

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.

New National Committee in China

The IPS Executive Board has accepted the application of the newly established Chinese National Committee, a joint organisation of the China Humic Acid Industry Association, its Peat Industry Branch and the Institute for Peat and Mire Research at Northeast Normal University, as 19th local association member. The Chinese National Committee has currently 21 individual and one corporate member and plans to actively increase its activities in the near future, including stakeholders from research, education, harvest, use, management and conservation of peat and peatlands. Professor Wang Shengzong has been nominated President, and Professor Meng Xianmin Secretary General of the National Committee. Professor Meng can be reached at the Institute of Peat and Mire Research, Northeast Normal University, No. 5268, Renmin Street, Changchun, 130024, China, phone/fax: 0-86-431-850 98072, email: mengxm3711 (at) 163.com. We very warmly welcome our new Chinese members!

Website of the 2016 Peat Congress Open

The Organising Committee of the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia has opened their brand new website. Please visit www.ipc2016.com to have a first glimpse of what will be on offer during this exciting event which is scheduled for **15 - 19 August 2016**. The website will be continuously updated and improved to have the latest information on the scientific and social programme available. Explore the site and, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Lulie Melling or one of her colleagues of the Conference Secretariat at [peat2016 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:peat2016@gmail.com). Of course you are also welcome to spread this news and share the link!

The International Peat Congress, with its about 700 attendees probably one of the largest peatland events, is held every four years in a member country of the IPS, hosted by the National Committees. The destination for the 2020 Congress will be decided at this year's Annual Assembly on 28 August, being either Estonia or the Netherlands.



15th International PEAT Congress 2016

15-19 August 2016
Sarawak, MALAYSIA

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↑ST ANNOUNCEMENT 

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Abstract Submission	30 NOVEMBER 2015
Deadline for Paper Submission	28 FEBRUARY 2016
Deadline for Early Bird Registration	30 MARCH 2016

Register for our Annual Meetings in Riga!

If you have not yet registered for the IPS Annual Meetings and the International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga, Latvia, **25 - 29 August**, it is time to take care of that task now. Please see www.peat2014.lv for the programme, and if you would like to give a presentation go to: www.peat2014.lv/#!for-thesis-applicants/c1kf6. For up to date info and discussions join also www.facebook.com/events/525128787604553. The invitation folders for National Committees and Secretaries with the agenda of the Annual Assembly and more information will be sent out later this month.

Growing Media 2030 - Seminar in Hanover, Germany

You are welcome to attend the seminar "Substrate 2030 – Anforderungen, Verfügbarkeit und Eigenschaften", dealing with requirements, availability and properties of growing media, in Hanover on **17 September 2014**. The one-day event includes presentations on future strategies for horticulture and their impacts on growing media, changes in practical requirements for substrates, and prospects for peat production in Germany and Europe. Moreover, composting and fermentation as competitors for growing media production, an analysis of the coir market, minerals in growing media, information on bark and wood availability and their use are on the agenda. The participants will also learn about environmental certification and social responsibility, and climate impacts of peat production and the use of peat for horticulture. The seminar is held in German. Registrations should be sent before **12 August** to the German Peat Society (DGMT), Jörn Kasch, Stilleweg 2, 30655 Hanover, Germany, email: kasch@dgmtev.de. Suggestions for posters can be submitted until **18 August**. More info: www.dgmtev.de. (*Gerfried Caspers / Silke Kumar*)

Ecotourism Session at Wetlands Conference in Spain

Kirsi Laurén and Minna Tanskanen will hold a session on "Wetlands as new stages of modern ecotourism" at the International Wetlands Conference: Wetlands Biodiversity and Services: Tools for Socio-Ecological Development in Huesca, Spain **14 - 18 September 2014**. In many countries, wetlands are an essential part of national parks and other conservation areas. During centuries, these areas have been used e.g. for hunting, fishing and gathering natural products and, in many places, they have been drained for agriculture, forestry and peat production as well. If confined into a national park, intensive use of mires has been forbidden and some of the areas have been restored to near-natural peatlands. In the 2000s, different kind of outdoor practices have found their ways to peatlands. Motives like a need to escape the modern hectic lifestyle and to experience both peace and challenges of wilderness have enlarged peatlands as destinations for ecotourism. In this session, we are prospecting presentations on socio-cultural viewpoints of ecotourism on wetlands and peatlands. If you are interested in joining, see the call for abstracts at www.wetlands2014.eu/calls (deadline is already **15 June!**) or register directly at www.wetlands2014.eu. (*Kirsi Laurén*)

European Ramsar Meeting in October

The 8th European Ramsar Meeting will be held on **20 - 24 October 2014** in Kufstein, Austria on invitation of the Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Deputy State Governor of Tyrol. The principal subjects to be addressed at the Meeting are:

- A European vision and targets for the new Ramsar Strategic Plan & how to create more synergies between EU instruments (policy, finance) and Ramsar
- European approaches concerning the major decisions to be taken by Ramsar COP12 in June 2015 in Uruguay
- Wetlands and agriculture (incl. presentations of the Czech and Norwegian plans)
- Ramsar Sites and their functions in the river basin and within ecological networks
- working on transboundary wetlands, Ramsar Sites and watersheds in Europe
- common operative problems among European Ramsar regional initiatives & what can the Ramsar Culture Network provide for European wetland management

Ramsar is inviting all those of you who would like to make a specific contribution to the Meeting (in an interactive session, through an oral, poster or film presentation) to let us know your proposal by **25 June**. For more information, see www.ramsar.org or contact [salathe \(at\) ramsar.org](mailto:salathe@ramsar.org). The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. (*Tobias Salathé & Laura Máiz*)