

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.

## Abstract Deadline extended to 31 December

The International Peat Congress 2016's organising committee has moved the deadline for abstract submission to **31 December 2015**. This gives you one more month to concentrate on writing your proposal for a presentation. For more information please see [www.ipc2016.com](http://www.ipc2016.com). The 15<sup>th</sup> IPS Congress is held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia during **15 - 19 August 2016** in combination with the IPS Annual Assembly. Topics to be covered are:

- Inventory, Biodiversity, Conservation and Functions of Peatlands
- Peatlands and Ecosystem Management
- Peatlands After-use, Restoration and Rehabilitation
- Peat Use, Peatlands Technology and Agro-technology
- Responsible Utilization and Management of Peatlands
- Cultural, Educational, Medicinal and Socio-economic Aspects of Peatlands, Peat and Sapropel
- Special Session: Soft Soil Engineering

Please register now, sign up for the Congress mailing list at [www.ipc2016.com/ mailing.php](http://www.ipc2016.com/ mailing.php) or attend virtually at [www.facebook.com/events/442705769217025](https://www.facebook.com/events/442705769217025). IPC 2016 is organised by the Malaysian Peat Society in partnership with IPS, and supported by the Sarawak Government, the Malaysian Society of Soil Science, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the Peat Society of Indonesia and Sarawak Convention Bureau. Do not miss this opportunity to come with us to Southeast Asia!

## Allan Robertson Grants 2016 for Travelling to IPC2016

The IPS Executive Board has decided to give the Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in 2016 to at least five students or young employees that will travel to the International Peat Congress in Malaysia to present their work to an international audience. The grants can be used to cover travel costs or registration fees up to € 500. Deadline for applications is **15 March 2016**. The IPS will launch its application form and more instructions **in January**. Please see [www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants) to read more on the winners of the 2015 grants and obtain some background information.

## Preview Peatlands International 4.2015

Peatlands International 4.2015 will be published and sent to all members in December with the following articles:

- Indonesia's Peatlands Ablaze in Worst Environmental Disaster of the Century, by Mark E. Harrison, Bernat Ripoll Capilla, Simon J. Husson, Susan E. Page and Jack O. Rieley
- Indonesia going for a paradigm shift on peatland management, by Marcel Silvius
- A Partnership Between Two Protected Peatlands: Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, USA and Sebangau National Park, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, by Sean Lawlor, Jason Riley and Fred Wurster
- Opening of the IPS National Committee and Peat Industry Forum in China, by Meng Xianmin
- A new trend in the baling of peat and substrates / Automatic measuring of peat and substrates, by Leo Smeets
- Mining projects and Nordic peatlands, by Päivi Picken
- Pôle-relais tourbières / The French Mire Resource Centre, by Francis Muller

- Climate and hydrology over the last 10,000 years – A story told by peat, pollen, and tree rings, by Johannes Edvardsson, Markus Stoffel and Christophe Corona

If you still want to contribute to the magazine with some smaller news items, a cover photo or advertisement, please contact the IPS Secretariat by **8 December**. More info: [www.peatlands.org/publications/peatlands-international](http://www.peatlands.org/publications/peatlands-international).

## Would you like to work on the IPS Executive Board?

Next year it is time again for the election of IPS key persons. At the Annual Assembly during the Congress in Kuching on **19 August**, up to 6 new Executive Board members will be elected. We kindly ask all National Committees to consider, during the next few months, which persons could be the best potential candidates to bring the IPS forward and to deal with the challenges of the coming years. As a reminder, this is the Executive Board right now:

Function	Name and country	Term of office
<i>President</i>	<i>Björn Hånell, Sweden</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Guus van Berckel, Germany/Netherlands</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Jack Rieley, United Kingdom</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>
Ordinary members (2-6)		
<i>Donal Clarke, Ireland</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>	
<i>Paul Short, Canada</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>	
<i>Samu Valpola, Finland</i>	<i>2012 - 2016</i>	
Moritz Böcking, Germany	2014 - 2018	
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	2014 - 2018	
Claes Rülcker, Sweden	2014 - 2018	

All EB members whose terms will end next year, are marked *in italics*. For more information on IPS elections please see our Statutes and Internal Regulations at [www.peatlands.org/about-us](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us) or contact your National Committee.

## Roadmap for sustainable peatland management in Indonesia

Civil Society in Indonesia has presented a Roadmap towards sustainable peatland management for the Indonesian pulpwood plantation industry. The roadmap aims to stop further expansion and new developments of plantations in peatlands and promote alternative management practices. This is to ensure long-term productivity in peatland landscapes that assures economic, ecological and social sustainability. It includes preventing future peatland fires and flooding, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and conserving biodiversity as well as closing loopholes in the existing regulations and endorsing laws to enable better management. For several decades, the rapid expansion of Acacia plantations and the use of natural fiber by the pulp-and-paper industry have threatened pristine forests and peatlands. Civil Society Organizations such as WWF, Jikalahari, Scale-Up, JMGR, WBH, WARSI and Sampan coordinated by Wetlands International have been actively involved in the development of this roadmap. More info: [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org).

## European Geosciences Union Peatland Sessions 2016

Peatlands will be the topic of at least 22 sessions during the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016 in Vienna, Austria, to be held in spring, **17 - 22 April 2016**. You can find them by performing a full text search at <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/egu2016/sessionprogramme>. Highlights are probably:

- BG2.15/SSS6.14: Peatlands and the Carbon Cycle; Gareth Clay, Fred Worrall, Stephan Glatzel
- BG4.2/SSS9.24: Peatlands under pressure; Annalea Lohila, E.-S. Tuittila, Mats Nilsson, Leif Klemedtsson, Juul Limpens
- BG6.4/SSS3.8: Peatland palaeo-ecology through time; Angela Gallego-Sala, Michelle Garneau, Minna Väiliranta
- HS10.8: Peatland Hydrology; Michel Bechtold, Joseph Holden, Björn Klöve, Bärbel Tiemeyer
- SSS5.5: Biogeochemical processes in peatland ecosystems, Claudio Zaccone, Luca Bragazza, César Plaza

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is **13 January 2016**, 13:00 CET. Early registration will close on **17 March 2016**.