

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.

280 Peat Experts met for IPS Convention and Baltic Forum

More than 280 representatives of peat producers, suppliers and service providers as well as peatland scientists from 28 countries have met during **24 - 29 August** in Riga, the capital of Latvia, for the IPS Convention and the traditional Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2014. On the agenda were nine sessions on peat properties, peat production, site planning, peat use in horticulture and energy, peatland restoration and conservation, drained organic soils, culture and education. In addition, many of the IPS Commissions held their own workshops or excursions. Most participants came from Latvia (62) and Lithuania (38), but a large amount of guests attended also from Finland (29), Estonia (27), Germany (25), the Netherlands (22), Sweden (11) and Russia (10). Keynote speeches were given by Mr Romans Naudins, Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, Professor Björn Hånell, President of the IPS, Dr Norbert Siebels of Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH, Germany; Dr Ilze Ozola and Renars Skudra of the Latvian Peat Producers Association, Professor Jack Rieley on IPS' work with international conventions; and Mr Hannu Salo, IPS Secretary General, on the IPS Strategy and future challenges to the organisation. Of special interest were the Baltic presentations on 28 August and an informative update on the planning of the International Peat Congress 2016 in Kuching by three representatives of the Malaysian IPS National Committee on 24 August. On the last day, 29 August, the participants headed for three different excursions to the city of Riga, peat production sites and Turaida castle, or to Kemer National Park and Rundale castle to continue discussions and for networking. IPS will publish a report in Peatlands International and presentations will be made available online soon. For more info: www.peat2014.lv.

International Conventions Report finalised

The IPS has launched its report on "International Conventions, Agencies, Agreements and Programmes – implications for peat and peatland management", edited by Jack Rieley and Sandra Lubinaite. The much-awaited and detailed 54-page report, which describes 20 organisations like CBD, UNFCCC, FAO, IPCC and IUCN and their relationships, can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org/conventions2014. We would like to thank all who participated in this work.

IPS Award of Excellence to Professor RS Clymo

The Award of Excellence of the International Peat Society was handed over to Professor Richard "Dicky" Clymo from the United Kingdom during the Gala Dinner in Riga on 28 August. Professor Jack Rieley, Chair of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board, stated in his nomination: "Professor Clymo is one of the best known and most prestigious peatland scientists of our time. His career spans some 50 years of which he has been a member of IPS for 40 years. He has published widely on many aspects of peatlands and peat but also wetlands in general in many peer reviewed scientific journals; he has published several books and contributed to numerous others. His scientific publications have received more citations (almost 7,000) than anyone else I know. His contribution to peatland and peat ecology and science is inestimable and virtually every other peatland scientist has read his papers and cited them in their work." The Executive Board and staff of the IPS sends their warm congratulations to the pleasant and highly skilled winner.

International Peat Congress 2020 goes to Estonia!

The most important event of the IPS, the International Peat Congress with some 700-800 participants, will be held in Tallinn in June 2020. The Estonian National Committee applied with an impressive tentative programme, venue and variety of excursions, which were appreciated by the decision-makers. At the Annual Assembly of the IPS, the Dutch National Committee withdrew their bid to host the event after which all National Representatives decided to go with the proposal of the Executive Board. We will keep you informed, be prepared for this extraordinary event!

New Executive Board for the IPS

At the IPS Annual Assembly in Riga on 28 August, representatives from 13 National Committees voted for a new Executive Board to replace the three EB members whose term ended this year. The new Executive Board 2014-2016 consists of:

Function	Name and country	Term of office
President	Björn Hånell, Sweden	2012 - 2016
1st Vice President	Guus van Berckel, Germany/Netherlands	2012 - 2016
2nd Vice President	Jack Rieley, United Kingdom	2012 - 2016

Ordinary members (2-6)

Donal Clarke, Ireland	2012 - 2016
Paul Short, Canada	2012 - 2016
Samu Valpola, Finland	2012 - 2016
Moritz Böcking, Germany	2014 - 2018
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	2014 - 2018
Claes Rülcker, Sweden	2014 - 2018

We warmly thank Valerijs Kozlovs and Lech Szajdak, who head for new challenges, for their work for the IPS. For the full contact details of all EB members, see www.peatsociety.org/about-us/executive-board.

IPS Convention 2015 in Tullamore, Ireland

The Irish National Committee of the IPS invites all members for the 2015 IPS Annual Convention to Tullamore, Ireland. The meetings will take place in association with a "Colloquy on The Peatland Experience" from **7 - 12 June 2015** in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly, Ireland organised by the Irish Peat Society.

The Colloquy will begin with The Irish Experience, a day-long journey around all aspects of peatlands and their uses, providing a hands-on experience relevant to the subjects that will be covered during the Colloquy. This first day will be essential for all attending, as it will set the scene for the following days as well as being a comprehensive and fun-filled journey through the peatlands and communities of the midlands. The Colloquy will be opened by two contrasting inspirational keynote speakers. The rest of the time will be divided between

- Master-classes, sessions designed to impart relevant knowledge and skills from experts to participants;
- Interactive poster sessions at which the authors of some 30+ posters will each make a five-minute presentation followed by questions and discussion; and
- 'Fireside chats' which will combine discussion of different perspectives on peatland issues with enjoyable social occasions.

A Mistress/Master of Ceremonies (MC) will co-ordinate and motivate the Colloquy. Keynote speakers, poster presenters and mentors of Master-classes and fireside chats will be asked to be present for the whole Colloquy. The purpose of the Colloquy is to communicate experience and convey instruction and learning to everybody participating. This will be a unique opportunity to consider new perspectives, develop new skills and enjoy the rich peatland fabric of the Irish midlands. More information will be available soon, stay updated at www.peatsociety.org/tullamore2015.

Fiona Mwacharo new intern for the IPS

In autumn 2014, the IPS Secretariat in Jyväskylä will be supported by Ms Fiona Mwacharo from Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Supply Chain Management and Logistics, and is currently in her second year pursuing a Master's degree studying Corporate Environmental Management. "From my current studies I have developed an interest in Sustainable Development which then led me to seek an internship at IPS. I have studied the basics of peat formation and use and I would like to gain more practical information about it, especially its sustainable use, and an internship at IPS would be the ideal platform to do this." Ms Mwacharo can be contacted at [fiona.mwacharo \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:fiona.mwacharo@peatsociety.org). Ms Sandra Lubinaite, who has been IPS Office Assistant and intern since May 2013 will finish her work this week and she thanks all those who have cooperated with her during the last few months.