

Proceedings



15th International PEAT Congress 2016

Peatlands in Harmony
-Agriculture, Industry and Nature-

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

15th - 19th August 2016
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

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15th International PEAT Congress 2016

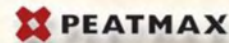
Peatlands in Harmony
“Agriculture, Industry and Nature”

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Foreword

The theme of the 15th International Peat Congress 2016, 'Peatlands in Harmony' was chosen to highlight the closely linked relationship of the environment, industry and socio-economic factors in relation to peat. It serves as a reminder for all to find balance in social and economic progress with the conservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity of peatlands towards ensuring the development of peatland is in harmony with the environment and ecosystem. The congress has striven and driven hard at stringing together industry players, government agencies and policy makers, who are hungry for information as well as enthusiastic researchers and academicians, who are passionate in proving that science is the key to unlocking potentials, solving problems and creating opportunities for the next generation. With the balance of these people, the congress aims at bringing to reality its theme 'Peatlands in Harmony'.

The Scientific Secretariat accepted 332 contributions for oral and poster presentations under six main themes with a major input from Theme 1: Inventory, Biodiversity, Conservation and Functions of Peatlands and Theme 2: Peatlands and Ecosystem Management. A special whole day session on Peat Forest-Wildfire – Impacts on Environment & Society was dedicated under Theme 2 to gather papers related to peat fire that comes at an important time in addressing the haze issue in the region. It has successfully attracted a total of 179 papers from both Malaysia and Indonesia, a huge leap in number for the very first time in the history of the congress. The congress also opened up six other special sessions with two unconventional topics; Soft soil engineering and Asia flux. Soft soil engineering addresses the challenging engineering problems from construction on peat and soft soils whereas Asia flux brings forward a discussion on the potential changes and sustainability/resilience of peatland ecosystems, especially those of tropical peatlands, in terms of terrestrial biosphere-atmosphere exchanges.

Overall, the congress had received an overwhelming request for papers to be included in the oral sessions. However, with the limited number of available rooms and slots, the Scientific Secretariat had had to select the best representative papers. Without the extended members of the Scientific Secretariat, it would have been havoc in the selection and arrangement of all the papers. With this, the congress wishes to thank the extended members of the Scientific Secretariat for giving so much of their time and expertise in making this congress a success.

The Scientific Secretariat
August 11, 2016



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An ordinary housefly, if placed within a hollow clear glass globe having a single hole for an outlet, generally escapes rather promptly. But a bee, under like circumstances, seldom escapes. This ... does not indicate superior wisdom on the part of the fly - quite the contrary. For the fly, dashing hither and thither in planless flight, continues to try to force its way through what must seem to it to be queerly resistant atmosphere.

From the preface to Colloid Chemistry, Vol. III, J. Alexander, 1931

Wonderful are the ways of God
In creation, and the love with which
He guides His creatures' destinies,
Gives them the means by which to strive
For maturity by ordered steps, and reach
The end most fitted for their natures,
His Law is just and easy, and His grace
Is ever ready to help: let us look
To the Eternal Goal, with hearts and souls
Of purity and glorify His name:
For in this changing, fleeting world,
His word is always true, and will remain,
Through all the ages, ever the same.

SURAH 87 - AL A' LA