

# 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC

26 August - 1 September 2012

Vaasa, Finland

## *First Circular*

### Welcome to the 7th International Acid Sulfate Soil Conference in Vaasa, Finland 2012

Conference August 26 - 30  
Excursions August 31 – September 1

### Towards Harmony between Land Use and Environment



Söderfjärden. Site for the mid-conference tour. Vaasa is located in the upper- right corner.  
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**Acid Sulfate Soil Working Group**  
**International Union of Soil Sciences**

## Organised by:

Geological Survey of Finland, (GTK)

Acid Sulfate Soil Working Group of the International Union of Soil Sciences (ASS WG)

## In co-operation with:

Åbo Akademi University (ÅA)

University of Helsinki (HY)

MTT Agrifood Research Finland

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (EPO ELY)

Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL)

Novia University of Applied Sciences

Vaasa University of Applied Sciences, (VAMK)

ProAgria, the Rural Advisory Centre of Ostrobothnia

ÖSP, the Swedish-speaking Farmers Union in Ostrobothnia

Finnish Society of Soil Sciences

Geological Society of Finland (GSF)

## Organizing Committee

Keijo Nenonen, GTK, Chairman

Peter Edén, GTK, Secretary

Satu Putkinen, GTK

Peter Österholm, ASS WG / ÅA

Markku Yli-Halla, HY

Jaana Uusi-Kämpmä, MTT Agrifood Research

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Susanne West, ÖSP/Rainer Rosendahl, ProAgria

Richard Hudd, RKTL

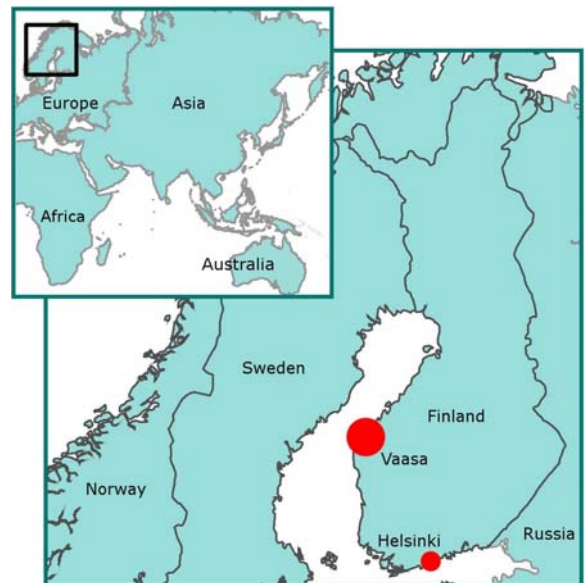
Sten Engblom / Pekka Stén, Novia / VAMK

Mats Åström, Linnaeus University, Sweden

Leigh Sullivan, ASS WG / Southern Cross University, Australia

Ben Macdonald, CSIRO, Australia

Robert Quirk, Australia



## Introduction

Acid Sulfate (AS) soils cover extensive areas particularly on the tropical coasts, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and Western Africa, and they are widespread on the coasts of Australia and around the Baltic Sea. When drained, metal sulfides accumulated in the subsoil are gradually oxidized, giving rise to the acidification of soil and drainage waters, often with detrimental ecological consequences. If reclaimed for agriculture, these soils are commonly used for growing rice in the tropics. In temperate areas they are often drained more intensively, exposing sulfides to oxidation also in deeper horizons.

The earlier conferences on AS soils have been held in Wageningen, the Netherlands 1972; Bangkok, Thailand 1981; Dakar, Senegal 1986; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 1992; Tweed Heads, Australia 2002; Guangzhou, China 2008. The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held in the coastal city of [Vaasa](#) in western [Finland](#) in the middle of the largest AS soil area of Europe.

Methods to use AS soils in an ecologically sustainable manner are constantly sought around the world. This conference will focus on recent advances in AS soil research, particularly in methods combating the adverse effects of these soils, which are often subject to intensive

societal development. This conference offers a forum for all participants to exchange ideas also on the chemical and physical processes of these soils and, of course, classification.

The Organizing Committee provides three days for oral and poster presentations (27 and 29-30 August) and a mid-conference whole-day field tour. Two one-day post-conference excursions will be arranged to destinations within 100 km from Vaasa.



Vaasa in August. The Conference venue is closest to the right of the big sail (the white, gray and red buildings). © City of Vaasa

### **Conference Venue**

The 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC will be held in the coastal city of Vaasa. Vaasa has a history of more than 400 years and a reputation as the sunniest city in Finland. It is the capital (60.000 inhabitants) of the region Ostrobothnia. Half of the population in the region speaks Finnish, and the other half speaks Swedish.

The Conference venue will be the University of Vaasa, situated at the sea shore (picture above) in Palosaari, only 2 kilometres from the city center (street address Wolffintie 34) [Map](#) / [Campus map](#).

### **Conference Tour and Excursions**

The tour and the excursions will be arranged to destinations within 100 km from Vaasa. During the mid-conference tour (August 28) we will visit the 2000-ha poldered AS-area of Söderfjärden, formed in an ancient meteorite impact crater.





Installing a control well for regulated subsurface draining in an ASS landscape in Western Finland. Photo: Rainer Rosendahl

During the post-conference excursions a transect of young AS soils recently emerging from the sea, and old AS soils that emerged from the sea thousands of years ago and have been used for agriculture for over 100 years, will be visited. In addition to an introduction on potential and actual acid sulfate soils at different stages of pedogenesis, participants will be introduced to soil remediation and water management issues related to the adverse environmental impacts of these soils. We will also get a glimpse of the unique archipelago of Kvarken included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The mid-conference tour is included in the registration fee, while the post-conference excursions will be arranged at an additional cost to be announced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.



Landscape from the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site. De Geer-moraines rising from the sea due to post-glacial land uplift. Photo: © Seppo Lammi

## Travel to Vaasa

Vaasa can be conveniently reached by direct flights from Helsinki, Finland (1 hr), Stockholm, Sweden (1 hr) and Riga, Latvia (2 hrs) or by [train](#) from Helsinki (4.5 hrs). By train you arrive directly at the city centre.

## Call for interest / preliminary registration:

Those interested in participation and in receiving the Second Circular are kindly requested to pre-register on-line via 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC webpage, [www.7iassc.fi](http://www.7iassc.fi)

## Registration fee:

The registration fee is preliminary set at **400 EUR, or 350 EUR for early registrations**. This fee will cover admission to the sessions, the one-day mid-conference tour, conference material, lunches and coffee/tea during the conference, and the conference dinner. Please note that the registration fee does not cover any health or travel insurance, nor accommodation.

**Early registration before: 15 March 2012 - Fee 350 EUR**

**Final registration dead-line: 15 June 2012 - Fee 400 EUR**

**Two one-day post-conference excursions will be arranged at additional costs to be announced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.**

## Abstracts for oral and poster presentations:

Colleagues are invited to submit abstracts relevant to the topics of the Conference listed later on. Abstracts will be published in an electronic conference volume and should not exceed 2 A4 pages, including max 1 figure and references. Further details will be given in the Second Circular.

## Important deadlines:

First Circular	10 March 2011
Preliminary registration and title of presentation	15 April 2011
Second Circular	15 November 2011
Early registration and Abstracts	15 March 2012
Acceptance of the presentations	15 May 2012
Deadline for registration fee	15 June, 2012
Final program	15 July 2012

## Keynote speakers

Mats Åström, Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden  
Leigh Sullivan, Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia  
Robert Quirk, private farmer, Australia  
Mats Nylund, private farmer, member of the parliament, Finland  
Markku Yli-Halla, University of Helsinki, Finland  
Le Quang Tri, Can Tho University, Vietnam

**More information** will be provided in the Second Circular in November 2011. Official invitations needed to get visas will be sent on your request. For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Edén, Geological Survey of Finland, P.O. Box 97, FIN-67101 Kokkola, Finland. E-mail: [IASSC2012@gtk.fi](mailto:IASSC2012@gtk.fi). Please visit our website <http://www.7iassc.fi> regularly for news, updates and detailed information.

Social program and program for accompanying persons will be introduced in the Second Circular.

**Please forward this message to potential participants and relevant organizations you know!**

## PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The sessions are preliminary suggested to cover the following topics topics:

1. Classification of AS soils: advances after the 6th Symposium, and remaining issues to be solved
2. Mapping programmes in different AS areas, varying in scale
3. Advances in the understanding of chemical and physical processes in AS soils and AS soil affected water courses
4. Environmental off-site effects
5. Agricultural practices in AS soil areas
6. Effects of other land uses on AS soils: Forestry, Peat production, Wetlands etc.
7. Socio-economic aspects of AS soils

You can still suggest other topics relevant for for the conference until 15 April 2011 by emailing your suggestion to Peter Edén at [IASSC2012@gtk.fi](mailto:IASSC2012@gtk.fi)

### Sunday 26 August

Registration, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Welcome reception 7:00 – 9:00 pm

### Monday 27 August

Late registration 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Sessions 9:00 – 18:00

### Tuesday 28 August

Mid-conference excursion to Söderfjärden: Actual and Potential AS soils. Pilot site for development of mitigation methods. 8:30 – 19:00

### Wednesday 29 August

Sessions 9:00 – 17:00

Conference dinner 19:00 – 23:00

### Thursday 30 August

Sessions 9:00 – 16:00

Closing session: outcome of the conference 16:00-17:00

### Friday 31 August and Saturday 1 September

Post-conference excursions, at an additional cost. The excursions consist of two one-day trips by bus to destinations within 100 km of Vaasa.

### Sponsors:



**Acid Sulfate Soil Working Group**  
**International Union of Soil Sciences**



### Links:

Official Conference website <http://www.7iassc.fi>

GTK: <http://en.gtk.fi/>

Finland [www.visitfinland.com](http://www.visitfinland.com)

Vaasa [http://matkailu.vaasa.fi/in\\_English/](http://matkailu.vaasa.fi/in_English/)

Söderfjärden <http://www.meteorita.fi/?lang=3>

The Kvarken Archipelago [http://www.kvarken.fi/In\\_English/The\\_Kvarken\\_Archipelago](http://www.kvarken.fi/In_English/The_Kvarken_Archipelago)

KWH Pipe [http://www.kwhpipe.com/English/About\\_KWH\\_Pipe](http://www.kwhpipe.com/English/About_KWH_Pipe)