

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. Our mission is to serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration. Currently the IPS has 1462 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 43 countries.

Celebrate World Wetlands Day 2016

World Wetlands Day
Tuesday, 2 February 2016



Wetlands for our Future
Sustainable Livelihoods

The IPS is joining the Ramsar Convention in the celebrations of World Wetlands Day on **2 February**. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Each year since 1997, the Ramsar Secretariat has provided materials to help raise public awareness about the importance and value of wetlands. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community organise activities of all sizes and shapes, from lectures and seminars, nature walks, children's art and photo contests, sampan races, and community clean-up days, to radio and television interviews and letters to newspapers, to the launch of new wetland policies, new Ramsar sites, and new programmes at the national level. World Wetlands Day is supported by the Danone-

Evian Fund for Water and Biosphere Connections, a global corporate social responsibility initiative from the Star Alliance network. At www.worldwetlandsday.org you can add your local events, participate in a photo contest and, of course, learn more about the importance of wetlands for the planet. See also www.ramsar.org for more information.

Thank you! 370 Abstracts for International Peat Congress

By the final submission deadline, 370 abstracts (proposals for presentations) have been submitted to the Scientific Committee of the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, **15 - 19 August**:

- 106 Inventory, Biodiversity, Conservation and Functions of Peatlands
- 108 Peatlands and Ecosystem Management
- 50 Responsible Utilization and Management of Peatlands
- 37 Peat Use, Peatlands Technology and Agro-technology
- 24 Peatlands After-use, Restoration and Rehabilitation
- 17 Cultural, Educational, Medicinal and Socio-economic Aspects of Peatlands, Peat and Sapropel
- 22 Special Sessions, 6 Theme not yet decided

Country statistics:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Malaysia 93 | • Netherlands 7 | • Switzerland 2 | • Peru 1 |
| • Indonesia 85 | • Sweden 7 | • Ukraine 2 | • Philippines 1 |
| • Japan 37 | • Poland 5 | • Algeria 1 | • Singapore 1 |
| • United Kingdom 29 | • Canada 4 | • Belgium 1 | • South Korea 1 |
| • United States 20 | • Australia 3 | • Denmark 1 | • Spain 1 |
| • Germany 19 | • Uganda 3 | • Hungary 1 | • Taiwan 1 |
| • Finland 17 | • Ireland 3 | • Kyrgyzstan 1 | • Vietnam 1 |
| • Russia 8 | • India 2 | • Myanmar 1 | |
| • China 8 | • Latvia 2 | • Nepal 1 | |

For more information and to register for this important event, please visit www.ipc2016.com and follow us at www.facebook.com/events/442705769217025. Early bird registration is open until **31 March 2016**. Remember also to invite your co-workers and partners. We are also still looking for sponsors of the Congress. Please contact the IPS Secretariat at ips@peatlands.org or the local organisers if you are interested.

Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2016 in Kaunas

The 16th Baltic Peat Producers Forum will take place in Kaunas, Lithuania during **14 - 16 September 2016**. Host is the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association "Lietuviskos durpes". More info soon. *(Submitted by Ugne Radziunaite)*

IPS Executive Board meeting in Helsinki

The IPS Executive Board will hold its next regular meeting in Helsinki, Finland, **5 - 6 April 2016**. The meeting will be connected to a joint dinner with representatives of the Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura) and a number of peat production specialists. Agenda topics are, among others, the further implementation of the IPS Strategy, structure adaptations and a communication strategy, detailed preparation of the International Peat Congress in Malaysia, decisions for the winners of the Allan Robertson Grants 2016 plus, of course, the analysis and endorsement of the Annual Report and final accounts 2015 of the IPS, first arrangements for the important summer elections, and the budget, membership fees and plan of activities of the Society for 2016, just to mention a few items. If you would like to have your topic handled by the Board, please contact the IPS Secretariat as soon as possible.

First Certificates for Responsibly Produced Peat

The Board of Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP), following recommendation by the Committee of Experts, has awarded its first three peat extraction site certificates to Esterweger Doser, Germany (Grientsveen AG) and Steinfeld and Augustendorf-Barkhausen, Germany (Torf- und Humuswerke Gnarrenburg). The certificates were presented by Jürgen Mertz Chairman of Zentralverband Gartenbau during the International Plant Fair (IPM) held in Essen, Germany on 27 January 2016. The goal of Responsibly Produced Peat is to ensure that peat used as a constituent of growing media is obtained from sources that adhere to the highest environmental standards and that during the lifetime of commercial operations and afterwards care is taken to maintain biodiversity and keep greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum. Certification of Responsibly Produced Peat is inspected by the independent certification body MPS-ECAS. The Board of RPP and its Committee of Experts maintains a balanced membership from the peat-producing industry, growing media manufacturers, growers and retail, environmental NGOs, including the IPS and science. Applications for other peat extraction sites are being considered. *(Jack Rieley, Member of RPP Committee of Experts)*

Harri Laurikka new MD for Bioenergy Association in Finland

The Bioenergy Association in Finland has recruited a new Managing Director after Jyrki Peisa headed to new challenges in the government. Dr tech Harri Laurikka has previously worked for the Finnish Ministry of Environment as Chief Climate Change Negotiator, a position that he held for instance latest in Paris in autumn. He will start working for the Association from the beginning of April when his previous duties are fulfilled. More information about Dr Laurikka can be found at www.linkedin.com/in/harri-laurikka-1a95a82 and at www.bioenergia.fi. *(Hannu Salo)*

650 Likes for the IPS on Facebook!

This week the amount of people following IPS' updates on Facebook have increased to 650. This amount is impressive if you compare it to the "real" membership of the IPS of just over 1400 members. You are welcome to like and share our page too, as this is the fastest and visually very attractive way of sharing information on peat and peatland developments, in addition to our LinkedIn professional group. The IPS Secretariat is sharing, on a day to day basis, for instance information on new events, workshops, new research papers and media coverage on the page, in addition to our own updates. See www.facebook.com/peatlands, provide information and help to keep up discussions.

Tropical Peatland Ecosystems Book Published

"Tropical Peatland Ecosystems", edited by Mitsuru Osaki, President of Japanese Peatland Society (JPS), and Nobuyuki Tsuji, has been published. Many Japanese members contributed to this publication. The book provides a review of tropical peatland in Southeast Asia, discusses the carbon-water cycle, biodiversity, and monitoring-sensing-modeling on carbon flux and storage, and furnishes a good introduction to sustainable peatland management. ISBNs: e-book 978-4-431-55681-7, hardcover 978-4-431-55680-0, www.springer.com/gp/book/9784431556800. *(Akira Haraguchi)*