

PEAT NEWS



Newsletter for members and friends of the International Peat Society

No 3/2012, 19 April 2012

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.

Only 6 weeks to go – International Peat Congress 2012!

If you have not registered yet, please visit www.ipc2012.se still today to be part of the largest peatland event every four years. The 14th International Peat Congress is held on **3 - 8 June 2012** in Stockholm, Sweden. More than 400 presentations will deal with all aspects of peatland and mire management, from growing media, horticulture and energy use to agricultural applications, pristine mire research, bog rehabilitation, tropical peatlands, balneology, culture and climate issues.



Almost 500 persons have signed up already – and more are to come. Please reserve your hotel room and excursion place now together with your registration.

A detailed list of sessions, excursions and social events as well as the full 2nd circular and a preliminary programme are now posted at the Congress website. As IPS member you will also receive a significant **discount on registration fees** – just remember to check the member box when registering!

The programme consists of oral and poster presentations, 15 parallel mid-conference tours on all possible peat topics, a large supplier's exhibition, one pre-congress excursion for students and one for peat producers, as well as two different tours after the Congress trip to Northern Sweden.

Go to www.ipc2012.se, get familiar with all possibilities and sign up still today. If you want, you can "join" the event also online at Facebook and LinkedIn and share with your colleagues: www.facebook.com/events/165861211452 and <http://events.linkedin.com/14th-international-peat-congress-825580>. We look forward to meeting you in Sweden!

Organisational Changes to the IPS Secretariat

The organisation of the IPS Secretariat will change significantly in June/July 2012 when the Association of Finnish Peat Industries, with whom IPS is now sharing offices, moves under the umbrella of the new Finnish Bioenergy Association to Helsinki. IPS will keep offices in Jyväskylä with Jaakko Silpola as part-time Secretary General, Susann Warnecke as Communications Manager and Birgit Hyyryläinen as part-time Office Manager and Accountant. New premises are currently being sought. To finance a stand-alone Secretariat, National Committees and industry members will be asked for an increase of membership fees by 5 - 7.5%, respectively, in each 2012 and 2013. We believe that this change is benefiting IPS as a whole, as strengths are bundled, and we look forward to continue cooperating with you, our partners, friends and colleagues.

Member Access to the IPS Website – Log in for more!

Since this year, all IPS members have the possibility to see and edit their member information on the IPS website, even if they have joined IPS via one of our 17 National Committees. Member IDs and passwords were sent out by email in December, and here is how to log in and retrieve your information in case it got lost: Visit www.peatsociety.org, and click on "log in" in the upper left corner. Then you can log in using the email address (usually the one to which we send Peat News) and your personal password – or click the tab "Request new password" if you do not have your original password. Please do not register/open a new account if you are an IPS member already, e.g. receive Peatlands International and Peat News. In case you are not sure about your membership status or need additional help, just contact [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). Much information on the IPS website is now available to members only, such as IPS conference proceedings, other publications, the peat dictionary and the list of members that have opened their contact data by clicking the "show my information" box in their personal member profile. Have a look!

IPS Executive Board Giving Directions in Dublin

The IPS Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board met during **9 - 11 March** in Dublin, Ireland. At its meeting, the Executive Board dealt with the coming arrangements of the IPS Secretariat, confirmed the election processes of Executive Board members and Commission Chairs in Stockholm in June, discussed the status of the Czech National Committee and welcomed new IPS members. In addition, the EB approved the Annual Report, income statement and balance of the IPS for 2011 for submission to the Annual Assembly of National Representatives in Stockholm. The Annual Report will be published together with Peatlands International 1/2012.

The EB also had a view at the status and costs of the new IPS website and evaluated membership fee payments 2010-2011. Only those National Committees that have paid their fees will be allowed to vote at the Annual Assembly. A completely new strategy and work programme, plan of activities,

budget and membership fees 2012-2013 were confirmed for submission to the Annual Assembly. This will include, among others, plans for a global peatland rehabilitation guide and map of existing projects, a broad-scale survey of extent and uses of peatlands similar to Lappalainen's Global Peat Resources, and projects for conservation and management of peatlands in emerging nations, as well as stronger cooperation with countries that do not yet have a local IPS office. These projects were thoroughly discussed with the Scientific Advisory Board and progress will be made soon.

Finally, the EB decided on the winner of the 2012 Award of Excellence (still secret!) and gave IPS honorary membership to Dr. Jean-Yves Daigle from Canada. During the Sunday part of the meeting, the Board planned the review session for the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management in Stockholm and noted reports on the implication of the document in national peatland strategies and certification processes in Europe and Canada. For Stockholm, the EB also agreed on the procedures of the National Committee Round Table, Annual Assembly and General Assembly, where major elections will take place. All IPS members and others interested are very welcome to join these sessions on Friday morning, **8 June**.

Further on, the EB also discussed contents and format of the Peatlands International magazine, features of the IPS online member and document database, and confirmed IPS funding for the joint IPS-IMCG journal *Mires and Peat*. Prof. Frank Chambers, University of Gloucestershire, UK and Prof. Jutta Zeitz, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany were approved as new members of the Editorial Board of the journal, which can be accessed at www.mires-and-peat.net.

At the end of the meeting, the EB confirmed that extended abstracts of the International Peat Congress 2012 will be published in the member section on the IPS website not earlier than early 2013 to increase participation in the Congress. It suggested that an international peat symposium on a broad range of topics, such as technology, after-use and rewetting, could be held in Riga in 2014 in cooperation with the Latvian National Committee. More detailed information is available to IPS members soon via the "EB decisions in a nutshell".

IPS Commission I Meeting in Stockholm

IPS Commission I announces that its meeting will be held in Stockholm at the IPC 2012 on Tuesday, 5 June at 16:20 hrs. The IPS Commission I embraces inventory, stratigraphy and conservation of peatlands, also non-members are very welcome to participate. Included in this context are ecology, geology, hydrology, biology and terminology. Peat formation is also an issue. The Commission I addresses all IPS members interested in its activities. This quadrennial meeting is important and the future activities will be discussed and a Chairman suggested. Please note this meeting time and participate. An agenda will be presented later. (*Chair Lars Lundin*)

Finnish Autumn Excursion to Eastern Lapland

Suoseura ry, the Finnish National Committee of IPS, is organising an autumn excursion to the Aapa mires of Eastern Lapland, taking place from **3 to 5 September 2012**. The participants will meet in Rovaniemi and visit the following sites:

- Pilke House of Metsähallitus Rovaniemi www.sciencecentre-pilke.fi/pilke-house
- Combined heat and power plant Suosiola of Rovaniemen Energia, Mustikkamaa heating plant project www.ren.fi and www.mustikkamaanvoimalaitos.fi
- Peatland forestry site of Metsähallitus at Vanttauskoski (driving Kemijärvi-Salla-Naruska)
- Overnight stay, dinner and sauna at Kenttälammen Eräkeskus, Naruska, Salla

- http://loma.salla.fi/fi/tuotekortit/kenttalammen_erakeskus
- Mining project and mires at Sokli www.sokli.fi
 - Tulppion tisko outdoor holiday centre www.tulppionmajat.fi
 - Samperin savotta at Kemijoki river www.samperi.com
 - Mire conservation area Viiankiaapa
www.luontoon.fi/Retkikohteet/muutsuojelualueet/Viiankiaapa
 - Overnight stay, dinner and sauna in Luosto www.luosto.fi
 - Amethyst mine Lampivaara www.amethystmine.fi
 - National Park Pyhä-Luosto and its Nature Centre Naava
www.laplandpyha.fi/activities/?file=content_exec&id=2233
 - MTT Agrifood Research Finland Apukka research station in Rovaniemi
www.rovaniemi.fi/suomeksi/Palveluhakemisto/Asuminen/Asuinymparisto/Puistot/Arboretum_Apukka.iw3

The excursion is held in Finnish and registrations can be sent to Birgit Hyyryläinen, birgit.hyyrylainen (at) turveteollisuusliitto.fi on a first-come first-serve basis. The price of the tour is € 180 including bus transport, accommodation and lunches. More information on the excursion and the Finnish Peatland Society can be found at www.suoseura.fi and for updates you can follow www.facebook.com/pages/Suoseura/203209399752213.

IMCG Field Symposium 2012 in the Andes

The International Mire Conservation Group will hold its 2012 Field Symposium in Ecuador and Colombia during **21 September - 3 October 2012**. The programme includes excursions to East and South of Quito, stakeholder meetings, excursions to North and East of Bogota, a seminar at Universidad de los Andes in Bogota and the IMCG General Assembly. The costs are estimated to € 850 for IMCG members and € 950 for non-members. This sum includes food, accommodation (in twin rooms) and inland travel, but no flights from and to Quito and Bogota. For more information, please see the IMCG newsletter (end of March) and the IMCG website at www.imcg.net.

ASEAN Workshop on Peatland Fires and Early Warning

The ASEAN Secretariat and the Global Environment Centre (GEC) jointly organised a workshop on "Peatland Fires and Early Warning Systems" on **20 - 21 March 2012** in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop was attended by 38 invited speakers and guests from key technical institutions, representatives from the Regional Southeast Asia Wildland Fire Science and Management Network and representatives of ASEAN Member States Haze Focal Points. The workshop is a part of the APFP and SEApeat Project funded by IFAD-GEF and the European Union, respectively. A summary of the event and presentations of the workshop can be downloaded at www.aseanpeat.net/index.cfm?&menuid=170&parentid=10. (GEC)

Peatland Forest Ranger Programme in Malaysia

Students in Malaysia have learned peat facts during the Peatland Forest Ranger Programme of the Global Environment Centre in Malaysia. The environmental programme was introduced to educate school children on the importance of environmental protection, particularly of the peat swamp forest. The pilot phase of the programme was held from **9 - 11 March** targeted at secondary school children from four neighbouring schools around Raja Musa Forest Reserve in Kuala Selangor, Malaysia. For more info, see www.gec.org.my/index.cfm?&menuid=239&parentid=92. (GEC)