

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCES GROUP**  
**WAGENINGEN UR**

Dr.Ir. P.S. Bindraban MBA  
Director ISRIC  
Environmental Science Group - Wageningen UR  
P.O Box 47  
6700 AA Wageningen

Dear Dr. Bindraban, Dear Prem,

As you are aware the building of ISRIC-World Soil Information does not comply with the Netherlands law for fire safety. The implication is that all ISRIC staff should move as soon as possible, i.e. coming Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, as legal implications in case of a fire accident are unacceptable to the ISRIC-board and the ESG-management.

We do realize that this sudden move will have unforeseen negative consequences that should be prevented as much as possible. We will do our utmost to provide the conditions for ISRIC to pursue its strategy without delay to become a world leading institute in World Soil Information as has been outlined in your strategic plan.

1. Moving procedure

- a. The staff will take its most important items to continue their work and move to the ESG building Gaia at the Wageningen UR campus or the WISSEL-building (building 116) coming Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- b. All staff will be housed as close together as is possible.
- c. For recognition, the ISRIC sign will be placed at the entrance of the building where the staff is housed.
- d. The current building of ISRIC at Duivendaal 9 in Wageningen will remain available for the entire period until proper and even better accommodation is found for the museum and collections for ISRIC to comply with its legal obligation in order to maintain its status as World Soil Reference Centre.
- e. During the coming 3 to 6 months a detailed plan will be developed for housing the museum, storing the collections and space for hardware (like scanners for maps). This will include the positioning of the laboratory for preparation of monoliths and soil sampling.

2. The following financial conditions apply

- a. moving ISRIC staff will not be at the expense of ISRIC, directly nor indirectly.
- b. The general director of ESG will discuss with the CvB of Wageningen UR to make sure that the initial arrangements, made in 2002 when ISRIC came to WUR concerning housing cost for ISRIC staff will apply again from January 2010 onwards.
- c. All costs involved in moving the World Soil Museum will not be at the expense of ISRIC, directly or indirectly. A business plan should be developed in order for the museum to better fulfil its role in dissemination of soil information.

**Board of Directors**

DATE  
**25 November 2009**

SUBJECT  
**Creating a stimulating science  
environment ISRIC**

OUR REFERENCE  
**09-ALT3129**

HANDLED BY  
**Ir. C.T. Slingerland**

DIRECT (TELEPHONE) LINE  
**81562**

E-MAIL  
**Kees.slingerland@wur.nl**

**Alterra b.v.**  
**P.O. Box 47**  
**6700 AA Wageningen**  
**The Netherlands**

VISITORS' ADDRESS  
**Building number 100+101**  
**Droevendaalsesteeg 3**  
**6708 PB Wageningen**

TELEPHONE  
**+31 317 48 07 00**

FAX  
**+31 317 41 90 00**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGISTRATION NO.  
**09113175 centraal Gelderland**

THE INTERNET  
**www.alterra.wur.nl**

Within Wageningen UR, Alterra and Wageningen University's department of Environmental Sciences co-operate closely in research and education with regard to our green living environment.

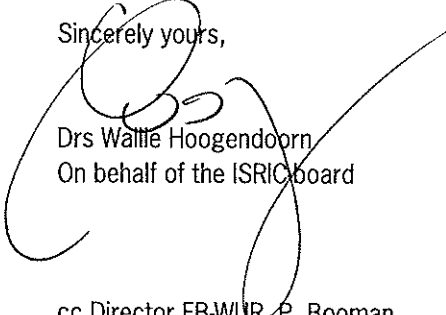


- d. ISRIC has an ambitious strategic plan that requires substantial funding. The director of ESG and the ISRIC-board will undertake all efforts to support the generation of these funds.

We fully realize that ISRIC has a unique position in the world. Due to its status and only World Soil Information centre, it is able to take the lead in global projects on soils, such as GlobalSoilMap.net, SOTER, GLADA, Green Water Credits and WOCAT. The board of ISRIC and of ESG will support the search for further embedding ISRIC within a UN framework to further strengthen its leading position. There is no need for us to emphasize to you the importance of generating high quality soil and terrain information for analyzing global development issues to the benefit of humankind. A stronger position of ISRIC will be to the benefit of ESG in particular and Wageningen UR in general.

We wish you a smooth move and will most welcome you and your staff on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Sincerely yours,

  
Drs Waijie Hoogendoorn  
On behalf of the ISRIC board

cc Director FB-WUR, P. Booman

b/a  
  
Ir. Kees Slingerland  
Director General ESG, Wageningen UR

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