

# Nomination Information on the Candidacy of Professor Ravendra (Ravi) Naidu for the Position of IUSS President

Nominations are to be made by two Nominators who should be accomplished, highly-respected senior soil scientists, ideally from two different countries. The Nominators should also supply joint or individual supporting statements in their covering letter(s).

The Nominators together with the Nominee must provide the information set out below in the format requested including an important '**Statement of Intent**' plus a full CV. All information submitted by the Nominee must also be provided to the Nominators to ensure that they can perform their task effectively.

## Details of Nominee:

Distinguished Laureate Professor, Ravendra Naidu, 26 May 1954, Male, Australia

Family information (Optional)

Married to Naidu, Shamila since 1978; One child (Dr Roneal Naidu; head and neck surgeon now deceased).

Current position and address

CEO & Managing Director, crc for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE); and Laureate Professor, Global Centre for Environmental Remediation, University of Newcastle.  
ATC Building, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia

Email address, Phone and Fax numbers

e: [ravi.naidu@crccare.com](mailto:ravi.naidu@crccare.com); p: +61 2 4913 8705; m: +61 407 720 257

Language capabilities and level of competence/fluency in each language (this must include a very effective level of competency in English)

English Language: Fluent in speaking, reading and writing.  
Fijian Hindi: Fluent.

Statements attesting the good financial standing of both the nominee and of the National Society of which they are a member

The nominee is employee of crcCARE. Dr Naidu is a financially up-to-date member of both the International Union of Soil Sciences and Soil Science Australia.

**Details of Nominators and Signatories:**

Name, Position and Affiliation of both Nominators and evidence of their good financial standing in a National Society Member of IUSS

The Nomination document must be signed and dated by the Nominators and the Nominee who must also indicate a willingness to serve if elected.

The Nomination document must also be accompanied by a letter from the Nominee's employing institution attesting to their knowledge of the nomination and their willingness to allow the nominee to serve, if elected.

Name: Bal Ram Singh

Position: Professor Emeritus

Affiliation: Norwegian University of Life Sciences

*Dr. Bal Ram Singh*

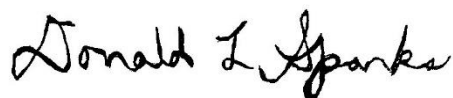
Bal Ram Singh

Name: Donald Sparks

Position: S. Hallock du Pont Chair, Francis Alison Professor

Affiliation: University of Delaware, Harker ISE Lab

Hagler Institute Fellow, Texas A&M University



Donald L. Sparks, Ph.D

**More detailed information including membership of national societies and IUSS of both nominators are available in the cover letter attached to these documents.**

**Profile of the Candidate:**

Academic background (degrees, level, awarding university, year; awards and prizes: fellowships) (*Maximum of 20 lines*)

**Education**

B.Sc. (Chem-Maths) (1975)

University of the South Pacific, Fiji

M.Sc. (Mineralogy) (1979)  
Fiji

Aberdeen, UK - University of the South Pacific,

Ph.D (Soil chemistry)(1986)

Massey University, New Zealand

DSc (Soil chemistry) (2015) Massey University, New Zealand.

***Honours, awards and prize (selected):***

- 2023. Winner of the Glinka World Soil Prize from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, announced on December 5, 2023.
- 2023. Recipient of European Geosciences prestigious inaugural Kabata-Pendias Medal for outstanding research on toxic metals and soil science.
- 2022. Awarded Mahatma Gandhi Leadership award, House of Commons London (30 September 2022) for outstanding soil and environmental science research.
- 2021. Elected Foreign Fellow, New Zealand Academy of Science (FFNZAS)
- 2021. Elected Foreign Fellow, Indian Academy of Agricultural Science (FFIAAS).
- 2017. Fellow, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.
- 2013. Winner, Richard Pratt-Banksia CEO Award at the Banksia Sustainability Awards, recognising contributions towards environmental sustainability.
- 2013. Gold Award and an honorary Doctor of Science from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for “outstanding contributions to agriculture”.
- 2012 International Soil Science Award, by the Soil Science Society of America
- 2006. Fellow, American Society of Agronomy.
- 2004. Fellow, New Zealand Society of Soil Science.
- 2002. Fellow, Soil Science Society of America

Positions held (period, position, institution) (***Maximum of 20 lines***)

***Employment***

2015–present. Laureate Professor and Founding Director, Global Centre for Environmental Research, University of Newcastle.

2005–present. CEO and Managing Director, CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE).

2002–Mar 2015. Foundation Professor of Environmental Remediation and Founding Director, Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia.

1989–Nov 2002. Research Scientist to Chief Research Scientist (youngest and only CRS within the Division when promoted to CRS), and Group Leader, Remediation Project, Research Program Leader, and Component Co-coordinator, CSIRO Land and Water.

1987–1989. Head, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. (The school consisted of the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics, Mathematics, Physics and Technology, and had 120 academic staff).

Summary of expertise and areas of academic/research interests (*Maximum of 20 lines*)

Professor Ravi Naidu is a global leader in soil contamination studies and has been tirelessly committed to excellence in soil science research and innovation for over 30 years. He is a respected educator, innovator, manager, advisor and advocate for soil contamination and management, and among only a handful of scientists who have dedicated their research careers to contaminants in concert with the key principles of sustainable soil management. His research is founded on excellence and impact, demonstrated by his continuing efforts and outputs on the world stage.

What's unique about Professor Naidu is his vision beyond research; he builds capacity, creates awareness, raises millions of dollars in external funds, and trains delegates from Southeast Asia and the Pacific to help achieve these goals. He leads and organizes international workshops, and conferences in Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Fiji, Switzerland, Spain, Poland, Austria and Papua New Guinea on contaminants, nutrients as contaminants, risk, and remediation of brownfield sites. One of the first conference that he organised focused on Agricultural productivity in the South Pacific in 1990s- this conference was in Fiji and fully sponsored by Frederic Erbert Foundation- and despite moving to Australia, he continues advocacy for soils.

Summary of relevant National and International activities (high level Committees, government service, consultancies etc) (*Maximum of 20 lines*)

- FAO Global report on Soil Pollution (2021): Naidu was invited to lead the pollution report for the SE Asia and Pacific. This report has been cited by 11 policy documents, 39 peer-reviewed.
- FAO's International Network on Soil Pollution; Chair of the Network since 2022.
- Member: UN FAO Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) since 2022.
- UNEP: Panel writing the UN Global Environment Outlook (GEO 7) report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 2023.
- Chair (1999 to 2012) Standards Australia's Committee on Contaminated Site Sampling and Assessment.
- Chair, Standards Australia-New Zealand Technical Committee on Sampling and Assessment of Contaminated Sites) (2002-2012).
- Inaugural Chair, Soil Contamination Research Asia-Pacific Network (1996-2000).
- Chair, International Union of Soil Sciences' Congress Commission 3.5 for Soil Degradation (2002-2010), Control, Remediation and Reclamation.
- President, International Society for Trace Element Biogeochemistry (2005-2007).

- Scientific expert on numerous environmental bodies: Environmental Geochemistry of Tropical Soils; UNEP round table meeting on remediation in Bangladesh; Contaminated Site Auditors Panel.

Summary of publications (ie total numbers only [not individual titles] of publications in the following categories: a) books and monographs, b) refereed international journals, c) refereed chapters and reviews, d) refereed, published conference papers e) conference papers; citation and *h*-index as given by a reputable, internationally-recognised citation compilation (***Maximum of 15 lines***)

### Summary of Publications (June 2024, Google Scholar, and Scopus)

Books – 16.

Refereed international journal articles – 920.

Referred book chapters – 58.

Refereed conference proceedings- 33.

Conference abstracts- 225.

Patents – 13

Confidential Technical Reports – 20.

Citations: 79994 (google scholar)

i10-index: 868 Google scholar); *h-index*: 137 (Google scholar), 114 (Scopus)

An important **Statement of Intent** including the Nominee's vision for the IUSS and an outline of what the Candidate intends to achieve if elected as President (***Maximum of 30 lines***)

#### Statement of Intent

I am honoured to present my candidacy for President of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS). With over 30 years of dedication to soil science, particularly in soil contamination and sustainable soil management (SSM), I bring a unique blend of research excellence, leadership, and global outreach.

As a global leader in soil contamination studies, I have significantly advanced our understanding of contaminant-soil interactions, nutrient cycling, and soil formation. While world is facing multiple challenges whether that is food shortage, military contamination from regional conflicts or hidden pollution in earth critical zone, soil is ever be so important to begin with. While emphasise contaminants here, I have also made extensive contribution to sodicity having jointly edited two books on sodic soils.

My research has led to paradigm shifts in soil chemistry and the management of pollutants, notably through risk-based remediation.

I have successfully united multiple stakeholders, from local communities to international bodies, to promote sustainable soil management. My initiatives, such as the CleanUp conference series and the FAO's Global Symposium on Soils and Water, have facilitated global dialogue and action on soil contamination and health.

In my role as President, I will prioritize:

- Enhancing global collaboration in soil research and innovation.
- Promoting education and capacity-building initiatives to empower the next generation of soil scientists.
- Advocating for evidence-based policies that ensure the sustainable management and remediation of contaminated soils.
- Make extra effort to reach out to developing countries including Africa, South America and SE Asia and the Pacific. I am already collaborating with researchers from a number of these countries on soil productivity and sustainability.

Together, we can strengthen the IUSS's role in addressing critical soil-related challenges, contributing to food security, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development. I am committed to leveraging my experience and vision to lead the IUSS toward a future of healthier soils and a sustainable planet.

## **In Summary**

***The full nomination package will consist of:***

- A covering letter from two Nominators including joint or individual statement(s) of support
- The full 'Nomination Information' as listed above and in the format requested to be provided by the nominee
- The Nominee's CV
- A Letter from the Nominee's employer indicating their approval and ongoing support for the nominee

Please see the attached letter from Dr. Sean C Edwards **Chairman, Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE)**

- Documents indicating financial support for the Nominee, if elected.

Please see the attached letter from Dr. Sean C Edwards **Chairman for financial support , if elected as IUSS president**

## ***Video Presentation***

Those nominees who proceed to election need to produce a short video presentation (no more than 5 minutes long) briefly introducing themselves and their background and stating their intentions as President.

In the interests of equity, the video shall be in very simple, home video style. Any videos prepared in this way and submitted will be made available for viewing by IUSS members on the internet.

**A video (five minutes long) containing the information required as stated above will be provided on request from IUSS after short listing of candidates.**