

International SURF Groups and Partners

5 June 2024

12.00 – 13.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 33

Representatives:

- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang (chair) and Dr Hao-Chun Hung
- SuRF France: Pierre Jolly
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang and Dr Hao-Chun Hung
- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Italy : Thommaso Brinati
- SuRF-Japan : Tetsuo Yasutaka
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

Apologies received:

- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- NICOLA: Hayley Thomas
- SuRF-UK : Alan Thomas
- SuRF Canada : François Beaudoin
- NICOLE: Olivier Maurer
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Bing-Nan Wang (BNW) welcomed everybody to the International Sustainable Remediation Forum meeting collectively known as International Sustainable Remediation Alliance (ISRA). Everyone introduced themselves on the call. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.</p>
2.	<p>Recent progress updates</p> <p>All Sustainable Remediation Fora (SuRFs) provided a brief update of their activities. For those SuRFs unable to attend and had sent a report, their reports were read out and included for completeness.</p> <p>SURF - US</p> <p>Roy Thun (RT) provided an update on behalf of SURF. He confirmed that they continue to have their membership meetings in association with AEHS, one on the east coast and one on the west coast. He confirmed that a number of members of SURF had connected with NICOLE Foundation as they had interest in pursuing collaboration with supporting communities with complex problems with their local environments.</p> <p>SURF is continuing its interest in Environmental Justice and moving closer to finalising this initiative with the publication of a white paper.</p> <p>SURF is continuing to deliver monthly webinars and have a meeting arranged at Battelle. The next webinar is on Contamination Control and Sustainable Remediation Using Active Geocomposite Technology.</p>

SuRF-UK

Paul Bardos (PB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. PB confirmed that the SuRF-UK steering group is focusing its work on finishing the mapping exercise of the different supporting guidance against the different SuRF-UK indicators and have started the updating of the SuRF-UK Framework document to ensure that it signposts to the most up to date guidance and tools available.

SuRF-Italy

Tommaso Brinati (TB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Italy. He confirmed SuRF-Italy was successfully relaunched at the end of September 2023 at the network meeting of ASSORECA at Remtech. They have now been focusing their attention on relaunching the draft White Paper and seeking wider stakeholder engagement on the document. They are aiming to get the guidelines more universally accepted. ASSORECA has uploaded the draft guidelines (with a short English executive summary translation) here: [Bonifiche Sostenibili – Assoreca](#)

SuRF-Japan

Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) attended on behalf of SuRF-Japan. He confirmed that SuRF Japan has not been very active recently due to the policy of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and the approach of the private sector. MoE is looking at policy changes and SuRF Japan have to discuss how to incorporate sustainable remediation principles.

There is still work being undertaken with the nuclear sector in relation to sustainable remediation and discussions have been had with the International Atomic Energy Agency. A experts meeting was held which Japanese representatives attended and shared the work that they have been undertaking at Fukushima. ([IAEA-MOE Japan 2nd Experts Meeting on Volume Reduction and Recycling of Removed Soil Arising from Decontamination Activities.](#))

TY also made people aware that there is growing debate in Japan on Nature positive activities and the re-valuing of abandoned contaminated land and former mines to nature.

SuRF-ANZ

David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF ANZ. He confirmed they have been quiet over the last few months. He confirmed one area that SuRF-ANZ is exploring is the reuse of surplus soil because at present a lot of excess soil is sent to landfill. DT explained that each state in Australia legislates differently and therefore have different guidelines. DT explained that SuRF-ANZ are trying to work with representatives from different states to try and standardise.it.

DT also confirmed that SuRF-ANZ is looking at updating its framework document. Their current version is directly taken from the SuRF-UK framework. DT agreed that the framework process is still valid, it just needs updating as lots of additional guidance has been published since it was originally published.

SuRF-France

Pierre Jolly (PJ) confirmed that SuRF-France has not been active this year due to other work commitments, however it is hoped to become more active in the near future. They are looking at signposting case studies to help companies see how to embed sustainable principles in their work and welcome those that are currently available on other SuRF websites. SuRF-France is going to initially focus on small projects to build momentum. There is current interest in biodiversity and natural capital and how this is linked to sustainable remediation.

SuRF-Taiwan

Bing Nan Wang (BNW) and Professor Hao-Chun Hung (HH) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Taiwan. They confirmed that sustainable and resilience remediation concepts are looking to be embedded in all site remediation projects. The general consensus is that climate related impacts need to be considered, with new monitoring plans and updated conceptual site models. All remediation designs will need to take into climate change impacts. BNW and HH confirmed that Taiwan has a new president and leader of the Ministry of Environment. New policies are being developed to build climate change and impacts of climate

	<p>emissions into legislation. It is hoped that sustainability aspects will link to the ISO standard.</p> <p>In addition SuRF-Taiwan has been developing more internal training, both online and in person. They are planning to continue to roll this out for 2024. BNW confirmed that the EPA is working on developing a carbon calculator for different remediation technologies. BNW would be interested in other tools available.</p> <p>RT of SURF made BNW and HH aware of two freely available online tools that were made specifically for measuring carbon footprinting of remediation sites. SEFA and SiteWise. Both are available Library - Sustainable Remediation Forum</p> <p>TY of SuRF Japan also made BNW aware of a carbon calculating model and guidelines to evaluate the carbon footprint of remediation activities developed by Tokyo metropolitan government. It is available: https://www.kankyo.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/chemical/soil/information/grsr</p> <p>NICOLA Hayley Thomas (HT) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. She confirmed NICOLA's annual conference will be held on the 30 and 31 October 2024, in Durban. The call for abstracts has been released</p> <p>NICOLA successfully hosted a series of training events in collaboration with ITRC in early March, comprising a training day for NICOLA members, a NICOLA connect event, participation in the regulators bi-annual contaminated land stakeholder workshop and two training days for national and regional contaminated land and water regulators on the subject of risk based and sustainable management of LNAPL. The training utilised the ITRC's existing training materials (which folks will possibly be aware of), but updated to incorporate recent advances including latest science on NSZD. This was very successful and we achieved good participation both in person and online with the regulator training days which NICOLA was extremely pleased about.</p> <p>SuRF-Canada Francois Beaudoin (FB) confirmed that there is no progress to report with respect to SuRF Canada at present.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Future Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CleanUp 15-19 Sept 2024, Adelaide Australia <p>HC confirmed he has applied to provide a presentation but is waiting to hear if it has been accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Remtech Europe 16-20 Sept 2024, Ferrara Italy ■ NICOLA Annual Conference 30-31 October 2024, South Africa ■ ALGA 20-24 October 2024 New Zealand ■ AquaConsoil 16-20 June 2025, Liege, Belgium

4.	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <p><u>SustRem 2025</u></p> <p>NH explained that AquaConsoil 2025 would be interested in collaborating with SustRem 2025. DT also confirmed that EcoForum would be interested in hosting SustRem 2025. Would there be a possibility of co-ordinating the conference with the northern and southern hemisphere? NH will look to get further information from AquaConsoil as to their requirements.</p> <p>Action: NH to extend the discussions with AquaConsoil.</p>
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Battelle</u></p> <p>HC asked RT (who was attending Battelle) whether there some interesting themes being discussed? RT confirmed PFAS was a strong discussion point. HC asked whether there was discussion about the sustainability aspects of the technologies that are currently being used to breakdown PFAS as most appear to be exsitu with a high carbon impact? At present this issue does not appear to being raised.</p> <p>Also there was a general discussion whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) is starting to gain traction in its use in different SuRF countries? SuRFs shared that AI is starting to be used for data analysis and in predictive tool modelling, but it was acknowledged that its use is rapidly growing. BN and HC confirmed that the use of AI in Taiwan is growing rapidly.</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next teleconference will be arranged for end of November 2024. NH will request a European SuRF to volunteer to chair the next call.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>