



FROM THE DESK OF RATTAN LAL
1.2017

3rd January 2017

Sub: Best wishes for 2017 and beyond

Dear Soil Scientists,

- First of all, I wish you all a very happy, healthy, rewarding and peaceful 2017.
- Secondly, I join you in congratulating Dr. Rainer Horn and in thanking him for his dedication, commitment and passion to promote IUSS and advance the frontiers of knowledge in addressing global issues.
- Finally, I am seeking your support and cooperation in continuing the mission of IUSS with regards to the following:
 - i. Focus on high quality science related to global issues by Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups,
 - ii. Strengthen cooperation with other organizations including EGU, ITPS, IPCC, ICSU, FAO, UNESCO, GSW, etc.,
 - iii. Promote soil-based curricula at all levels (from secondary school to graduate school),
 - iv. Enhance linkages with policy makers to translate science into action,
 - v. Increase cooperation with private sector (industry) both within and outside of agriculture (DuPont, Yara, Syngenta, Danon, etc.),
 - vi. Raise prestige of the soil science profession among national academies by recognizing soil scientists,
 - vii. Advance mission of the Decade of the Soil at all levels, and
 - viii. Increase awareness about soil science through factsheets and other communications.

I am looking forward to working with you and serving IUSS for advancing its mission.

Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Rattan Lal,
President, International Union of Soil Sciences