

Preface

Digital Soil Mapping Across Paradigms, Scales and Boundaries contains papers presented at the 6th Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping, held November 11–14, 2014, at the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences of Nanjing, China. The organizing committee was chaired by Dr. Gan-Lin Zhang, professor of Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Approximately 120 participants from 15 countries presented and discussed nearly 60 papers during the four-day session, demonstrating the global engagement in digital soil mapping.

Digital soil mapping is advancing on different fronts at different paces throughout the world, facilitating the development of digital soil information with increasing precision for many areas. To map the soils of the world to the every detail, we need is a glorious task of soil scientists, especially when it is done in a modern and fashionable way—mapping soils digitally. The goal of the sixth workshop is to review and discuss the state of the art in digital soil mapping and to explore the strategies for bridging research, methodologies, and environmental applications. The contents of predictive soil mapping, including the concepts, paradigms, models, and mathematical and computational tools, develop continuously and more and more researches and projects, in various sizes, resolutions, and geographic regions, are running in the world. There are also more and more scientists and users who are working in and shaping the frontiers of the field. It is certainly necessary once again to bring people together to exchange and share research results and to discuss the future of digital soil mapping, and we hope to recognize these distinct foci within the realm of digital soil mapping.

We have selected 29 papers from the workshop that focus on digital soil mapping research, environmental application, and operation. Part I is an introductory chapter which provides context for the whole book. The remaining papers are organized into the following parts: (II) Digital Soil Modelling; (III) Environmental

Application and Assessment; and (IV) Soil Sensors and Legacy Data. The CD-ROM accompanying this book contains the digital versions of all contributions with full colour. Whenever reference is made in the book to colour images, the reader is kindly requested to consult the CD-ROM.

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