

# **International SURF Groups and Partners**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**

**1pm GMT**

**FINAL**

## **Representatives:**

- SuRF-UK : Jonathan Smith (Chair)
- SuRF Brazil : Lais Trento
- NICOLE/SuRF-NL: Hans Slenders
- SURF-USA : Maille Smith
- SuRF-Taiwan: Erica Chiang
- SuRF-Canada : Stella Karnis
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE
- SuRF-ANZ : Garry Smith

## **Apologies received:**

- SuRF-Brazil: James Henderson
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF-NL: Laurent Bakker
- SuRF-Brazil: James Henderson
- Representing China : Mengfang Chen
- Representing Japan : Ryuzo Tazawa

## **AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome**
- 2 Recent progress updates**
- 3 Conferencing opportunities – Recent & upcoming**
- 4 Actions to drive consistency between SuRF initiatives**
- 5 Special topic of interest**
- 6 Any Other Business**
- 7 Next meeting**

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Jonathan Smith (JS) welcomed everyone and attendees confirmed they were happy with the agenda. JS provided a short introduction on the purpose of the SURF meetings being for cross country connections and for the promotion of international collaboration on sustainable remediation.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Everyone present gave a quick update on the different SuRF Groups and Partners current initiatives and work that they were undertaking in relation to sustainability. For those networks unable to join the call, Nicola Harries (NH) contacted them to ask if they were able to provide an update so the notes could be as comprehensive as possible.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-Canada</u></b></p> <p>Stella Karnis (SK) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Canada. She explained that SuRF-Canada is focussing on SustRem 2016 as they were the successful bidder. A call for abstracts will come out soon and SK asked that all SuRFs help promote the event that will be held in April 2016 in Montreal. SuRF Canada is also working collaboratively with SuRF-US on outreach to regulators. They are looking at developing training materials to deliver to the provincial regulators. With budget cuts it is difficult for regulators to attend SuRF-Canada meetings so by delivering training to regulators it is hoped they will understand more about the principles of sustainable remediation. SuRF-Canada also had a webinar in June where they had a technical presentation entitled "Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment: Lessons from Best Practice Case Studies from the United States", they discussed SustRem 2016, international collaboration with SuRFs and other national networks.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-US</u></b></p> <p>Maille Smith (MS) provided an update on SuRF-US activities. She confirmed that they are always looking for outreach opportunities particularly with regulators. They are starting focussing on outreach to the EPA regions that already have a Green and Sustainable Remediation requirement within their internal regulatory guidance documentation. SuRF-US has an upcoming webinar on 14<sup>th</sup> July where they will have a series of presentations from organisations that implement sustainable remediation. Their next face to face meeting is October where they are looking for speakers. The theme of the meeting is Energy and Water Nexus and the implications for remediation projects.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-Brasil</u></b></p> <p>Lais Trento (LT) explained that SuRF-Brasil had met recently in June 2015 and are currently drafting their first position statement for sustainable remediation based on the NICOLE and COMMON FORUM version. They are working with NICOLE Brasil on this. It is hoped that this will be finished in draft for circulation this month. LT confirmed that the Position Statement will be signed by NICOLE members who include industry and regulatory members as individuals. It will not be jointly signed officially by regulatory bodies as this would be very difficult to achieve.</p>	

### **SuRF-Colombia (Update provided after the meeting)**

Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) provided an update after the meeting. He explained that last week the National Congress of Safety, Health and Environment event was organized by the Colombia Safety Council. Here SuRF Colombia had the opportunity to show the progress of sustainable remediation around the world. Their conference was attended by almost 70 people of several sectors including oil and gas, mining, construction and agricultural. SuRF-Colombia had support from Barbara Maco and William Wick from the US who have been involved in sustainable remediation projects and work with SuRF-US.

Also, the Colombian's Government (Environmental Ministry) has recently opened a call in order to Design the National Regulations to Manage and Remediate Brownfields (Contaminated Sites) in the Country. Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) will participate as one of the directors of the project. The project is for 6 months with one of the component of the project to analyse international experiences in regulation of brownfields.

### **SuRF-UK**

Jonathan Smith (JS) explained that SuRF-UK was very active at AquaConsoil 2015 (ACS) in Copenhagen with four posters presented and two platform presentations based on the Phase 3 work. In addition, we assisted with a Special Session on sustainable remediation, where Nicola Harries gave a short presentation on the work of the International SuRF network.

JS confirmed that SuRF UK recently published a "Review Of The Legal And Regulatory Basis For Sustainable Remediation in EU & UK" in association with NICOLE which can be downloaded from the SuRF-UK website [www.claire.co.uk/surfuk](http://www.claire.co.uk/surfuk). JS also confirmed that SuRF-UK will be preparing a concise paper for Science of the Total Environment (STOTEN) focussing on the Phase 3 deliverables.

SuRF-UK is looking at the future and what it should focus its activities on. It is thought that dissemination and outreach is the area that is needed to focus on. We are currently developing ideas.

### **SuRF-NL**

Hans Slenders (HS) explained that since SuRF-NL published their short technical guidance on sustainable use of soils in Dutch, they do not expect SuRF-NL will be undertaking any further activities in the near future as funding routes are now not available. They will continue their activities through the NICOLE Sustainable Remediation working group.

### **NICOLE**

Hans Slenders (HS) explained that the NICOLE's Sustainable Remediation Working Group was profiled at two Special Sessions at ACS. Also Hans Slenders and Laurent Bakker had visited Sweden and presented on sustainable remediation at Renare Mark ( Swedish network for soil and groundwater remediation) <http://wp.renaremark.se/> in Malmo. Their presentation was very well received as sustainable remediation concepts are not well developed in Sweden currently. HS also confirmed that they will be visiting CLEANUP 2015 in Melbourne and presenting the key note speech on sustainable remediation.

The working group met recently to discuss its future as typically NICOLE working groups publish and then dissolve however there has not been a decision yet as to the future direction of the Sustainable Remediation Working Group. It was agreed that outreach was needed, but what/how

to deliver this was not finalised.

### **SuRF-ITALY (Sent after the meeting)**

Claudio Albano (CA) provided an update of SuRF-Italy activities after the meeting. Following publication of the white paper, SuRF-Italy are now progressing on the "Technical Guidance for implementation of Sustainable Remediation in Italy". CA also confirmed that he has been assisting with the development of SuSTREM 2016. A call is scheduled to discuss the call for abstract and help in the wider dissemination of this event.

### **SuRF-ANZ**

Garry Smith (GS) provided an update on SuRF-ANZ work. He explained that SuRF-ANZ will be presenting a prize on sustainable remediation process at CLEANUP 2015. SuRF-ANZ has been assisting with a special session at CLEANUP on Sustainable Remediation.

GS explained at a recent meeting with state regulators that the regulators would like input from SuRF-ANZ to assist in developing guidelines on sustainable remediation that can be adopted into a national framework. This is a very positive step in Australia.

SuRF-ANZ has felt that some industry bodies and societies have lost the understanding of what sustainable remediation is. Therefore SuRF-ANZ is going to develop a policy document on sustainable remediation to assist with outreach to help re-educate.

### **SURF-Taiwan**

Erica Chaing (EC) confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan had a recent committee meeting where they had some new members joined from the petroleum and steel industries. SuRF-Taiwan have also teamed up across the academic, industry and consultancy industries to promote their work and to help reach out to much wider audiences.

SuRF-Taiwan continues to work on 3 further case studies using their environmental footprint life cycle assessment tool, one being on farmland looking at how to incorporate concepts of Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) in farmland remediation.. As discussed previously there has been obstacles for the implementation of sustainable remediation in Taiwan as there is a feeling that GSR requires additional labour time. EC explained that the EPA now evaluates the performance of the local environmental regulators using a series of criterion annually, including execution of law, site supervision etc. The number of GSR sites will now be one of the scoring criterion in the annual ranking system. Although GSR will not be mandatory, adding the measure will encourage the local environmental regulator to promote GSR in their jurisdiction.

### **CHINA**

No update provided.

### **JAPAN**

No update provided.

**All other SURF Networks/representative bodies not on the call provided updates on their activities.**



	<p>country specific nominated standards institutes. The final version is now being translated into French and will be submitted to ISO for voting on in October 2015 by the National Standards Boards represented on the Technical Committee 190.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>■ <b>Opportunities for engagement/collaboration between SuRF networks</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all the SuRFs are keen to collaborate where possible and support. This is particularly pertinent with the establishment of new SuRFs who can learn from established SuRFs.</p> <p><b>International Branding of SuRF Networks</b></p> <p>It was agreed to move forward with the international branding of the SuRF Networks and develop an “International Alliance”. It was agreed that the SustRem logo that was created for SustRem 2014 would be used for branding and become the official logo.</p> <p>NH and Garry Smith to move the initiative forward and develop the concept further with draft series of aims, general terms of reference for promotion and marketing.</p> </li> </ul>	NH/GS
5.	<p><b>Special topic of interest: Future Activities for SuRF</b></p> <p>Jonathan Smith provided a short introduction to the progress of SuRF-UK and the activities that it had undertaken. A number of the activities have been successful apart from outreach and case studies. It was acknowledged that all SuRFs were struggling to get written up good quality case studies that demonstrate following the frameworks/roadmaps. Why was this? It was also acknowledged that even with the UK regulations/guidance identifying and signposting sustainability there was still a lack of understanding of what is sustainable remediation and the value of it. Measuring sustainability within remediation was not routinely applied unless it was a requirement of clients, however few clients require it. SuRF-UK sees outreach to local regulators and industry a piece of work that is still to do.</p> <p>It was agreed that the challenge is to talk to wider audiences when it is not a priority for them – not talk to the already converted. International conferences are resource heavy and you don’t necessarily speak to the right people. In the UK this has been made harder as there is a lot of deregulation with industry being asked to write guidance. It was acknowledged that it is important to engage with broader stakeholder groups such as spatial planners where regeneration of sites is being undertaken.</p> <p>The challenge is how to reach more people in an efficient way? Perhaps social media?</p> <p>It was acknowledged that this is an important topic and a common problem across all the SuRFs.</p> <p>It was felt that perhaps the ISO development may assist things, but will be picked up by those that were aware of the sustainable remediation movement. Garry Smith (GS) felt that there is still a lack of understanding and good quality education on the subject. There needs to be much wider global education – so the “global alliance” of SuRF networks will help with this as the movement will be seen as joined up and will have a greater reach.</p> <p>It was agreed that regulatory support is vital. There needs to be a demonstration of economic and social benefits upfront to gain a better uptake especially as regulators want less regulation.</p>	

	<p>Maille Smith (MS) explained that this mirrors the same conversations and challenges that SuRF US are having. They are growing new members but not from different sectors. It has been difficult to engage with planning and design practitioners.</p> <p>SuRF US through Paul Hadley has been undertaking outreach activities with different academies that focus on sustainable development. They are looking at engaging with professional networks such as engineering, geologists and planners. They are looking at partnering with conferences that they typically have not been engaging with in the past. SuRF US previously have partnered with Battelle but this may now not be the best vehicle moving forward.</p> <p>SuRF US are also developing a standard slide set that they can share with universities to present in their course curriculum. They are also currently identifying courses suitable to share these standard slide sets with. They are also looking at developing a standard curriculum on sustainable remediation to partner with universities that are leading in this area.</p> <p>Jonathan Smith (JS) thanked people for their contribution, it was extremely helpful and gave SuRF-UK assistance for possible future activities to investigate.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b> No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting</b> It was agreed that the next teleconference should be at the end of November 2015, and SuRF-Taiwan agreed to chair. NH to arrange. JS thanked people for their very useful contributions and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	NH