

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 43 countries.

Welcome to the International Peatland Society!

The Annual Assembly of the IPS has made an important milestone decision last week in Tullamore. As of 11 June 2015 the name of the Society changes to International Peatland Society, Kansainvälinen Suoyhdistys ry. This modification was proposed by the Executive Board of the IPS as the new name will better reflect today's broad activities of the Society. In addition, the Assembly has approved the following Mission and Vision for the IPS:

Vision:

To be the leading international organisation promoting the responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat.

Mission:

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.

Five Allan Robertson Grants for young IPS friends

The first winners of the new IPS 'Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals' were decided last week at the IPS Executive Board meeting in Tullamore, Ireland and announced at the end of the Convention closing dinner. Altogether there were 33 high quality applicants from 17 countries each of whom would have merited a grant. The winners are as follows:

- Joss Ratcliffe (Scotland): Age 25; Ph.D. Student at the University of the Highlands and Islands Thurso, who is studying ecosystem functioning in two bogs in New Zealand; his grant will go towards the cost of specialised scanning equipment.
- Anna-Helena Purre (Estonia): Age 26; Ph.D. student at the University of Tallinn who is studying carbon dioxide flux in forestry drained and restored peatlands; her grant will be used to assist with travel costs for field work.
- Nisa Novita (Indonesia): Age 28; Ph.D. student at Oregon State University in the USA who is studying greenhouse gas fluxes associated with land use changes in Indonesia; her grant will go towards the purchase of a replacement probe for a field meter and also conference travel.
- Sara Anne Thornton (23); Ph.D. student at the University of Leicester who is studying the benefits and values provided by tropical peat swamp forests in Borneo; her grant will help continue and complete field work.
- Tadgh Ó Corcora (30); Conservation Officer with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council; his grant will go towards the cost of equipment to undertake Sphagnum moss transfer for bog restoration and to train 10 volunteers.

In addition to these five grants the IPS Executive Board also decided to give all of the 33 applicants complimentary membership of the Society valid until the end of 2016. Congratulations to all winners, applicants and contributors!

Decisions of the Executive Board in Tullamore

The Executive Board of the IPS met in Tullamore, Ireland on 7 June 2015. At the meeting the EB:

- evaluated the IPS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and decided on its further implementation, including structure changes (proposal in November 2015), the appointment of Secretary General as project manager and the

- nomination of project leaders for each of the implementation teams. (<http://ow.ly/Otwn8>)
- followed-up, together with the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), progress on the International Peat Congress 2016 in Kuching, Malaysia, with special regard to the programme, the review process, key notes, sponsorship, pre-registrations, the call for papers, a special issue of Mires&Peat and a pre-congress visit in August 2015. For details on arrangements see www.ipc2016.com.
 - started the "Cooperative Strategies for the Wise Use of Peatlands" project, being introduced at the Commission 2 meeting in Tullamore.
 - noted the final Annual Report 2014 submitted to the Annual Assembly (www.peatociety.org/about-us)
 - evaluated the financial status of IPS as of 30 April 2015, including National Committee and industrial fees 2015-2016, advertisements in Peatlands International, and additional external funding
 - decided on an IPS contribution for invited peatland speakers at the SER 2015 conference in Manchester
 - approved the use of the IPS logo for the "Third International Scientific and Practical Conference: Study and use of Siberian peat resources" in Tomsk, Russia, **27 September - 2 October 2015**, <http://ips2015tomsk.ru>, and "Peat Use in Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics", Valkeakoski, Finland, **3 - 4 July 2015**
 - re-opened the bidding process for the IPS Jubilee Symposium 2018 to all National Committees and professional congress organisers.
 - noted important peat and peatland events in 2015-2016, and evaluated IPS participation.
 - decided on attendance of a founding meeting of the Chinese NC in July, all costs to be covered externally
 - welcomed Neil Godsman and Richard Clymo from the United Kingdom as IPS Honorary members.
 - approved a new individual member from Russia.

The next EB meeting will be held during **23 - 24 November 2015** in Düsseldorf, Germany.

New Office Address

Since 22 May 2015, the IPS Secretariat has a new office in a startup business center together with other small companies and associations. The new post box address is: **Nisulankatu 78, 40720 Jyväskylä**, Finland. Phone numbers of the staff remain the same, email and website change to www.peatlands.org. Photos of the new venue, our move and the official opening reception: www.peatlands.org/about-us/secretariat and www.startupleipomo.fi/tilakonsepti.

Me&Peat Photo Contest 2015

The IPS Secretariat has received 11 photos from 5 persons for the Me&Peat contest. Thank you very much for participating! All photographs were printed and displayed at the Tullamore Court Hotel during 7-11 June and will also be visible in **Peatlands International 2.2015**. After that, the Secretariat will honour the best contributions. To have a view online, visit [www.dropbox.com/sh/vi906ziq2blrlvn/AAB-yQHQCuoOzjKg8crdbula?dl=0!](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/vi906ziq2blrlvn/AAB-yQHQCuoOzjKg8crdbula?dl=0)

Excursion to Central Finland in August

The Finnish Peatland Society will visit Jyväskylä and its surroundings for this year's summer excursion. Participants will be able to get to know the area's pristine peatlands in the Leivonmäki and Pyhä-Häkki National Parks, as well as see restoration of forested sites and peat production areas in Joutsa. The trip starts on **17 August** and lasts for two days, including accommodation at the famous Varjolan tila in Kuusa. The registration fee amounts to € 140, please register by contacting tuula.larmola (at) gmail.com by **22 June**. More information: www.suoseura.fi.

EC Circular Economy Consultation

The European Commission has opened a Public Consultation on the Circular Economy. "Global competition for resources is increasing. Supply concentration of resources, particularly critical raw materials outside the European Union, makes European industry and society dependent on imports and increasingly vulnerable to high prices, market volatility, and the political situation in supplying countries. At the same time, natural resources are often used unsustainably across the globe, causing additional pressure on raw materials, environmental degradation and threats to ecosystems. A 'circular economy' aims to maintain the value of the materials and energy used in products in the value chain for the optimal duration, thus minimising waste and resource use." Comments can be submitted online at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/circular-economy>.