

# **LASOSU2021: an Online International Conference for Land Degradation, Soil Conservation and Sustainable Development Held in Dalian on 21-23 August, 2021**

LASOSU2021, the International Forum on Land Degradation, Soil Conservation and Sustainable Development, 2021, was successfully held as an online conference on 21-23 August 2021. The conference is supervised by the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC), Italian Association of Agricultural Engineering (AIIA, Italy) and Soil Erosion Division of CSWCS (China) and the conference is organized by Dalian University of Technology (China) and University of Padova (Italy). Thirteen other famous institutes are involved in co-organizing the conference, e.g., the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation of CAS & MWR (China), Beijing Normal University (China), Huazhong Agricultural University (China), Xi'an University of Technology (China), Italian Association for Soil and Water Bioengineering (Italy), etc. Thoughtful reports and hot discussions have been carried out focusing on the cutting-edge topics for the effects of climate change on land degradation, remote sensing and big data in land degradation analysis, soil conservation and sustainable development, nature-based solutions for soil and water conservation, smart monitoring information system for soil and water conservation, decision-making information system for soil and water conservation and land resource management.

259 papers have been accepted and 10 outstanding participants have been awarded in LASOSU2021. The conference programme includes a welcoming ceremony, 2 slots for keynote presentations, 1 slot for focus group discussion, 23 slots for parallel sessions, and a closing ceremony. 241 participants from 19 countries in the field of soil and water conservation and sustainable development have been involved in the online communication during 22-23 August, including 53 chairpersons, 169 oral presenters and 19 poster presenters, 82 of which are at the level of professors, and 84 of which are from outside of China. In the conference, 6 preeminent scientists, including one member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and one member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, have given keynote speeches, and another 23 experts have given solicited parallel-session presentations. During the conference, a total of 2263 participants were recorded in the VooV meeting, Innovation China, and CNKI Online Lectures.

The presidents of the Organizing Committee of LASOSU2021 are Professor Duihu Ning (International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation, China) and Professor Paolo Tarolli (University of Padova, Italy). President Duihu Ning,

chaired the welcome ceremony, which was addressed by Professor Chi Zhang, Dean of the Faculty of Infrastructure Engineering, Dalian University of Technology, Mr. Weiguo Li, Director of the Water Bureau of Dalian Government (China), Professor Paolo Tarolli (Italy), Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, Professor Wenlong Wang, Director of the Soil Erosion Division, CSWCS, and Professor Giacomo Scarascia Mugnozza, President of the Italian Association of Agricultural Engineering. Academician Jianguo Liu (USA), Academician Bojie Fu (China), Professor Vincenzo D'Agostino (Italy), Professor Chongfa Cai (China), Professor Paulo Alexandre da Silva Pereira (Lithuania) and Professor Roberto A Peiretti (Argentina) presented keynote speeches in the conference.

Also an innovative slot, the Focus Group Discussion (FGD), was adopted in LASOSU2021. Professor Fenli Zheng (China) led an interesting discussion concerning Global Soil Conservation and Food Production together with 5 esteemed professors from 4 countries, Chi-hua Huang (USA), Baoyuan Liu (China), Paolo Tarolli (Italy), Altaf Ali Siyal (Pakistan), Fei Wang (China). It's worth noting that, the number of participants had reached the maximum capacity of 300 in a single Tencent/VooV meeting during this period. Finally, the closing ceremony was presided over by Professor Wenlong Wang. Professor Xiaoying Liu, the Secretary General of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, announced the list of award recipients. Dr. Chao Qin from Tsinghua University (China), who won one of the outstanding papers, made a speech on behalf of the conference participants.

The summary of the conference was made by Professor Federico Preti, president of Soil and Water Conservation Division of the Italian Association of Agricultural Engineering, and Professor Guanghui Zhang, Vice Director of the Soil Erosion Division, CSWCS. By the end of the conference, Professor Xiangzhou Xu, the head of the conference team in Dalian, delivered a speech to extend his thanks and delights in organizing the LASOSU2021.

LASOSU2021 is a characteristic international meeting. The smooth network and communication during LASOSU2021 illustrate that to hold an online international conference at a large scale is practical in promoting the international exchange under the present COVID situation. In addition, LASOSU2021 is highly internationalized. All oral presentations and posters are in English, and the presenters and chairpersons from outside of China account for 35% of the 241 presenters/chairpersons. LASOSU2021 has not only a large number of participants but also a high academic level. The presenters/chairpersons at the professor level or above account for 34% of the total. The conference was also supported by various social forces: 18 famous universities, institutes and associations from China and other countries participated in the preparation and organization of LASOSU2021. Among them, Northwest A&F

University, Shenyang Agricultural University and University of Florence (Italy), convened 5, 3, and 2 slots of parallel sessions, respectively. Moreover, two enterprises sponsored the conference, and a leader of the local government also participated in the core slot of the conference. Especially, the professionalism and impartiality have been realized in selecting the outstanding attendances which have been approved by all participants.

In conclusion, LASOSU2021 has received wide attentions in the field of soil conservation and sustainable development. It is said that "LASOSU2021 is a high-level international academic conference held under the epidemic situation of COVID-19". Maybe LASOSU2021 has made a promotion in improving the general studies and starting the key projects in the field. LASOSU2021 has played a positive role in providing a global perspective and strategic thinking to dissolve the problem of serious soil degradation described in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a document adopted by all UN Member States in 2015.

(Conference Team of LASOSU2021)

## Opening Ceremony



**Duihu Ning**

 <p><b>Chi Zhang</b></p>	 <p><b>Weiguo Li</b></p>	 <p><b>Wenlong Wang</b></p>
 <p><b>Giacomo Scarascia Mugnozza</b></p>	 <p><b>Paolo Tarolli</b></p>	

# Keynote Sessions

<p><b>Qiangguo Cai</b></p>  <p><b>Zhanbin Li</b></p> 	<p><b>Jianguo Liu</b></p> <p>Metacoupling: Framework and Applications 全程耦合: 框架及其应用</p>  <p>Jianguo Liu 刘健 Center for Systems Integration at Michigan State Univ liuj@msu.edu</p>	<p><b>Bojie Fu</b></p> <p>China's Ecosystem Restoration and Management</p>  <p>Bojie Fu Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences Chinese Academy of Sciences</p>	<p><b>Vincenzo D'Agostino</b></p>  <p>Challenges for land and soil protection in mountain areas</p> <p>Prof. Vincenzo D'Agostino vincenzo.dagostino@unipd.it</p> 
<p><b>Rui Li</b></p>  <p><b>Guobin Liu</b></p> 	<p><b>Chongfa Cai</b></p>  <p>Benggang (collapsing hill) in southern China: challenges and research needs</p> <p>Chongfa Cai Huazhong Agricultural University Wuhan Hubei cfc@cau.edu.cn</p> 	<p><b>Paulo Alexandre da Silva Pereira</b></p>  <p>Land Degradation, Wildfires and Ecosystems</p> <p>Paulo Pereira Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania</p> 	<p><b>Roberto A. Peiretti</b></p>  <p>Agri-Env. Model: Roberto A. Peiretti - ARGENTINA ASAP/SEAD and CAMPAS Foundational member Global Farmer Network Director www.alfar.com.ar/roberto.peiretti ASAP/AC Deputy President for S America www.asap.org.ar roberto@alfar.com.ar Twitter @PeirettiRoberto</p> 

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**Fenli Zheng**



**Baoyuan Liu**



**Chi-hua Huang**



**Paolo Tarolli**



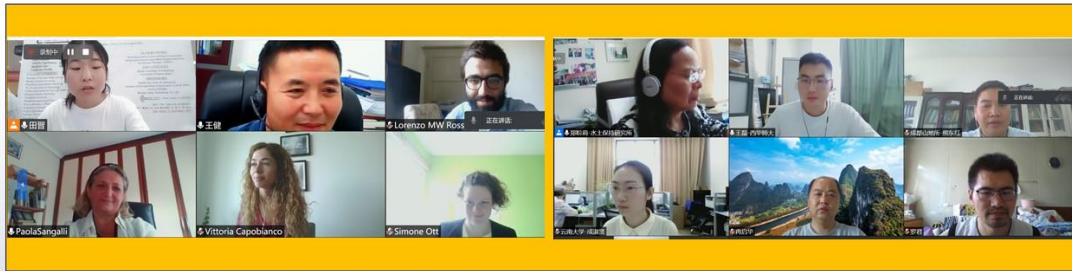
**Altaf Ali Siyal**



**Fei Wang**

**Global Soil Conservation and Food Production**

# Parallel Sessions



# Closing Ceremony

