



Global Bridging Knowledge.
Soil Week Empowering Transformation.

Apply Now!

The Young Professionals Programme at the Global Soil Week

Event: Global Soil Week 2015

Date: 18.04.-23.04.2015

Place: Berlin

Application deadline: March 8th 2015

The United Nations declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. For good reasons, because even though soil is the basis to feed the world, soil degradation is an urgent global problem. The third Global Soil Week (GSW 2015) is an outstanding international forum on sustainable soil and land management. It addresses science, politics and media. The GSW aims to raise attention for sustainable soil and land management in international policy, in science and in public debates.

To meet these targets and to gain support from young professionals and scientists as well as from prospective journalists and media experts, the Young Professionals Programme is offered for the first time. **GIZ, IASS and WOCAT invite up to 15 graduates, Ph.D. students and Young Professionals to the GSW 2015 in Berlin.** The programme offers an introduction to the network of the Global Soil Week, guiding events throughout the week and professional networking opportunities.

The Young Professionals Programme is open to everyone who works with the complex subject of soil and land management in a professional or scientific context. It is addressing interested young professionals from various backgrounds: natural, political and social sciences as well as media and communication, development cooperation or architecture. Journalists and media professionals who deal with soil, food security as well as sustainable land management or are planning to do so, are especially encouraged to apply.

Our offer.

Our aim is to support young professionals and scientists at the GSW and to provide professional networking opportunities. Furthermore, we aim to raise attention for the perspectives of young professionals on the matter of soils and sustainable land management. The Young Professionals Programme offers the participation at the GSW 2015 including an introductory and guiding programme. Conference fees, accommodation and travel costs (50% of a second class train ticket) will be provided by GIZ and IASS.

The guiding programme will be organised by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* on behalf of the *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)* in cooperation with the *Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies*

(IASS) and the network *World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies* (WOCAT).

The introduction is complemented by a field trip on sustainable soil and land management in and around Berlin. During the following days participants are free to take an active part in all events of the GSW 2015. Additionally, there will be mentor-hosted lunchtime & dinner sessions to get into informal conversations with experts of different backgrounds.

Holding their own open space session at the GSW 2015, participants will have the chance to present and discuss their perspectives and give impulses for future meetings and projects.

Your tasks as a Young Professional at the GSW 2015.

You take an active part in the Young Professionals Program of the GSW 2015.

In the following months, all participants organise a public event in their respective working environment to spread the importance of soils and sustainable land management in public. An important element can be the documentation of an example for sustainable land management applying the WOCAT survey methodology.

For example, these public contributions can be presentations, discussions, field trips, publications or an opening event for the GIZ soil exhibition. Other, unconventional ideas such as Science Slams or TED events are also very welcome.

To reflect on the GSW 2015 and the International Year of Soils, the whole group of young professionals will be invited to take an active part in an expert talk of GIZ about soil protection and global food security in the second half of the year.

Apply Now!

Invited are graduates, Ph.D. students and young professionals interested in all soil related issues, no matter if their background is in natural science, art, social science, media or economics. All interested young scientists and professionals who deal with the complex subject of soil and sustainable land management are invited.

In order to apply for the Young Professionals Program, applicants must provide a specific idea for a public event ("project idea"), highlighting the importance of soils and food security. It should be submitted with the application.

All events at the GSW 2015 are in English. Therefore, good language skills are required.

Please submit an application (in English), which includes a letter of motivation with a specific project idea and a CV with all finished, ongoing and planned scientific and practical activities related to soil and sustainable land management.

Please send your application until March 8th 2015 to: ute.sonntag@giz.de.
For further questions please contact: christian.schneider@virtualfacts.org.