

**Please forward this message to potential participants  
and relevant organisations**

# **7<sup>th</sup> IASSC**

**26 August - 1 September 2012**

**Vaasa, Finland**

## ***2nd Circular and Call for Abstracts***

**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, meteorite impact crater (6 km across) filled with Acid Sulfate Soil.  
Site for the mid-conference tour. Vaasa is located in the upper- right corner.  
© Sundom bygdeförening.



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

## WELCOME

The organizers wish to welcome you to the **7th International Acid Sulfate Soil Conference**, which will take place in the coastal city of [Vaasa](#) in western [Finland](#) in the middle of the largest AS soil area of Europe. The conference will be held on August 26–30.2012, with post-conference excursions on August 31 and September 1. The theme of the Conference is *Towards Harmony between Land Use and Environment*.

Vaasa is situated in Western Finland in the county of Ostrobothnia, the rising county, that has gradually risen from the sea during the last 8 000 years due to the isostatic rebound after the latest glaciations and that is still rising almost 1 m / 100 years. This on-going change affects nature and landscape, history and culture. Before the Conference, on Sunday 26 August, is it possible to get a glimpse of the unique [Kvarken Archipelago](#) included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. It was included in 2006 on geological grounds, i.e., the spectacular moraine formations and the isostatic land uplift.



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

## Background

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 even in deep subsoil horizons.

Methods to use AS soils in an ecologically sustainable manner are constantly sought around the world. The 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. The conference offers a forum for all participants to exchange ideas also on the chemical and physical processes of these soils and, of course, their 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.

### **Registration:**

Those interested in participation are kindly requested to register on-line (open from December 2011) via 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC webpage, [www.7iassc.fi](http://www.7iassc.fi).

### **Registration fee:**

The registration fee is **380 EUR, or 330 EUR for early registrations and 200 EUR for students**. The fee covers 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 330 EUR (200 EUR)**  
**Final registration dead-line: 15 June 2012 - Fee 380 EUR (200 EUR)**

The two one-day post-conference excursions will be at an additional cost. A pre-conference tour to the geological Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site will take place on Sunday 26 August at 12.00-17.00. at an additional cost.

### **Abstracts for oral and poster presentations:**

Colleagues are invited to submit abstracts relevant to the topics of the Conference. Abstracts should not exceed 2 A4 pages, including a maximum of 1 figure, and references. Abstracts will be published in an electronic conference volume and distributed as paper copy at the conference. Further details, abstract guidelines and submission instructions via 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC webpage, [www.7iassc.fi](http://www.7iassc.fi).

### **Important deadlines:**

Abstracts and Early registration (330 / 200 EUR)	15 March 2012
Acceptance of the presentations	15 May 2012
Deadline for late registration (380 / 200 EUR)	15 June 2012
Final programme	30 June 2012

**For more information**, please visit our website: <http://www.7iassc.fi> (news, updates and detailed information). Official invitations needed **to get visas** will be sent on 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.

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

### **Keynote speakers**

Leigh Sullivan, Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia  
Delvin S. Fanning, USA  
Mats Åström, Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden  
Robert Quirk, private farmer, Australia  
Mats Nylund, private farmer, member of parliament, Finland  
Markku Yli-Halla, University of Helsinki, Finland



**The sessions, also including the public and poster sessions, are preliminary suggested to cover the following topics:**

- Classification of ASS: advances after the 6th IASSC, and remaining issues to be solved
- Mapping AS soil areas
- Chemical and physical processes in AS soils
- Metal and metalloid mobilisation and transport
- Agricultural practices and mitigation methods in AS soil areas
- Effects of other land uses on AS soils: forestry, peat production, wetland, etc.
- AS soil effects on water courses and other off-site areas
- Socio-economic aspects of AS soils
- AS soil management: policies and regulation
- Challenges due to climate change

### **Programme at a glance**

The final programme will be published on the 7<sup>th</sup> IASSC webpage, [www.7iassc.fi](http://www.7iassc.fi).

#### **Sunday 26 August**

Pre-conference trip to the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site 12.00 – 17.00  
Registration 17.00 – 19.00 at Museum of Ostrobothnia  
Welcome reception (town of Vaasa) 19.00 – 21.00  
at the Museum of Ostrobothnia / Kvarken nature centre Terranova

#### **Monday 27 August**

Late registration, Venue 8.00 – 10.00  
Opening Session 8.30 – 10.00  
Sessions 10.00 – 17.00

#### **Tuesday 28 August**

Mid-conference excursion to Söderfjärden and Risöfladan: Actual and Potential AS soils. Pilot sites for development of mitigation methods. 8.30 – 17.00

#### **Wednesday 29 August**

Sessions 9.00 – 12.00  
Public session 13.00 – 17.00  
Poster session  
Conference dinner at Strampen 19.00 – 23.00

#### **Thursday 30 August**

Sessions 9.00 – 15.00  
Poster session  
Closing session: outcome of the conference 15.00 – 16.00

#### **Friday 31 August and Saturday 1 September**

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

### **Conference Tour and Excursions**

During the mid-conference tour (August 28) we will visit the 2 000-ha poldered AS-area of Söderfjärden, formed in an ancient meteorite impact crater, only 15 km from Vaasa (see front page and next picture).



Installing a plastic wall to prevent flow of acid soil water in an ASS landscape in Western Finland.  
Photo: Rainer Rosendahl

During the post-conference excursions to destinations within 100 km from Vaasa, a transect of young AS soils that recently emerged 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.

The mid-conference tour is included in the registration fee, while the post-conference excursions will be at an additional cost.

**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 (ÅÅ)  
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 (NOVIA)  
Vaasa University of Applied Sciences, (VAMK)  
ProAgria ÖSL, the Rural Advisory Centre of Ostrobothnia  
ÖSP, the Swedish-speaking Farmers Union in Ostrobothnia  
Finnish Society of Soil Sciences

**Organising Committee**

Keijo Nenonen, GTK, Chairman  
Peter Edén, GTK, Secretary  
Satu Putkinen, GTK  
Peter Österholm, ASS WG (chair) / ÅÅ  
Markku Yli-Halla, HY  
Martti Esala, MTT Agrifood Research / Finnish Society of Soil Sciences  
Markku Puustinen, SYKE  
Esa Koskenniemi, EPO ELY / Vincent Westberg, EPO ELY  
Susanne West, ÖSP / Rainer Rosendahl, ProAgria ÖSL  
Richard Hudd, RKTL  
Sten Engblom / Pekka Stén, Novia / VAMK  
Mats Åström, Linnaeus University, Sweden  
Leigh Sullivan, ASS WG (vice chair) / Southern Cross University, Australia  
Ben Macdonald, CSIRO, Australia  
Robert Quirk, Australia



Vaasa in August. The Conference venue closest to the right of the big sail. © 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 county of Ostrobothnia.

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



The Conference venue from the sea. Photo: Peter Edén.

### Travel to Vaasa

Vaasa can be conveniently reached by direct flights from Helsinki, Finland (1 hr), Stockholm, Sweden (1 hr, not on Saturdays), Riga, Latvia (2 hrs) and Tallinn, Estonia (1.5 hr) or by [train](#) from Helsinki (4.5 hrs). By train you arrive directly at the city centre.

**Sponsors:**



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



**LABTIUM**



**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)

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Nordkalk <http://www.nordkalk.com>