

**Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan
Ruler's Representative in the Western Region Abu Dhabi and Chairman of Environment
Agency-Abu Dhabi**

International Conference on

**Soil Classification and Reclamation of Degraded
Lands in Arid Environments**

And

Launch of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Report

17-19 May 2010

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Conference Chair

H.E Majid Al Mansouri, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr Ahmed Bashir (<i>Chairman</i>)	Advisor, Secretary General's Office, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Dr. Jaber Al Jaberi	Executive Director, Environment Operations, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Mr. Abdunasser Al-Shamsi	Executive Director, Animal Welfare and Forestry Projects, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Prof. Dr. Faisal Taha	Director of Technical programs, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai, UAE
Dr. Mohamed Dawoud	Manager, Water Resources Department, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Dr. Mahmoud A Abdelfattah	Soil Scientist, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
Mrs. Alicia Jimenez Al Mutawa	Deputy Manager, Public Relations, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Ms. Laila Yousef Al Hassan	Deputy Manager, Media, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

Scientific Committee

Prof. Dr. Faisal Taha (Chairman)	Director of Technical programs, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai, UAE
Dr. Shabbir A Shahid	Salinity Management Scientist, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai, UAE
Dr. Mahmoud A Abdelfattah	Soil Scientist, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Dr. Michael Wilson	United State Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
Dr. S Prathapar	Dean, College of Agriculture and Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
Dr. Mohamed Al Mulla	Director, Soil and Irrigation Department, Ministry of Environment and Water, UAE
Dr. Bill Porter	Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
Dr. Mahmoud Shendi	Professor of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Fayoum University, Egypt
Dr. Taoufik Ksiksi	Associate Professor, College of Science, UAE University, Al Ain, UAE

Conference Highlights

- 250 Abstracts received
- 79 accepted for oral presentation
- 44 accepted for poster presentation
- 35 countries represented
- 6 keynote speakers from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Spain and Thailand
- 5 Plenary simultaneous sessions
- 2 Poster sessions
- Round Table Workshop Discussion
- Launching of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Report
- Presentation of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Project outcomes

Session Titles

Session I	Soil Survey and Classification Strategies and Use in Different Ecological Zones
Session II	Advances in Soil Salinity Mapping, Monitoring and Reclamation
Session III	Land Use Planning and Policy Implications
Session IV	Use of Marginal Quality Water in Agriculture and Landscaping
Session V	Research and Development/Innovations in Soil Classification & Reclamation

Conference Book

All papers from both oral and poster presentations as well as keynotes will be considered for publication in a set of collective books that will be distributed to the registered participants after the conference. These books will be available as hard and soft copies.

Conference Venue

The expected conference venue is Fairmont Hotel in Abu Dhabi (5 Star hotel). Fairmont is one of the best hotels in Abu Dhabi overlooking the sea and the landmark Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Mosque. Fairmont Hotel provides a friendly atmosphere, quality of service, and is a great base for journeys in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi city is blessed with pleasant weather; however, in May some humidity is expected. International flights arrive at Abu Dhabi International Airport about 15 km from the expected conference venue. Transport between the airport and the conference venue is available via Taxi.

UAE and Abu Dhabi

Islam is the official religion in the UAE. Emarati Dirham is the UAE currency. IUS\$ is equivalent to 3.68 Emarati Dirhams. The United Arab Emirates sits on the north-eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south and west and by Oman to the east and north. The country is made up of seven emirates of which Abu Dhabi is by far the largest, occupying 85% of the landmass. Abu Dhabi is the Capital of the United Arab Emirates. The Island city of Abu Dhabi where the conference will take place is a lush, modern metropolis, complete with tree-lined streets, futuristic skyscrapers, huge shopping malls and international luxury hotels. Built on a grid system running from central "T" the city is easy to navigate. The 'T' is formed by the corniche, which runs along the end of the island furthest from the mainland, and Airport road which runs the length of the island. The corniche is the Abu Dhabi's showpiece esplanade is recently been redeveloped with the creation of public parks, walkways, cycle path and sandy beach. Abu Dhabi offers a multitude of activities, sights and excitements for visitors as well as fascinating heritage of a bustling Island city.

Abu Dhabi is subjected to a tropical desert climate with typically high temperatures and low rainfall. The climatic conditions are arid with two distinct seasons: a prolonged dry summer of very high temperature between April and November; and a winter of mild to warm temperature with little rainfall between December and March. The mean daily minimum and maximum temperature in the month of May is around 23.1 and 39.1°C respectively. For more information about UAE and Abu Dhabi Emirate, you are advised to visit www.visitabudhabi.ae

Conference Program at a Glance

17 May Monday Day 1

Registration and Opening Ceremony

0830-0930	Registration
0930-1010	Opening Ceremony
1010-1030	Launch of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Report
1030-1100	Coffee Break
1100-1300	Presentation of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Project (EAD, ICBA, USDA, and GRM International).
1300-1430	Prayer and Lunch
1430-1600	Parallel sessions I & II
1600-1615	Coffee Break
1615-1815	Parallel Sessions I & II

18 May Tuesday Day 2

0830-1030	Keynote Speakers
1030-1100	Coffee Break (Poster Session I & II)
1100-1300	Parallel sessions I & II
1300-1430	Prayer and Lunch
1430-1615	Parallel Sessions II & III
1615-1630	Coffee Break
1630-1815	Parallel sessions III & IV

19 May Wednesday Day 3

0830-1030	Keynote speakers (3 presentations)
1030-1100	Coffee Break (Poster Session III, IV & V)
1100-1300	Parallel Sessions III & IV
1300-1430	Prayer and Lunch
1430-1600	Parallel Sessions IV & V
1600-1615	Coffee Break
1615-1700	Workshop - Soil Survey of Abu Dhabi Emirate (Way Forward)
1700-1730	Closing Session
	Recommendations
	General Comments
	Closing Remarks (EAD/ICBA)

Contact Information

Scientific matters

All correspondence concerning the scientific programme (including abstract and papers) should be addressed to:

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Logistics and Registration

All conference participants must register for the conference by filling the registration form. Registration is free for all participants. Please fill the registration form and forward to:

Ms. Manisha Pillai

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Al Mamoura Building, Al Muroor Road

P O Box 45553 Abu Dhabi, UAE

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Conference Homepage

www.ead.ae

www.biosaline.org

Organizers

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi



orders in the capital.

EAD is a governmental agency established in 1996 with the overall function of protecting and conserving the environment as well as promoting sustainable development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The Agency is responsible for assisting the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water in implementing environmental laws and putting forth regulation



International Center for Biosaline Agriculture

ICBA help water-scarce countries improve the productivity, social equity and environmental sustainability of water use through an integrated water resource systems approach, with special emphasis on saline and marginal quality water. ICBA demonstrates the value of water resources for the production of economically useful plants and transfers the results of its research to national research services and communities. Significant support from donors and fellow researchers and partners in national programs have contributed to the success of the Center.