



Herbert Kroehl, IUGG Fellow

USA

Herbert Kroehl was born in Seattle, Washington in 1948, received a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1971 and a PhD in Space Physics from Kyoto Sango University in Kyoto, Japan. Herb is married to Lorraine Kroehl. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

His professional career began in 1969 as a student employee with the Space Environment Forecasting Division of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory (CRPL) in Boulder, Colorado and retired in 2004 as the Chief of the Solar-Terrestrial Physics (STP) Division of the National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). From 1971-3 he was a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Belize City, Belize and in 2006 he was a visiting professor at the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory of Nagoya University, Japan.

The ICSU World Data Centers, WDCs, for the Aurora, the Ionosphere and Solar-Terrestrial Physics were hosted by CRPL, now NOAA. Major WDC activities were data exchanges with other WDCs and the publication of Solar-Geophysical Data under the auspices of ICSU's SCOSTEP program. The WDC system provided huge benefits to scientists during the Cold War era, and WDC archives were a magnet drawing visiting scientists from around the world to the WDC in Boulder. Dr. Kroehl was the Director of WDC-A for STP, 1995-2004, and he served on the ICSU Panel on WDCs, 1995-2004.

As geophysical observatories converted to digital recording systems; numerical modeling of the near-earth space environment became possible. Prof. Y. Kamide, Dr. A.D. Richmond and Dr. Kroehl developed and ran one of the first numerical models which computed the electrodynamic properties of the polar ionosphere at one point in time. Initially the model was driven by ground-based data, and then it was modified to incorporate data from weather satellites operated by NOAA and the Department of Defense. This work produced numerous publications on polar electrodynamics for which Dr. Kroehl received the Department of Commerce's Silver Medal.

When the STP Division began archiving all data from Defense Meteorological Satellite Program satellites, an opportunity to conduct research of the earth's surface became essential. Work with Dr. C.D. Elvidge produced a number of papers from population dynamics to wildfire monitoring.

ICSU formed its Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) partly for geophysics to exploit the capabilities of new technologies. Dr. Kroehl became an active member of CODATA, serving as a co-chair of the CODATA's Virtual Laboratories Task Group, 2003-2006, and chair of CODATA's Best Practices Working Group, 2005-2006.

From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Kroehl was the Secretary General of IAGA and in 2001, IAGA convened its 9th Scientific Assembly in Hanoi. This assembly, which was held jointly with IASPEI, was the first international scientific conference to be held in Vietnam.

Currently, Dr. Kroehl is CEO of HPH Management, LLC. He enjoys skiing and hiking in the mountains, participating in Rotary, and working with at-risk youth in Boulder, Colorado.