

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.

Be an Early Bird and Register now for the Congress!

Early registration for the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, **15 - 19 August 2016**, is closing on 31 March 2016. Until that date you can attend the Congress and save at least \$52 (IPS members). Visit www.ipc2016.com for more details on topics, excursions and the social programme. We have received 370 abstracts for the programme. Hotels and flights are also filling up quickly! One day excursions offer, for instance:

- Agriculture on Tropical Peatland: Smallholder Farms
- Semenggoh Nature Reserve, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre and orangutans
- Bako National Park forests, mangroves and proboscis monkey
- Peat Swamp Forest: The Ulu Sebuyau National Park
- Agriculture on Tropical Peatland: Oil Palm Industry

This will be the most important event of the peat world until the next Congress in 2020. Do not miss it and invite also your colleagues to come along. The event can be shared at www.facebook.com/events/442705769217025; free email signatures and website banners to promote the Congress can be downloaded from http://ipc2016.com/banner_ad.

Allan Robertson Grants for young Congress Attendees

The Allan Robertson Grants 2016 will be awarded for travel and registration fee support for research students and young professionals to attend the 15th International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia in August 2016. The deadline for applications is **20 March 2016**, at 24.00 hrs (Eastern European time). Grant recipients will normally be under the age of 30. Undergraduates are ineligible. There are two kinds of grants:

a) **Presenters:** 5 grants of €500 each for young peatland and peat researchers or other professionals who have submitted abstracts of oral or poster presentations, that have been accepted onto the programme and who have registered for the Congress.

b) **Participants:** 10 grants of €250 each for young peatland and peat researchers or other professionals, preferably nationals of low and lower-middle income countries (see World Bank List, includes Indonesia and Ukraine). These do not have to present but must have registered to attend the Congress.

Decisions will be made by the IPS Executive Board in April 2016 and will be final. Payment will be made by bank transfer AFTER travelling/registration according to receipts/invoices. Successful applicants must agree to provide a report on their project or work that will be published in the IPS magazine Peatlands International and/or give a presentation of it at an international IPS event at the latest 12 months after the grant funding has been paid to them. Application form and more information: www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

\$1 Million Peat Prize for Mapping Tropical Peatlands

The Indonesian Peat Prize is an ambitious, collaborative prize for finding a more accurate, faster and affordable method of mapping the extent and thickness of Indonesian peatlands. A \$1 million prize purse will be awarded to the winning team along with their invaluable contributions to establishing a better national standard for mapping peatlands in Indonesia. The goal of the Indonesian Peat Prize is not to make a perfect map of peatland, but to quickly find the most useful technology and methodology (solution) possible for mapping. Usefulness is determined by the

degree to which a map is accurate, affordable and quick to create. A successful prize will identify a transparent, credible and location-agnostic methodology for mapping Indonesian peatland extent and thickness. Students, engineers, consultants, product directors, scientists, research institutions, companies, universities, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations—anyone with a great idea who meets the criteria is invited to join. People or teams from around the world can join forces with Indonesian partners. The prize is hosted by the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) and sponsored by the Packard Foundation. For more detailed information on the prize and how teams can register, please visit (and share!) www.indonesianpeatprize.com.

Open Position: Executive Officer RPP

Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP) is seeking at the earliest an Executive Officer (m/f). RPP is an industry initiative with multi-stakeholder involvement, founded in 2013 with the objective to establish a certification system for responsible peat extraction in Europe. The goal is to protect untouched peatlands with a high ecological value, to establish to best possible after use of extracted peatlands and to ensure long term availability of peat for growing media. You will

- Run current business on behalf of the Board
- Support the Board in the strategic planning and development of Responsibly Produced Peat
- Develop and manage the certification system and financial aspects
- Establish and maintain networks of politics, science, trade and industry
- Actively communicate the benefits of RPP-certification at events and congresses, whether in presentations or in personal talks, as well as other occasions

You are / have

- International experienced manager with a broad network
- Affinity with peat and growing media as well as environmental related issues
- Master level degree in natural sciences or in business economics, highly willing to travel
- Excellent communication skills, speaking English and Dutch or German fluently, other languages welcome
- Prudent, reliable, strategically thinking; good IT user skills for Office-applications

The position is advertised as a part-time job (50%), but might expand to a full position with growth of the foundation. Please send your letter of motivation and CV in English by **30 April** to info (at) responsiblyproducedpeat.org. For queries, please contact Mr Arne Hückstädt, +49 2102 940830, hueckstaedt (at) ivg.org; or Mr Ben van der Geest, +31 6 22460535, b.vandergeest (at) horticoop.nl). Further info: www.responsiblyproducedpeat.org.

Peatlands in the EU Regulatory Environment

A workshop on “Peatlands in the EU Regulatory Environment” is planned for **19 April 2016** in the Representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU, Brussels. The workshop will address the role of peatlands and organic soils in the EU and its member states for climate change. The Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre, and Silvestrum have assessed the impact of EU law on the environment, agriculture, and energy on peatlands and organic soils, with case studies for Poland and Estonia. The findings will be presented and policy options discussed at this workshop targeting both policy makers and the private sector. The parallel project CINDERELLA by Greifswald Mire Centre and partners will contribute views on sustainable utilisation. On behalf of the IPS, Executive Board member Erki Niitlaan will attend. More info: www.succow-stiftung.de/peatlands-in-the-eu-regulatory.html.

Society of Wetland Scientists meets in Potsdam, Germany

The 11th Annual European Chapter Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists will be held in Potsdam, Germany during **17 - 20 May 2016**. Aims of the meeting are to enhance collaboration of wetland restoration, conservation and other land use science, as well as finding solutions for occurring problems, and to encourage discussions around new wetland conservation, restoration and management research. Programme main topics are: Knowledge transfer (1) - Strategies on how wetland science can be effectively implemented in practice, Conservation conflicts (2) - Approaches to harmonise wetland functions and economic interests, and Management (3) - Wetlands for mitigation of water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and loss of biodiversity. The meeting is organized by the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in cooperation with the German Peat Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde, DGMT), Georesearch Centre Potsdam (GFZ), Naturschutzfonds Brandenburg (NFB) and Aarhus University, Denmark (AU). For more info see <http://sws-europe.igb-berlin.de/index.html>.