

## From the President

### Bill Day



The EurAgEng Executive and Council have each met during 2005 and have encouraged progress on a range of important issues for the European agricultural engineering community. I'll refer to some of these in this short article - more details are available on the EurAgEng website.

The Society recognises the importance of the interface between its science base and its industrial user community if innovation and education are to deliver practical benefit. Early next year there will be

a strategic review of the opportunities to build the relationship between the society and industry. We are very pleased that Ludger Frerichs, Head of Advanced Engineering at Claas in Germany and the current Chairman of the German professional society VDI-MEG, has accepted co-option to the EurAgEng Executive to provide an industry lead to this review.

AgEng2006 in Bonn is less than 12 months away now. Do note the deadline for abstract submission of 1 Feb 06. Papers submitted by industry on their innovations and development will be considered for a revamped **EurAgEng Innovation and Development Award** and there will be a special session for young scientists (aged 35 or under) to compete for the **UNACOMA Vision Award**, by submitting papers on their vision for the future of agricultural engineering. Details of how to enter these awards are described on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter, and on the EurAgEng website.

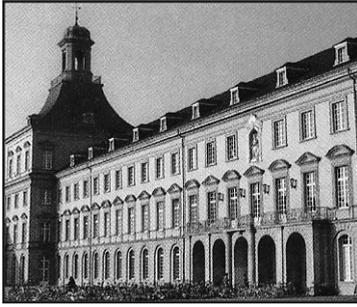
A first step towards enhancing the links with industry will be taken in 2007 with a special VDI/EurAgEng joint conference linked to the Agritechnica Show in Hanover in late autumn. The topic areas to be covered in the conference will be chosen to maximise the joint interest for research and industrial participants. Details are being developed.

The society's official scientific journal **Biosystems Engineering** continues to expand to accommodate the quality research papers from Europe and across the world. The journal is closely linked with Silsoe Research Institute, which established it as the **Journal of Agricultural Engineering Research** in 1956. I am pleased to be able to advise members that the future of the Journal will be

secure beyond 2006, despite the closure of Silsoe Research Institute in March 2006. Authors and readers should be assured that the quality of the Journal will be undiminished.

And finally, let me highlight important steps being taken within the Society and by its members to enhance the pan-European dimension of our interests.

- **The University Studies of Agricultural Engineering in Europe (USAEE)** working group has submitted proposals on pan-European base curricula for agricultural engineering to FEANI, the European Federation of National Engineering Associations, which has responsibility for engineering education standards. This is intended to lead to accreditation of agricultural (and related) engineering curricula across Europe, with benefits to all members seeking to develop or exploit their professional qualifications across Europe. EurAgEng has given USAEE its strong support. See the website <[www.eurageng.net/usaae-tn.htm](http://www.eurageng.net/usaae-tn.htm)> for details.
- A number of initiatives are beginning to enhance research co-operation in Europe, and hopefully increase the scope for EU funding of research for our sector in the EU Framework VII programme. One strand is the establishment of a collaborative working group within the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) on **ICT and robotic technology in agriculture and related industries**.
- The **ENGAGE** community of research organisations across Europe is beginning an exercise to communicate more strongly the value of the research from our sector to key decision makers and opinion formers in Europe. The EurAgEng Council supports this initiative and encourages the research community to back it.
- As ever, the planning of sessions at the AgEng conferences benefits enormously from inputs from leading members of the Society's **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. Members are working alongside people from CIGR and VDI in preparation for AgEng2006, and we will be looking for further input into the joint venture with VDI in 2007. The Special Interest Groups are an important opportunity for members of the Society to channel effort into priority topics, encourage scientific collaboration in those areas, and shape the content of future international conferences. I would encourage those with new ideas on priority topics to consider forming a new SIG with their colleagues, under the EurAgEng banner.



Preparations are well advanced for the next conference in the AgEng series which will be held in Bonn, Germany in September 2006. It will combine the **XVI CIGR World Congress**, the **64th VDI-MEG International Conference Agricultural Engineering** and the **EurAgEng conference**

**AgEng2006**. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) will hold a workshop on **Agricultural Engineering's Contributions to Solving Future Global Agricultural Problems**. Also, immediately before the main congress, a pre-conference event will be held on **Automation Technology for Offroad Equipment**. It is going to be a busy time!

#### Website

The congress website [www.2006cigr.org](http://www.2006cigr.org) will be kept up to date as the preparations continue and is the best place to go for information.

#### Venue

The event will be held in Bonn, the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany until reunification in 1991. It is an attractive city situated on the river Rhine. The meetings will take place in the baroque building of Bonn University and at the International Congress Centre *Bundeshaus Bonn* which includes the former parliament building. During the congress there will be numerous social events and afterwards excursions to agricultural

engineering industries. Details will be available nearer the time.

#### Programme

The programme will include sessions and posters in:

- Land & Water Use and Environment
- Power & Machinery
- Information Systems and Precision Farming
- Livestock Technology
- Processing & Post Harvest Technology and Logistics
- Energy and non-Food Production Technology
- Systems Engineering and Management
- Fruit & Vegetable Cultivation Systems
- Global Issues

Two special EurAgEng events will be held: the **EurAgEng Innovation and Development Award** and the **UNACOMA Vision Event**. See below and the opposite page for details.

#### Submissions

Abstracts not exceeding one page in length should be submitted in English and must emphasise objectives and results. Full information on the conference and the submission of papers can be obtained from the conference website.

#### Dates

1 Feb 06	Submission of abstracts
15 Mar 06	Notification of acceptance
15 Apr 06	List of papers available
1 Jun 06	Submission of full papers
3-7 Sep 06	Congress/Conference

## Awards for Innovation & Development in Industry

The AgEng conferences are well attended by researchers and academics, and have built up a good reputation for quality and diversity. To enhance the appeal of the conferences to engineers in industry, the **EurAgEng Innovation and Development Award** has become a regular feature since AgEng2000 (when it was known as the Industry Innovation Award).

The changes planned for the Award at the World Congress/AgEng2006 will emphasise that it is given in recognition of **innovation underpinned by science, technology and practice**. To simplify the way in which the Award is made, in 2006 **all** abstracts submitted for presentation at the congress will be considered for the Award. Those that are led by technological development in the agricultural and biosystems engineering industry and build innovation on scientific understanding, will go forward to the next stage, which will be the assessment of the full paper.

To be considered for the Award, the paper must be presented at the congress. However, the assessment will not be concerned with the quality of the presentation but will be based solely on the innovation described in the paper. Eligible innovations may involve prototypes, new products or the application of new technology. However, products must be in production or close to it.

Papers resulting from cooperation between industrial companies and research institutes or university departments in the fields of agricultural and biosystems engineering will be welcome. The author of the paper (or at least one of the authors) must be employed in industry.

The winner and the runners up will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 5 September 2006. Watch the congress website [www.2006cigr.org](http://www.2006cigr.org) for information, and do encourage your industry colleagues to get involved. If you have any questions, please contact Aad Jongebreur on [aad.jongebreur@wur.nl](mailto:aad.jongebreur@wur.nl).

# Visionaries Wanted

## The UNACOMA Vision Event



At AgEng2006 in Bonn in September 2006, EurAgEng will again be asking younger people to demonstrate their vision of agricultural and biological systems engineering in the future in the UNACOMA Vision Event. If the presentations at AgEng2002 and AgEng2004 are anything to go by, it will be a high point in the conference!

### Competition

At the Event, 'young' people (aged 35 or under) will present papers on what they think will be important in the profession in years to come. The ideas should show lateral thinking and should take into account ecological and economic factors. Entrants will be allowed to bring details of inventions and prototypes if appropriate, to demonstrate their vision.

### The prize

As in previous years, the winners will be rewarded with a generous cash prize from UNACOMA, the Italian Farm Machinery Manufacturers Association.

### How to enter

Anyone interested in entering is strongly advised to contact Constantino Valero ([constantino.valero@upm.es](mailto:constantino.valero@upm.es)) or Prof. Margarita Ruiz-Altisent ([margarita.ruiz.altisent@upm.es](mailto:margarita.ruiz.altisent@upm.es)) at the Polytechnic University of Madrid as soon as possible. They will discuss ideas, offer coaching and advice and answer questions. They won the prize in 2004 and know how to do it. After that, entrants should send a half-page description of their ideas to Prof. Ruiz-Altisent by the end of March 2006. The best entries will be invited to give full presentations at the Vision Event at AgEng2006 in Bonn on 6 September 2006.

### The past

At AgEng2004, the team (pictured below) from the Polytechnic University of Madrid won with a presentation and scale model of their glowing Greenfactory.



In 2002, a team from Holland (pictured below) won with an entertaining display of robot ants.



The Vision Event has built up a reputation for innovative thinking and enthusiastic presentations in an enjoyable atmosphere. If you are a 'young' person, do consider entering for the award in 2006.

## News from CIGR



### 75 years of CIGR

CIGR, the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering is now 75 years old having been founded on 5 August 1930 in Liège, Belgium. It started as a mainly European organisation but in the last two decades it has developed a more international orientation, co-operating with national and regional societies, of which EurAgEng is one. Its focus has evolved into the present day balance between fostering technical advance at a world level, and supporting the national and regional societies.

### The CIGR Ejournal

The CIGR Ejournal is now in its seventh year and continues to grow in quality and quantity of papers. It has published 147 peer reviewed original research papers and 72 invited overviews with authors from 41 countries. All published papers can be viewed and printed free of charge from the website <http://cigr-ejournal.tamu.edu>. The

website also contains details of how to submit papers to the ejournal for publication.

### CIGR on the move

From 1 January 2006 the General Secretariat of CIGR will be transferred to Japan. The new General Secretary will be Prof. Takaaki Maekawa, University of Tsukuba, Institute of Agriculture and Forest Engineering, Tenodai 1-1-1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 3005-8572, Japan.

Tel: +81 298 53 6989

Fax: +81 298 53 7496

Email: [biopro@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:biopro@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp)

Prof. Maekawa will take over from Prof. Peter Schulze Lammers of Bonn University, who has held the post of Secretary-General since 1998. EurAgEng would like to put on record its thanks to Prof. Schulze Lammers and his team for their help and good relations during his term of office, and sends good wishes to Prof. Maekawa on his appointment.

# **Actions to Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change on the Rural Environment**

## **A joint ICID-EurAgEng regional and world-wide cooperation**

**Daniele De Wrachien**

Past President of EurAgEng and Chairman of the Field of Interest on Soil and Water

**Costantino Fasso**

Hon.Vice President of ICID and former Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Technical Activities

Agriculture is a human activity that is intimately associated with climate. It is well known that the broad patterns of agricultural growth over long time scales can be explained by a combination of climatic, ecological and economic factors. Modern agriculture has progressed by weakening the downside risk of these factors through irrigation, the use of pesticides and fertilizers, the substitution of human labour with energy intensive devices, and the manipulation of genetic resources.

A major concern in the understanding of the impact of climate change is the extent to which world agriculture will be affected. Thus, in the long term, climate change is an additional problem that agriculture has to face in meeting global and national food requirements. Uncertainties as how the climate will change and how agriculture will have to adapt to these change are issues that engineers, planners and managers are compelled to address. These uncertainties call for continued attention and suitable actions on many fronts, if productivity and flexibility in agricultural systems are to be enhanced. In this context the effects of climate change will undoubtedly play an important role.

Availability of reliable hydro-climatic data is an essential prerequisite for the rational planning, design and management of water resources. Irrigation and drainage systems were designed for a long life, on the assumption that climatic conditions would not change in the future. This will not be so in the years to come due to global warming and the greenhouse effect. Therefore, water systems designers need to systematically re-examine engineering design criteria, operating rules, contingency plans and water allocation policies. All the above factors and constraints compel decision makers to review the strengths and weaknesses of current trends in irrigation and drainage and rethink technology, institutional and financial patterns, research thrust and manpower policy so that service levels and system efficiency can be improved in a sustainable manner.

With regard to the environment, the risk of land degradation and desertification is already felt under the present climatic regime and human activities in most arid and semi-arid regions of the world, and the above-outlined changing climate patterns are expected to lead to environmental conditions even more conducive to land degradation and desertification over these regions. The most significant aspect of desertification is the decline of soil fertility and soil structure and the consequent reduction of the land's carrying capacity for plants, animals and human beings. This leads to widespread poverty, overexploitation and, ultimately, destruction and abandonment of land. In combating desertification priority should be given to preventive measures in drought-prone

areas, whose implementation requires participation of civil society, from local communities to governments along with international Organisations.

To cope with these challenges ICID, in 1990, made an urgent appeal to well-established international organisations, such as the World Bank, to respond to the need for promoting research in the environmental impacts of climate change on irrigation and drainage development. Since then many research programmes have been launched by different scientific, financial and professional institutions. In September 1995, during the Meeting of the SIG on Soil and Water held in Rome within the 46th ICID International Executive Council, ICID and EurAgEng committed themselves to working together in an endeavour to select priority issues that tackle the root causes of the major problems encountered in the broad subject areas concerning the impact of climate change on:

- Water resources availability, planning and management
- Crop water requirements
- Irrigation and drainage development
- Soil erosion and land desertification.

The mission was to enhance the standards of research at both the European and world-wide levels, to examine the most updated documents available, to organise international scientific events and to draw up conclusions and recommendations. The importance and role of research thrust, technology transfer, institutional strengthening, effective partnership between governmental and non-governmental organisations and sound financial frameworks have been investigated. Finally, the challenges and benchmarks for future actions which the scientific community and planners have to face and deal with have been also analysed.

To meet the above-mentioned challenges, the two organisations, besides their national committees, created and improved a multilevel networking system with links and feedbacks among the different levels, able to collect, control, store and disseminate information concerning this field of knowledge. The aim was to come up with an updated inventory of the key-issues dealing with the impacts of climate change on the rural environment, which are investigated at both the European and world-wide levels, along with the financial and human resources involved, to the end of optimising the whole process and obtaining a better synergistic coordination of all the activities related to the subject. All this required an interdisciplinary, multi-sectorial approach, using system engineering methodology to recognize the necessary interrelationships.

The network at European level, known as European Water Network, is nowadays managed by the European Regional *continued on*

Working Group (ERWG) of ICID, while, at world-wide level, the facility constitutes an integral part of the CIGR-FAO Global Network on Agricultural Engineering sponsored by EurAgEng. This enterprise was formally recognised by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Presidents of the two organisations, Prof. Bart Schultz on behalf of ICID and Prof. Daniele De Wrachien on behalf of EurAgEng, on 27 July 2002, during the 53rd IEC meeting and 18th ICID Congress in Montreal Canada. Important milestones of this cooperation are represented by five regional and world-wide investigations and by the proceedings of fourteen international Conferences and Workshops.

## References

### Main outcomes and conclusions of regional and world-wide investigations

- De Wrachien D. and Fasso C.  
**Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater: Overview and perspective**  
Irrigation and Drainage, Vol 51.1, 2002, pg 1-15
- De Wrachien D., Ragab R., and Giordano A.  
**Climate change impact on land degradation and desertification in the European Mediterranean region: The role of the international cooperation**  
Key-note lecture delivered at the International Conference on Drought Mitigation and Prevention of Land Desertification, Bled, Slovenia, April 2002
- Schultz B. and De Wrachien D.  
**Irrigation and drainage systems: Research and development in the 21st century**  
Irrigation and Drainage, Vol 51.4, 2002, pg 311-327
- De Wrachien D. and Feddes R.  
**Global warming and drainage development: Perspective and challenges**  
Irrigation and Drainage, Vol 53.4, 2003, pg 215-224
- De Wrachien D., Feddes R., Ragab R. and Schultz B.  
**Agricultural development and food security under climate uncertainty**  
New Medit N 3, 2004, pg 12-19

### Proceedings of joint ICID-EurAgEng Conferences and Workshops

The full list is available in the websites of the two organisations: <[www.icid.org](http://www.icid.org)> and <[www.eurageng.net](http://www.eurageng.net)>

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## Silsoe Research Institute Library Collection

Owing to the closure of Silsoe Research Institute in the UK, the library collection is being dispersed to academic and research organisations to complement their own libraries. Science and agricultural engineering books and some journals are being transferred to places in the UK such as Cranfield University (Silsoe campus), Harper Adams University College and Rothamsted Research. It has been agreed in principle that the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University will receive the archive material including photographs from the early work of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering. The British Library will have a complete set of the Divisional Notes.

However, scientific and technical research journals are still being offered to universities, as there are some, especially foreign language titles, that have yet to find a home. Those that are still available are listed on the Silsoe Research Institute website at <[www.sri.bbsrc.ac.uk/general/library.htm](http://www.sri.bbsrc.ac.uk/general/library.htm)>

Also, there are books on agriculture and agricultural engineering available for transfer to academic or not-for-profit research organisations. There is a collection of ASAE papers (hard copy) from 1971 to 1991, ASAE standards yearbooks 1967-1992 and SAE Handbooks 1950-1988. For historians there is a collection of extension literature and reports published from the mid 1960s to 1980s, largely from the farming organisations in the USA, Europe and the former USSR. The patent collection on agricultural engineering equipment and processes goes back to the 1940s!

The stock will be freely available for transfer until the end of 2005, but the Institute would appreciate the recipient to arrange collection from Silsoe. For further enquiries please contact Anne Jarvis at Silsoe Research Institute.

Tel: +44 (0)1525 860000  
Email: [anne.jarvis@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:anne.jarvis@bbsrc.ac.uk)

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## Do you need staff?

If you look at the EurAgEng web site <[www.eurageng.net](http://www.eurageng.net)> you will see a section **Jobs**. We have had several advertisements on the site, generating income for the Society. Next time you are recruiting staff, please consider placing an advertisement with us on the web. It does not cost much and it reaches a very wide and appropriate audience. Also, it can be arranged very quickly. Contact Mike Hurst at the address on page 8 if you are interested.

# Sponsored Events

## 10-11 November 2005

*International Conference: Earth Observation for vegetation monitoring and water management*

Venue: Napoli, Italy

Organiser: University of Naples Federico II

Fax: +39 081 2539412

Email: [URSO@unina.it](mailto:URSO@unina.it)

Web: [www.agraria.unina.it/CONGRESS/EOnapoli2005/](http://www.agraria.unina.it/CONGRESS/EOnapoli2005/)

## 24-26 November 2005

*SIPA'05 4th International Conference: Integrated Systems for Agri-Food Production*

Venue: Politecnica, University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania

Tel: +40 256 191 808, +40 256 403 589

Email: [sipa05tm@yahoo.com](mailto:sipa05tm@yahoo.com)

## 21-24 February 2006

*International Symposium: "Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering"*

Venue: Opatija, Croatia

Organiser: Agricultural Engineering Dept, University of Zagreb,

Contact: Prof Silvio Kosutic

Email: [skosutic@agr.hr](mailto:skosutic@agr.hr)

Web: [www.agr.hr/aed/index.htm](http://www.agr.hr/aed/index.htm)

Fax: +385 1 23 93 724

## 7-9 June 2006

*1st International Conference: Monitoring, Simulation & Prevention of Dense and Debris Flows 2006*

Venue: Rhodes, Greece

Convenor: Prof. C.A. Brebbia, Wessex Institute of Technology,

Web: [www.wessex.ac.uk](http://www.wessex.ac.uk)

# Other Events

## 6-9 December 2005

*International Agricultural Engineering Conference*

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

Organiser: Asian Institute of Technology

Email: [aaae@ait.ac.th](mailto:aaae@ait.ac.th)

Details from: AAAE Secretariat, Attn: Dr. Emmanuel C. Canillas,

Tel: +66 2 524 5494

Fax: +66 2 524 6200

## 8-12 April 2006

*International Symposium on Hydrology and Management of Forested Wetlands*

Venue: New Bern, North Carolina, USA

Organiser: ASABE

Tel: +1 269-429-0300

Web: [www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org)

## 26-28 April 2006

*2nd CIGR Section VI International Symposium: "Future of Food Engineering"*

Venue: Warsaw, Poland

Dr Agnieszka WIERZBICKA, Warsaw Agricultural University

Email: [wierzbicka@alpha.sggw.waw.pl](mailto:wierzbicka@alpha.sggw.waw.pl)

Web: [www.cigr.pl/](http://www.cigr.pl/)

Tel: +48-22-59-370-73

## 8-10 May 2006

*Advances in Agricultural Technologies & their Economic and Ecological Impacts, and Agritech 2006 Exhibition*

Venue: Tel Aviv, Israel

Israeli Society of Agricultural Engineers, Dr Samuel Gan-Mor

Fax: +972 3 9604704

Email: [ganmor@agri.gov.il](mailto:ganmor@agri.gov.il)

## 3-7 September 2006

*AgEng2006 / XVI CIGR World Congress / 64th VDI-MEG*

*International Conference: Agricultural Engineering for a Better World*

Bonn, Germany

Contact: Dr Andreas Herrmann

Tel: +49 211 62 14 266

Fax: +49 211 62 14 177

Email: [info@2006cigr.org](mailto:info@2006cigr.org)

Web: [www.2006cigr.org](http://www.2006cigr.org)

## 5-7 September 2006

*First International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management, Technologies and Policies*

Bologna, Italy

Tel: +44(0)238 029 3223

Fax: +44(0)238 029 2853

Email: [rgreen@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:rgreen@wessex.ac.uk)

Web: [www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/irrigation06/](http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/irrigation06/)

## 3-10 September 2007

*22nd European Regional Conference of ICID: Water Resources Management and Irrigation and Drainage Systems Development in the European Environment*

Venue: Pavia and Rome, Italy

Organiser: ICID Italian National Committee

Contact: Prof. Elisa Scarascia Mugnozza ITAL-ICID

Tel +39 06 488472 8

Fax +39 06 4884728

Email: [me.scarascia@politicheagricole.it](mailto:me.scarascia@politicheagricole.it)

Web: [italicid@libero.it](http://italicid@libero.it)

## 29-31 May 2006

*Tillage Systems for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Environment*

Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists

Nordic Agricultural Academy, Odense, Denmark

Contact: Lars Munkholm

Email: [lars.munkholm@agrsci.dk](mailto:lars.munkholm@agrsci.dk)

Web: [www.njf.nu](http://www.njf.nu) click on Seminars

## 9-12 July 2006

*2006 ASABE Annual International Meeting*

Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA

Organiser: ASABE

Tel: +1 269-429-0300

Web: [www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org)

## 20-23 August 2006

*15th International Drying Symposium*

Venue: Budapest, Hungary

Contact: Prof István Farkas

Tel: +36 28 522055

Fax: +36 28 410804

Email: [farkas.istvan@gek.szie.hu](mailto:farkas.istvan@gek.szie.hu)

Web: <http://fft.gau.hu/events/ids2006.html>

## 28 August - 3 September 2006

*ISTRO 17th Triennial Conference: Soil Management for Sustainability*

Venue: Kiel, Germany

Contact: Mrs B Vogt

Tel: +49 431 8802573

Fax: +49 431 8802940

Email: [b.vogt@soils.uni-kiel.de](mailto:b.vogt@soils.uni-kiel.de)

Web: [www.istro.org](http://www.istro.org) & [www.soils.uni-kiel.de](http://www.soils.uni-kiel.de)

## News of Members

### André Musy

Prof André Musy, until recently of the Laboratory Hydrology and Land Improvement, HYDRAM in Lausanne, Switzerland, is on the move. He has accepted a position as Director General of a research consortium in Canada concerned with climatic changes and the potential effects on the natural and socio-economic environment. The consortium, by the name of the Greek god OURANOS, is based in Quebec, Montréal.

André writes: "The proposal of a new activity simply awakened my curiosity but in the end got my full attention. Such a programme focuses on noble objectives and does concern several topics of great interest, which for some, have already been developed within the activities of my current laboratory HYDRAM at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). The offer of a new social and societal experience with my family in the so-called 'Belle Province' seemed and is quite appealing as well."

Originally from Dompierre, Switzerland, André Musy has vast and extensive experience in

hydrology, the environment, and land and water use planning. A graduate of EPFL, he has a degree in rural engineering and surveying, in addition to holding a master's degree in hydrology, a certificate in statistics, and a doctoral degree in soil physics. He also holds an honorary degree from the Bucharest Technical University in Romania.

OURANOS is a non-profit research organization on regional climatology and climate change adaptation and a joint initiative of the Government of Québec, Hydro-Québec, Environment Canada, Université du Québec à Montréal, Université Laval, McGill University, and the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique. Its mission is to identify climatic risks and vulnerabilities, quantify the impacts and propose scenarios and measures for adapting to climate change in order to mitigate the effects or benefit from them. The web address is <[www.ouranos.ca](http://www.ouranos.ca)>

André took up his post in September 2005. We in EurAgEng will miss his enthusiasm and good humour and wish him well in his new endeavour.

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## Authors Wanted

Our colleagues in the International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS) are seeking authors to produce and publish a number of brochures in paper and pdf formats that explain how soil science fits in to current problems and debates on the following themes:

- Soils and climate change
- Soils and food production
- Soils and human health
- Soils and water
- Soils and poverty alleviation
- Soils and land use planning

The brochures, containing about 800 words, some pictures, graphs or tables, should be written in plain English and are intended to communicate the importance of soil science to the public, decision makers, and colleagues in other disciplines. If you are willing to write such brochures, please contact Stephen Nortcliff. His email address is [iuss@reading.ac.uk](mailto:iuss@reading.ac.uk).

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## Where next?

Planning for AgEng conferences starts well ahead of the event, and we now have decided on the locations of the three which will follow AgEng2006.

**AgEng2007** will be a special conference and the first in the AgEng series to be held in an odd-numbered year. It will take place in Hanover, Germany in late autumn 2007 and will be a combination of an AgEng conference and the VDI-MEG Landtechnik conference, linked to the Agritechnica industry exhibition.

**AgEng2008** will be held at the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece and will be held in

either early June or late September 2008 when the weather will not be too hot. Since the Olympic Games were held in Athens in 2004, the facilities should be good.

**AgEng2010** was discussed at a recent meeting of the EurAgEng Council and a bid from CEMAGREF to hold the AgEng2010 conference in Clermont-Ferrand in central France was accepted. The conference will focus on environmental technologies in agrosystems.

It might seem a long time ahead, but in 2007 we will be seeking bids to hold **AgEng2012**.

## Members-only pages on [www.eurageng.net](http://www.eurageng.net)

The *Members' Login* on the EurAgEng website gives access to the members' area containing four options:

- view the members' directory
- update your own entry in the directory
- join a discussion forum
- change your password

### Logging in

To log in, enter the first four letters of your surname and your password. Initially your password is the same as your membership number, which is the 4 or 5 digit number on your address label. If you would like a reminder of your membership number, contact Mike Hurst on [secgen@eurageng.net](mailto:secgen@eurageng.net). Once you have logged in, you can change your password to any combination of up to ten letters and numbers.

### Finding members

To search for a particular member, enter the person's surname (or part of it), or the country (or part of it), or the field of interest. The more you enter, the narrower the search will be. A list of

members who fit the search criteria will then be displayed. Click on the surname of the required member to give fuller details. The search facility can also be used to find all the members in a particular field of interest or in a particular country.

### Updating your own membership details

Enter any details which should be changed in the appropriate boxes. When you press the Submit button, a message containing the new information will be sent to the secretariat.

### Changing your password

Enter a new password up to 10 characters long. The new password will take effect immediately.

### Joining a discussion forum

There is a forum for each Special Interest Group and one for all the groups. In addition, there is a general forum for members' discussion. If you would like to create a discussion forum for a new subject, please contact Mike Hurst on [secgen@eurageng.net](mailto:secgen@eurageng.net)

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## Biosystems Engineering

EurAgEng is proud to have *Biosystems Engineering* as its official scientific journal. Members of EurAgEng are eligible to subscribe to *Biosystems Engineering* for their own personal use at the much reduced rate of GBP176 per year. Recently, the publisher has begun to offer online access to the journal at no extra charge for personal subscribers of the print version. Alternatively, members can subscribe to online access on its own for GBP168. Online subscribers will be able to see the full text of the journal from 1995 onwards and the tables of contents and abstracts before 1995.

If you wish to take up any of these offers, please contact Mike Hurst at the secretariat.



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## ASAE Changes its Name

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers has announced that it has changed its name to the **American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers**. The name change is an acknowledgement of the close integration and shared history of agricultural and biological engineering, and demonstrates the breadth and depth of the profession.

The action also follows the lead of university departments in the US which, one by one, have adopted names that reflect the broad nature of the discipline. Once simply known as departments of

*agricultural engineering* they now include such words as *biological, biosystems and bioresources* in their names.

The move is not confined to the United States. In January 2002, our scientific journal, the *Journal of Agricultural Engineering Research* was renamed **Biosystems Engineering**.

The new web address of the American Society is <[www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org)>



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