooperators to our generous host.

Though the WASWC will be responsible for the cost of DVD production and sending to all participants by post, we welcome other cooperators and agencies to share the cost together – as a way to share the spirit of giving-and-taking. Those interested in paying some money to help, please contact me. The logos of all cooperating agencies that sponsor this work will be put on the screen of the DVD. At present, one agency has agreed to help (UAE University, Geology Department) and another one has promised to consider, while one agency would contribute in kind. Suggested amount to help per cooperating institution is US\$200 but any amount less than that is also welcome.

We hope the final product of e-proceedings in the form of DVD will be ready by the beginning of May and we'll send it to all participants soon after that. So please kindly provide us your physical address in a good time. Your cooperation will be much appreciated, since we foresee the DVD as a handy material that provides technical information about this conference as well as reminds us of the happy time we spent together in the hospitable countries of Kuwait and UAE. And, above all, it will keep us together as a group of professionals in land degradation and related subjects.

I hope to receive all available materials from you soon. With thanks and my best wishes,

Samran

PS. I prefer to receive all stuffs by e-mail. My Yahoo.com mailbox can receive up to 20 MB each time. In case the size of any work is too large, please send it/them in a CD or DVD to my following physical address:

Dr. Samran Sombatpanit

World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

67/141 Amonphant 9, Soi Sena 1, Bangkok 10230, THAILAND

Phone: +66-25703854, Phone/Fax: 66-25703641 sombatpanit@yahoo.com,

samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com

