

The International Peat Society (IPS) is a non-governmental, non-profit multidisciplinary organisation of scientific, industrial and regulatory members both individual and institutional. The mission of the IPS is to bring people and organisations together to foster the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

Record Number of Abstracts for IPC Stockholm 2012!

By the final abstract deadline at the end of November, the organizing Committee of the Stockholm International Peat Congress had received almost 450 abstracts – this must be one of the highest numbers in IPS history! We therefore expect a great Congress with a diverse variety of high quality topics to be presented and discussed. Time is flying by, there are only five months left before the 14th International Peat Congress “Peatlands in Balance” in Stockholm, Sweden on **3 - 8 June 2012**. Whether you are a peatland scientist or student, energy and growing media specialist, peat producer, land use manager or horticulturist: Do not miss this opportunity and sign up as soon as possible at www.ipc2012.se to come with us to meet your colleagues and learn face-to-face about latest research findings, new technologies, recent developments, funding opportunities and much more on a truly international level! See you in Sweden!



Peatlands International 2/2011 in your Mailbox



Peatlands International 2/2011 is ready and will be sent out by post to all IPS members during the first weeks of January. If you are a member of the National Committees in Canada, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and USA, you will receive your copy with a letter from the local IPS office, most likely in combination with material in your language. If you are living in Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and countries without a National Committee, you will receive the magazine directly from the IPS Secretariat in Finland. The full content list can be seen at www.peatsociety.org/publications/peatlands-international and additional copies can be ordered for € 25 including mailing costs from our online shop soon. Articles for Peatlands International 1/2012 must be sent to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) not later than **28 February 2012**, please remember to submit all illustrations as separate high resolution jpg files including captions and your full contact details.

IPS Award of Excellence 2012 – Submit your proposal!

The €1,000 IPS Award of Excellence can now be presented also to projects and groups for any peat and peatland activity. Proposals can be sent by letter or email to the IPS Secretariat, or easily

submitted directly on the IPS website – including the contact details of the applying person and the nominee(s) plus an explanation why the Award should be given to that special person, group or project. All proposals are reviewed by the IPS Executive Board in March and the Award is presented at the IPS Annual Assembly in Stockholm in June. More information and the online application form can be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/award-excellence. Deadline for nominations is strictly **31 January 2012**.

IPS Executive Board Elections 2012 – Nomination deadline 31 January

The representatives of the 19 IPS National Committees will elect a new Executive Board at the Annual Assembly in Stockholm on 8 June. Nominations for the open positions can be sent by all IPS National Committees (that have paid their membership fees) to the IPS Secretariat until **31 January 2012**, including an application letter and a CV of the person concerned. Please indicate clearly for which post(s) you are nominating. The following forthcoming vacant posts will be filled:

| Function | At present | Status | Term of office |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>President</i> | <i>Donal Clarke, Ireland</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2008 – 2012</i> |
| <i>1st Vice President</i> | <i>Björn Hånell, Sweden</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2008 – 2012</i> |
| <i>2nd Vice President</i> | <i>Paul Short, Canada</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2010 – 2012</i> |

Ordinary members (2-6)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Satu Helynen, Finland (not for re-election)</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2008 – 2012</i> |
| <i>Jutta Zeitz, Germany (not for re-election)</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2010 – 2012</i> |
| <i>Open position</i> | <i>To be elected.</i> | <i>2010 – 2012</i> |
| Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia | Stays in office. | 2010 – 2014 |
| Erki Niitlaan, Estonia | Stays in office. | 2010 – 2014 |
| Lech Szajdak, Poland | Stays in office. | 2010 – 2014 |

The detailed rules for nominations and elections are sent directly to all National Committees and can be found also in the IPS Statutes and Internal Regulations at www.peatsociety.org/about-us.

IPS Commission Chairs + Scientific Advisory Board Elections 2012

The IPS Executive Board invites nominations for the position of Chair of its nine Commissions, who are at the same time members of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. The IPS Executive Board appoints the Chairperson of each Commission in the year of a Quadrennial Congress either by the proposal of the Commission concerned or by its own initiative. Nominations should be sent by email to the IPS Secretariat, including a CV of the person concerned, and each nomination must be supported by at least two IPS members. The term of office of the Commission Chairpersons is four (4) years, and they are eligible for one re-election. More information about the work of the Commissions, their contact details and Annual Reports can be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups.

Lech Szajdak New Chair of Polish National Committee of IPS

Prof. Dr. Lech Wojciech Szajdak was elected new President of the IPS Polish National Committee during their meeting on 1 September 2011. He can be contacted at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, ul. Bukowska 19, PL-60-809 Poznan, Poland,

phone: +48 61 847 5601, fax: +48 61 847 3668, email: szajlech (at) man. poznan.pl, lszajdak (at) tlen.pl. Prof. Szajdak is also member of the Executive Board of the IPS. Vice Presidents of the National Committee are now Prof. Dr. Andrzej Lachacz from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn and Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Lipka from Krakow Agricultural University, supported by Secretary Dr. Katarzyna Styla from the Academy of Sciences. The contact details of all IPS National Committees can be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees.

New joint Bioenergy Organisation in Finland

On **12 December 2011**, forty-six organisations and people dealing with different aspects of bioenergy in Finland signed a cooperation contract to form The Bioenergy Association of Finland (Bioenergia ry in Finnish), a new association bundling bioenergy interests in that country. By **1 June 2012**, the activities of FINBIO - The Bioenergy Association of Finland, the Finnish Pellet Energy Association, the Finnish Wood Energy Association and the Association of Finnish Peat Industries will unite their activities and staff under the newly established body. The headquarters of Bioenergia ry will be in Helsinki; new Chair of the Board is Esa Lindholm, Managing Director of Kuopion Energia Oy. In the near future, a Managing Director, three sector managers, a communications officer and an assistant as well as possible regional managers will be appointed. The Bioenergy sector in Finland has a turnover of almost three billion euros, and employs directly and indirectly some 20,000 persons annually. New technologies are developed all the time. The main share of renewable energy use in Finland is coming from wood biomass now and in the future. For more information, please visit www.tiny.cc/py0wg. (*Association of Finnish Peat Industries*)

Call for Papers: European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2012 is being held in Vienna, Austria on **22 - 27 April 2012**. The EGU General Assembly 2012 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists, it is the aim of the EGU to provide a forum where they can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. Sessions including peat topics are, for instance:

- *BG2.5: Peatlands and the Carbon Cycle*
- *BG2.2: Towards a full GHG balance from the biosphere. How important are N2O and CH4 emissions in different ecosystems? How difficult is it to measure and to model their emission?*
- *CR5.60: Glacier Monitoring from In-situ and Remotely Sensed Observations*
- *SSS10.2: Natural archives of human impacts, palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic changes*
- *SSS7.1: Ash and Biochar in the Environment*
- *GI3.1: Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar*
- *SSS3.5: Charcoal in the environment*
- *SSS13.4: Small-format aerial photography for monitoring geomorphological processes and landscape patterns*

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **17 January 2012**. All additional information and further session themes can be found at www.egu2012.eu. (*Claudio Zaccone*)

Extended Abstract Deadline for INTECOL 2012: 8 January

The Organizers of “Wetlands in a Complex World”, to be held in Orlando, Florida, USA on **3 - 8 June 2012** (note: same dates as International Peat Congress!) have extended their abstract

submission deadline to **8 January 2012**. All individuals working in ecological, physical, biogeochemical and social sciences pertinent to wetland management and policy are invited to submit abstracts describing their efforts, science, projects and results. INTECOL 9 provides a forum for wetlands scientists from around the world to discuss threats, challenges and integrated solutions for sustainable restoration and management of wetlands in our changing world. Additional information can be obtained from www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/intecol.

Call for Papers: Ecosystem Behavior Conference in Maine, USA in July 2012

Welcome to BIOGEOMON 2012: The 7th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behavior will be held at the University of Maine, USA during **15 - 20 July 2012**. BIOGEOMON's continued emphasis is on biogeochemistry as an evolving and integrated discipline, including research at the watershed, landscape, ecosystem, and global scale. The primary goals of this conference are to provide a forum for the dissemination and discussion of recent research findings, to explore future directions for biogeochemical research, and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers of all ages. The organizers hope to continue the honoured tradition of bringing you an excellent forum in which to meet new friends and colleagues and to exchange new and exciting ideas with our ever expanding community of scientists. Official abstract deadline is **3 January**, early-bird registration will be closed on **2 March 2012**. More information can be obtained from the conference website at www3.villanova.edu/conferences/biogeomon. (*Klaus-Holger Knorr*)

Nordic Water 2012 Conference in Oulu, Finland

The XXVII Nordic Hydrological Conference on "Catchment Restoration and Water Protection" will be held at the University of Oulu, Finland during **13 - 15 August 2012**. The Conference is being organized by the Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Laboratory of the University of Oulu in co-operation with Thule Institute and the Finnish Hydrological Association on behalf of the Nordic Association for Hydrology (NHf). Registration and abstract submission to Nordic Water 2012 are now open. Participants who wish to give a presentation (oral or poster) must submit their abstracts by **1 February 2012**. Conference themes include, among others, climate and hydrology, groundwater systems, land-use, hydrology and water quality, catchment and river restoration, wetlands and peatland hydrology, global change, water resources and ecosystems, modelling, methods, and practices in hydrology and management, decision support and knowledge uptake. All additional information can be found at www.nhf-hydrology.org. (*Hannu Hökkä*)

Moritz Böcking new Joint Managing Director of Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH

Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH has a new managing director. Moritz Böcking is taking over the responsibilities of Dr Hans-Georg Belka, who is retiring at the end of 2011. Mr. Böcking will act as joint managing director of the company together with Dr. Norbert Siebels, who has been managing director of Klasmann-Deilmann since 1990. Moritz Böcking joined Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH's directorial team with effect from 1 October 2011. He is taking on the remit for which Dr. Belka was previously responsible, which includes business administration, raw-materials production and human resources. Mr. Böcking will also be in charge of the Renewable Energies and Resources business unit. The 41-year-old has wide-ranging experience in the field of alternative energy and of a family-owned, internationally minded enterprise. Klasmann-Deilmann is global market leader in the international substrate industry. In the 2011 financial year Klasmann-Deilmann will generate a turnover of €150 million, with their European sites producing 3.3 million m³ of growing media, potting soils and quality composts from green waste. The Klasmann-Deilmann Group employs almost 900 staff worldwide. For the full press release, please see www.tiny.cc/py0wg. (*Maria Erdwin*)