

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 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

Sign up for the IPS Convention in Tullamore 2015

Have you signed up for "A new conversation on peatlands" in Tullamore, Ireland? This will be an exciting series of talks and excursions, combined with a few business meetings, lots of talks, green landscapes, castles and fresh air, and the Annual Assembly 2015 of the IPS. We look forward to welcoming you to this important event.

7 June	Sunday	IPS EB/SAB Meetings; Welcome Reception in Tullamore Court Hotel
8 June	Monday	Keynote Speakers; Interactive Poster Session; Field-Trip I: Raised Bog Conservation and Domestic Peat Use; Clara Bog; Charleville Castle
9 June	Tuesday	Master-class I; Field-Trip II: Industrial Peat Production and Blanket Bog Management; Kinnitty Castle; Dinner at Lough Boora Discovery Park
10 June	Wednesday	Master-class II; Field-Trip III: Industrial Cutaway Bog Rehabilitation and After-Use, Daingean; Dinner at Tullamore Dew Distillery
11 June	Thursday	IPS National Committee Round-Table, Annual Assembly, Farewell

Visit the full programme and register as soon as possible at www.irishpeatsociety.ie, invite your co-workers and join at www.facebook.com/events/665566623563847. We look forward to seeing you!

33 Applications for Allan Robertson Grants

By the deadline of **30 April**, the IPS Secretariat has received 33 applications for the new Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals. Applicants came from Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Ireland, Canada, Indonesia, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, China, and Lesotho. The Executive Board will evaluate all documents within the next few weeks and announce the winners of the five Grants of € 500 each latest in Tullamore in June. We warmly thank all who have contributed and promoted the Grants. For more information see www.peatsociety.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

IPS Peat Balneology & Medicine Conference in Finland

IPS Commission VI on peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics is organising a Round Table Conference during **3 - 4 July 2015** at Aino Clinics in Valkeakoski, about 140 kilometres north of Helsinki, and close to Tampere. On the first day there will be round table discussions and talks about quality issues of balneological peat, results of studies and practical experiences of peat therapy. The second day will include an excursion to the Torrnsuo National Park, the deepest mire in Finland. There is also the possibility experience the Finnish Peat Sauna. Registration until 20 May by email to Leena Larva: info (at) ainoklinikat.fi. The registration fee is €50 for one day and €100 for two days, including the excursion. More information can also be provided by Riitta Korhonen: riittakorhonen3@gmail.com.

Three Public Consultations of the European Commission

The European Commission has launched two public consultations regarding CO₂ emissions: Consultation on the preparation of a legislative proposal on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the European Union's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitment in a 2030 perspective, and Addressing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and land use, land use change and forestry in the context of the 2030 EU climate and energy framework. Both consultation periods will close on **18 June 2015**. For more detailed information, and to comment the proposals, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0025_en.htm and

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0026_en.htm, respectively. In addition, the Commission has just launched a 12-week public Internet consultation on the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives. It is open to all until **24 July 2015**, and is available in 23 official languages of the EU. For more information on the fitness check see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/nature_fitness_check_en.htm.

Wise Use of Wetlands Conference in Ballybay, Ireland

A “Wise Use of Wetlands” conference will be held at Ballybay, County Monaghan in Ireland on **21 May 2015**. It is organized by the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee and supported by the Monaghan county council. The programme focuses on discussions and demonstration of how to adopt a wise use approach of wetlands in practice. It will also address the need of good planning, education and community action to ensure the conversation about the thoughtful use of wetland resources. You can find more information at www.irishwetlands.ie.

Future Earth Townhall Meeting in Helsinki

A “Future Earth Townhall” meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland on **26 May 2015**. It invites scientists and stakeholders from civil society, governance, and business to discuss and map out the key priorities in global change research, focusing on the need of establishing a new interaction and partnership culture between researchers and society. The workshop is organized by Future Earth Finland (Gloabalimuutostutkimuksen kansalliskomitea) - national committee for global change research. The committee acts as the national platform of the new strategic research initiative, Future Earth, which is coordinated by ICSU, ISSC, three UN organisations, and the Belmont forum. You can register by **20 May 2015** at <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/60487/lomake.html>.

Siberian Peat Resources Conference in Tomsk

The Third International Scientific and Practical Conference "Study and use of Siberian peat resources" will be held during **27 September - 2 October 2015** in Tomsk, Russia. The program focuses on research and peatland development, assessment of the ecological status of peat bogs, physico-chemical studies of peat, creating innovative products from peat, analysis of the effectiveness of peat preparations in various sectors, including agriculture etc. A round table on the topic of Peat Extraction and Processing is going to be held during the conference. Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to take part in trips to the peat deposits of Tomsk region. It is also planned to conduct the IPS Commission IV meeting with a trip to Tomsk Research Institute of balneology and physiotherapy. The conference is organized by International Peat Society, Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and Peat and Institute of Monitoring of Climatic and Ecological Systems. You can find more information at <http://ips2015tomsk.ru>.

Oil Palm, Biodiversity and Peat Fire Event in Riau, Indonesia

An International Seminar “Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Community: Co-existence of Oil Palm Plantation, Biodiversity and Peat Fire Prevention” is planned for **11 June 2015**, Aula LPPM Riau University. Main topics are sustainable palm oil (socioecology, anthropology, government policy), peat swamp ecosystems (hydrology, biodiversity, fire prevention), and the haze impact from medical and basic science perspective. Proceedings will be published at Scopus Index. Early bird registration closes on **18 May**. For more details: Harris Gunawan, haris1901 (at) gmail.com.

Revised Methodology for Carbon Accounting

Wetlands International (WI) announced that a breakthrough carbon accounting in tropical peatland rehabilitation/conservation projects is possible after the launch of a revised methodology. A consortium of partners (including Wetlands International) has worked on the development of modules and tools that provide guidance for carbon accounting in tropical Peatland rehabilitation and conservation projects (revisions of the VM0007 under the Verified Carbon Standard VCS). This methodology and its tools can be used to compare baseline emissions and carbon losses with project emissions. Project ‘gains’ can then be estimated. Once the reduced emissions are quantified and validated by using the methods that we developed these ‘project gains’ can be eventually sold on the carbon market. The methodology has been accepted by VCS and has been launched a few weeks ago: www.v-c-s.org/methodologies/redd-methodology-framework-redd-mf-v15 and www.ow.ly/MAh30.