

**Professor Dr. Rainer Horn,  
Chair,  
IUSS Presidential Election Standing Committee**

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**Dear Professor Horn,**

It is with great pleasure that I write this enthusiastic letter in support of Distinguished Laureate Professor Ravi Naidu's candidacy for President-Elect of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). As Chair of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE), which he founded and has successfully led since its establishment in 2005, I have witnessed firsthand Professor Naidu's exceptional leadership and contributions both in my role as a senator in the Australian federal parliament and now in my current role.

Professor Naidu serves as the CEO and Managing Director of crcCARE, as well as its Chief Scientist. crcCARE is the sole Australian Centre of Excellence dedicated to environmental contaminants, soil health, and soil productivity, alongside developing innovative technologies for the remediation of contaminated sites. Under his leadership, crcCARE has achieved global recognition in science, policy, and capacity building.

As highlighted in his CV, Professor Naidu is a passionate advocate for soil and environmental science. He has personally secured significant funding to train researchers from Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. Through his leadership and the support of crcCARE, 170 students from these regions have successfully completed their PhDs and returned to their home countries to contribute to local development. Additionally, Professor Naidu has organised numerous workshops and symposiums, often securing substantive external grants to fund these initiatives.

From 2002 to 2010, Professor Naidu served as Chair of the IUSS Commission 3.5 and was Deputy Chair from 1998 to 2002. His commitment to advancing soil science is evident through his extensive service and leadership within the IUSS.

Over the past three years, Professor Naidu has received numerous prestigious awards, including election as a Fellow (Foreign Member) of the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi, Fellow (Foreign) of the Academy of Indian Agricultural Science, and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Technology, and Engineering. His accolades also include the UN World Soil Prize, the Glinka Award, the Kabata-Pendias Medal for outstanding research on toxic metals and soil science, and the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award at the House of Commons in London.

Professor Naidu's editorial contributions are equally impressive. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Environmental Remediation* and a member of the Editorial Board of *Nature Scientific Reports*. He has also served as a Guest Editor for special issues in various journals and has edited sixteen books on soil and environmental science.

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In closing, I must emphasise Professor Naidu's sustained energy and prolific output. His record of publications, awards, committee work, and business ventures is extraordinary. It is remarkable how he consistently maintains such a high standard of excellence in all his endeavours. I firmly believe that Professor Naidu's comprehensive portfolio of research leadership in the university setting is unparalleled.

I am confident that the IUSS will greatly benefit from Professor Naidu's vision and leadership and know crcCARE will provide financial support to him as required to deliver on his duties should he be elected President. I strongly urge the committee to consider his candidacy positively. He is highly respected and appreciated by colleagues worldwide and maintains an extensive network of like-minded researchers who, I believe, would wholeheartedly support his candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Edwards', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sean C Edwards

**Chairman**

**Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE)**