

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,400 individual and institutional members from 42 countries.

## Call for Articles Peatlands International 3.2013

Peatlands International is continuing its digital trial phase and we are ready to edit the second issue of the IPS member magazine for this autumn. Please submit your announcements, news and extended reports on research projects, industry matters, political developments or recent conferences by **10 November** to the IPS Secretariat, susann.warnecke (at) peatsociety.org. We welcome you:

- manuscripts (max. 1000 words, A4, Arial, no full cap lines, with author contact details, language proofread if possible, for instance [www.englishproofread.com/submit-document](http://www.englishproofread.com/submit-document))
- photos and illustrations (separate jpg or pdf files with captions and the names of the photographers) and
- advertisements (pdf files, prices according to Media Kit)

To have a look at the latest magazine, visit Peatlands International 2.2013 as:

- Epaper: <http://joom.ag/BJuX>
- Blog: <http://peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com>
- PDF: <http://bit.ly/17uuhyb> (press download to have all links working)

The password for this issue is *ipsmember13*. Peatlands International consists of about 30-40 pages with background reports and news, reviews of conferences and books; it publishes research findings and business reports on all matters related to peat and peatlands, as well as internal information on the IPS and its sister organisations.

## Japan Peatland Society joined IPS

The Japan Peatland Society (JPS) was officially established at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan on **9 October 2013**. On that occasion, many Japanese researchers on peat and peatland research agreed with the objectives of the Society and gathered together at the inaugural meeting. The conservation, management and sustainable use of peatlands require the promotion of research on various aspects of peatland sciences and the accumulation of further knowledge. The objective of the JPS is to develop a strong association between peatland researchers and to systematize this into a unified science including natural sciences, applied sciences, technologies and social sciences. The Society will actively dispatch achievements to the world and try to contribute to the creation of sustainable global ecosystems of peatlands. Towards this end, they have founded the Japan Peatland Society, by the agreement of the researchers gathered, working towards the same purposes as the International Peat Society. (*Mitsuru Osaki, JPS*)

The Executive board of the Japan Peatland Society consists of President Mitsuru Osaki from Hokkaido University, Vice President Shigeo Kobayashi from Kyoto University, Vice President Takashi Hirano from Hokkaido University, Secretary General Hidenori Takahashi from Hokkaido University and Treasurer Mitsuhiko Kamiya from Ueyama Co., Ltd. The Japan Peatland Society was authorised by the IPS Executive Board as National Committee at its meeting in Tallinn, as of 1 January 2014. We wish our Japanese colleagues well in their future activities and look forward to a fruitful cooperation! Their contact details are:

Japan Peatland Society (JPS)  
Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University  
Kita-9, Nishi-9, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8589, JAPAN  
Tel: 011-706-2554 fax: 011-706-2494  
E-mail: nana77hihc (at) ybb.ne.jp

## IPS Executive Board and Industry met in Tallinn

IPS held a special round table on industry developments, needs of and contributions towards its corporate members in Tallinn on **28 October**. The meeting was attended by 25 association, company and EB representatives from Canada, Finland, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and United Kingdom who spent an informative afternoon identifying 14 action points for future cooperation. In addition, the participants were briefed on the nature and structure of the IPS, its general activities, funding and foreseen projects of global importance (see PI 2.2013). In the future, IPS will strengthen its forces especially with regard to international conventions having impact on local decision-making, better and faster communication with all stakeholders, regional involvement and education, technology workshops and similar practical arrangements, and improved usage and monitoring of internet services related to peat and peatlands. A follow-up meeting will be held on **3 December** with the Board of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) in Brussels. We will keep you informed!

## Decisions of the Tallinn EB Meeting

The members of the IPS Executive Board spent **28 - 30 October** with their regular autumn meetings in Tallinn, on invitation of the Estonian National Committee. This is a short summary of the most important decisions. During the first work session on Monday, the EB members prepared the industry round table described above. Tuesday was filled with a status update on the work of **the IPS Secretariat** and on the process to employ a new Secretary General. It was agreed that an open recruitment process would be started within the next few weeks.

The EB also noted and discussed the **financial status** of the IPS as of 30 August 2013, including expected income and expenses until the end of the year. It was suggested to better utilize IPS rules in generating income from peat and peatland conferences to complement membership fee income in the future. Guus van Berckel and Erki Niitlaan presented the cities of Groningen, the Netherlands and Tallinn, Estonia as possible hosts of the International Peat Congress 2020. This will be decided at the Annual Assembly 2014 in Riga – surely an exciting year to come!

The Board furthermore noted the first digital edition of **Peatlands International** and decided to produce at least 2 digital magazines and monthly Peat News in early 2014, until feedback from the first issues, the survey results and viewer statistics are available and evaluated. Please remember to comment the “new” magazine at [www.bit.ly/17VfjF2](http://www.bit.ly/17VfjF2). With regards to the IPS membership the EB confirmed that up to 6 contact persons for each corporate and research institute member are welcome to be listed on the IPS member directory, and that they are entitled to receive Peatlands International and Peat News. Let your employees know about this possibility!

The Board also approved the cooperation contract for the ISHS-IPS conference “International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis” in Vienna, Austria, **7 - 11 September 2015**, discussed progress on the proposed IPS Peat Academy, noted the suggestion for a FAO guidebook “Towards Climate Responsible Peatland Management” and considered the proposal from IUCN UK Peatland Programme for a booklet entitled “Demonstrating Success: Global Peatland Restoration”. Comments and suggestions can be sent to [jack.rieley \(at\) nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk).

During the strategic part of the meeting, the EB heard a report on the current email meeting of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board (more information to come) and three inspiring presentations of the IPS interns: Sandra Lubinaite reported on development possibilities for a non-profit organization like IPS, Henna Honkala analysed the survey to further develop the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management, and Ines Böttcher introduced the future IPS project packages, their realization, timetables and funding opportunities. These include World Peat Resources, Development of the SRPM, Peat and Climate and the Peat Academy.

With regard to the International Peat Congress 2016 in Kuching it was mentioned that the 1st Circular and Call for Papers shall be published soon, together with the establishment of a Congress website. It was confirmed that abstracts and extended papers will be published in the members section at the IPS website six months after the Congress. Help us to promote this major event!

The Annual Assembly 2014 and National Committee Round Table will be held in Riga, Latvia at the “Peat and Technology” Conference during **25 - 29 August 2014**. Donal Clarke invited the IPS for the **Annual Assembly 2015** to Ireland. This will be organized as an IPS conference including much time for discussion, round tables and workshops. The summary of the original minutes “in a nutshell” will be available at the IPS document database next week.

## Call for Nominations for the Executive Board

The IPS has opened the nomination process for the three open positions at the Executive Board in 2014. Proposals by National Committees should be sent to the IPS Secretariat not later than **25 April 2014**, including an application letter and CV, so that they can be sent out to all country representatives with the invitation to the Annual Assembly. Note that the following posts will be available (in *italics*):

Function	Name and country	Term of office
President	Björn Hånell, Sweden	2012 – 2016
1st Vice President	Guus van Berckel, Germany/Netherlands	2012 – 2016
2nd Vice President	Jack Rieley, United Kingdom	2012 – 2016
Ordinary members (2-6)		
<i>Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia</i>		<i>2010 – 2014 will be open</i>
<i>Erki Niitlaan, Estonia</i>		<i>2010 – 2014 will be open</i>
<i>Lech Szajdak, Poland</i>		<i>2010 – 2014 will be open</i>
Donal Clarke, Ireland		2012 – 2016
Paul Short, Canada		2012 – 2016
Samu Valpola, Finland		2012 – 2016

The requirements for EB members are laid out in the Statutes and Internal Regulations of the IPS. Please contact your National Committee Chair if you can identify a suitable candidate that will surely bring our Society forward and enable us to deal with the challenges and joys of our organisation during the next four years. Note that all positions are personal and not bound to country or company seats. The ordinary EB members will be elected for the period 2014-2018. There can be only one member from each country at the EB, and travel costs should be covered if possible. To see all members of the Executive Board visit [www.peatsociety.org/about-us/executive-board](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us/executive-board).

## Wetlands Supplement to IPCC Guidelines accepted

The Wetlands Supplement to the 2006 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (2006 IPCC Guidelines) was accepted during the 37th Session of IPCC (**14 - 18 October 2013**). The supplementary methodological guidance introduces changes to the estimation and reporting of emissions and removals according to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in all land-use categories (Forest Land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements, and Other Land), some sources of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from managed land in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Sector, and CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from wastewater treatment (Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment) in the Waste Sector. The Wetlands Supplement is organized into the following chapters:

- Chapter 2: Drained Inland Organic Soils
- Chapter 3: Rewetted Organic Soils
- Chapter 4: Coastal Wetlands
- Chapter 5: Inland Wetland Mineral Soils
- Chapter 6: Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment
- Chapter 7: Cross-Cutting Issues and Reporting

In particular, Chapter 2 gives new guidance not contained in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines by providing methodologies and emission factors for:

- CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from drainage ditches;
- off-site CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with dissolved organic carbon (DOC) release from organic soils to drainage waters;
- CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO emissions from peat fires.

The Wetlands Supplement maintains the approaches for estimation of emissions and removals in Volume 4 (AFOLU) of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The general guidance in Volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines is also applicable. For the full supplement go to [www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session37/Doc\\_8b\\_Rev\\_2\\_Accepted\\_Report\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session37/Doc_8b_Rev_2_Accepted_Report_Wetlands.pdf). (*Armine Avagyan and Maria Nuutinen, FAO*)

## Second Flow Country Research Conference

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Flow Country Research Conference will be held as IPS cooperation event in Thurso, Caithness, Scotland on **4 - 6 March 2014**. In order to facilitate the linkages between the researchers and the different stakeholders involved in peatland restoration in the Flow Country and to set research priorities, a first Flow Country Research Conference was organised and hosted by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) in Thurso in October 2012. During the event, a network of researchers and partners, the Flow Country Research Hub was launched, and now provides a platform for communication and exchanges between the different members of the network. Following the success of the first conference, a three day follow-up event is being organised, at which internationally recognised researchers will give presentations on their work in peatland restoration and greenhouse gas emissions research, in order to learn from their experience, promote the importance of the Flow Country and the research that it supports, and stimulate collaboration. The first day and the second morning will consist of oral contributions by researchers and stakeholders involved in the Flow Country. The afternoon of the second day will be used to identify and discuss research priorities and progress since the last conference. An icebreaker and poster sessions will be held on the evening of the 4th of March. The field trip on 5th March will showcase innovation in restoration of afforested blanket bogs and give an opportunity to all participants to visit the newly instrumented sites. The new techniques used in restoration of afforested blanket bogs include whole tree removal, mulching, brush crashing, as well as enhanced drain and furrow blocking. (*Jack Rieley, IPS UK National Committee*)

## Sixth International Conference on Climate Change

The “Sixth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses” will be coordinated by the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, **27 - 28 June 2014**. The Conference is for any person with an interest in, and concern for, scientific, policy and strategic perspectives in climate change. It will address a range of critically important themes relating to the vexing question of climate change. Plenary speakers will include some of the world’s leading thinkers in the fields of climatology and environmental science, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners. The current submission deadline for proposals is 12 November 2013. Please visit <http://on-climate.com/submitting-your-work/conference-presentations> for more information.

## Soil Science Conference in Italy next September

“ELS 2014 - the Earth Living Skin: Soil, Life and Climate Changes” is the first Conference of a Series organized under the auspices of the Soil System Sciences Division of the European Geosciences Union. ELS 2014 will be held next **21 - 25 September 2014** in Nova Yardinia, Castellaneta Marina (TA), Italy. The Conference Series set up the ambitious goal of studying soils as the main environmental interface where atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere design and model incredible living systems with time. ELS 2014 aims to gather thoughts and findings of scientists coming from all the different disciplines related to the soil system: soil science, geomorphology, biogeochemistry, hydrological sciences, environmental microbiology, ecology, climatology, and natural hazards, only to mention the main ones. Scientists and researchers with a temporary or consolidated interest for these fields of science are warmly invited to participate to this Conference. Please visit [www.els2014.eu](http://www.els2014.eu) and propose sessions, special events, technical meetings, short courses as well as social activities by **15 November 2013**. (*Claudio Zaccone, University of Foggia*)

## Vapo seeks growth through natural water treatment

Throughout its history, Vapo has designed and sub-designed, measured and sub-measured, and constructed and sub-constructed hundreds of natural water treatment systems. Over the years, Vapo has accumulated a measurement, analysis and research report database that is unparalleled in size. Could putting this expertise and data to use generate new business activities to solve natural water treatment needs beyond those of Vapo? The purpose of the Vapo Clean Waters project is to bring together all of Vapo’s water treatment crew as well as some external experts to form a team, comprising the required expertise related to system design and development expertise, permission procedures, construction and hydrological impacts. In practice, the team members are professionals who have been in charge of ensuring that Vapo’s water treatment structures and hydrological impact monitoring systems in peat production areas comply with the permit requirements. This autumn’s agenda includes finalising the project business plan, compiling the start up team required to take the next step and launching the functional model testing process. For more information on this exciting project see [www.vapo.fi/en/media/news](http://www.vapo.fi/en/media/news). (*Mia Suominen, Vapo Oy*)