

# **Agenda for Dr. Alfred Hartemink visit to the National Geospatial Development Center April 20-April 24, 2009**

## ***Monday April 20***

Meeting at NGDC

- staff to exchange ideas and share information with Dr. Hartemink

Evening reception at the Hempels (6:00 or so)

## ***Tuesday April 21***

A.M. with MLRA office staff - Steve Carpenter

- Quality Assurance procedures and MO responsibilities

P.M. Freetime

## ***Wednesday April 22***

Day with Morgantown MLRA Soil Survey Office - Wendy Noll, Aron Sattler, Tim Prescott

- Office procedures and processes for MLRA updates

Field trip -

- West Virginia soil/landscape discussion
- Soil Temperature monitoring

## ***Thursday April 23***

West Virginia University

### **A.M Symposium-9:30**

#### **A soil science renaissance and *GlobalSoilMap.net***

Alfred E. Hartemink

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### **Summary**

Renewed interest in agriculture (food, feed, fuel) has brought soils back on the global research agenda. Soil erosion, nutrient depletion and pollution are key issues in recent reports by UN and other international organizations. The need for up-to-date and fine resolution soil information and the revival of soil research is highlighted and prioritised in some of these studies. There is also an increased interest for soils in the popular press and media, and soils have entered the policy arena. For the global soil science

community, there are challenges ahead. There is a set of novel techniques and methodologies at the doorstep waiting to be applied and there is a direct need to educate a new generation of soil scientists. A new global has recently been launched names *GlobalSoilMap.net* that aims to make a new digital soil map of the world using state-of-the-art and emerging technologies for soil mapping and predicting soil properties. A global consortium has been formed that includes the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (Morgantown, USA).

**About the speaker:**

Dr. Alfred Hartemink is a soil scientist at ISRIC-World Soil Information in Wageningen, the Netherlands. Alfred is Deputy Secretary General of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and coordinator of *GlobalSoilMap.net*

**10:30-Meeting with Dean Hackney**

**P.M Symposium-3:30**

**Trends and development in scientific publishing**

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**Summary**

Despite the great importance of publications for individual careers as well as the prestige of research centres and universities, there seems to be little discussion in the soil and environmental science community on this subject – this as opposed to some other disciplines where lively debates are held on the pros and cons of the present “publish or perish” culture. In this talk I will sketch historical developments, current trends and future outlook in scientific publishing. The purported roles of publishing, the flow of e-paper, papers per researcher, authorship and its problems, readability of papers, society and commercial journals, open access journal, impact factors and the *h* index, fraud and access will all be discussed and as far as possible trends are analysed quantitatively. At last: 10 rules for writing better papers are given.

**About the speaker:**

Dr. Alfred Hartemink is a soil scientist at ISRIC-World Soil Information in Wageningen, the Netherlands. In 2002, he published the book “Publishing in soil science – historical developments and current trends”. Alfred is joint Editor-in-Chief of *Geoderma* and co-editor of the *Developments in Soil Science* book series.

**Friday April 24**

NGDC with NGDC staff

- Future collaboration potentials
- GlobalSoilMap.net discussion