

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.

## Call for Papers and Second Circular for 14<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress 2012

The International Peat Society warmly invites all peat and peatland experts, from science, industry and other organisations, to join us at the 14th International Peat Congress in Stockholm next year, on **3 - 8 June 2012**. The Second Announcement, a pre-registration form and more information on the Congress is now available at [www.ipc2012.se](http://www.ipc2012.se). Please note especially the following deadlines:

<i>Registration opening:</i>	<i>31 October 2011</i>
<i>Deadline for submission of abstracts:</i>	<i>31 October 2011</i>
<i>Notification of accept/reject:</i>	<i>1 December 2011</i>
<i>Author registration deadline:</i>	<i>15 April 2012</i>
<i>Early bird registration deadline:</i>	<i>28 February 2012</i>
<i>Final programme:</i>	<i>May 2012</i>
<i>The Congress:</i>	<i>3 - 8 June 2012</i>

We look forward to meeting you in Sweden and to experience “Peatlands in Balance”. Let’s make this an extraordinary event, for the benefit of all peatlands, peat and the people working with them!

## Dr. Line Rochefort Winner of the IPS Award of Excellence 2011

The IPS Award of Excellence 2011 went to Dr. Line Rochefort of Université Laval, Québec, Canada. Prof. Rochefort holds a PhD and is a full Professor at the University’s Department of Plant Sciences. In addition, she has been holding the Industrial Research Chair for Peatland Management (Natural Science and Engineering Research, NSERC) since 2003, mainly specializing in peatland restoration. Her scientific activities include restoration ecology, peatlands ecology (fen and bogs), Sphagnum biology, bryophyte ecology, ecosystem experiments, plant-soil interactions in mosses, ecosystem rehabilitation and Sphagnum farming. She is actively collaborating with the Canadian peat industry for peatland restoration after peat extraction in fens and bogs, for berry and tree production on peatlands, for Sphagnum farming and recently with oil sands companies researching ways to recreate fens after the decommission of sites, and with polymetallic mining companies to restore peatlands-wetlands for their filtration capacities. Last but not least, Dr. Rochefort works as expert advisor for different levels of government in Canada and within the Canadian provinces where peatlands are involved, including departments of agriculture, forestry, environment, natural resources and transport. For the IPS, Dr. Line Rochefort was Chair of Commission V on “Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands” for many years, has organised numerous conferences, symposia and workshops on different peatland matters and had a large share in editing the IPS guide to organising scientific events. The IPS Award of Excellence was launched in 2005 and comprises of a framed scroll and a cash prize of €1000. Nominations for the Award can be submitted by all members to the IPS Secretariat by **31 January** of each year. The Executive Board of IPS will review the Terms of Reference in autumn to make the application process easier. More information can also be found at <http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103>.

## Greetings from a Fantastic Québec Symposium

Approximately 250 peat, peatland and growing media experts had joined the “Symposium on Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production”, held during **13 - 17 June** in Québec City, Canada. Among them were at least one hundred IPS members, including most IPS Executive Board members, several members of the Scientific Advisory Board, representatives of our National Committees, the Secretary General, Communications Manager and many more. We experienced a week full of knowledge, of enthusiastic and highly motivated researchers, of hard-working professional gardeners and peat producers, of true commitment and good spirit towards communication and information exchange in all fields of peat use, responsible management of peatlands and the development of alternative materials for horticulture. The business meetings of IPS were well attended - but even more attendees could be found of course during the symposium sessions and social events! About 110 presentations were given in 13 sessions, spiced up by a large number of scientific posters and a well-organised exhibition of different companies and organisations. The proceedings of the conference will be published in [Acta Horticulturae](#) and a photo collection will be made available at the [Facebook site of the IPS](#). The symposium was organised in cooperation with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and much support was given by the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA). We warmly thank all colleagues, friends and partners who made this event possible!

## Changes to the Statutes and Internal Regulations of the IPS

The Annual Assembly of the International Peat Society was held on **14 June 2011** in Québec City, Canada, attended by representatives of 12 National Committees (Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States) and some 20 observers. The Assembly approved the annual accounts of IPS of the previous year and accept the budget and membership fees of the current year, but also decided on a number of changes to the Statutes of the Society. Among others, the Vision, Mission and Objectives of our organisation were reviewed and adapted to today’s requirements, and it was decided that the Annual Assembly in the years of International Peat Congresses will elect the President and Vice Presidents of the IPS instead of only nominating them. The maximum number of ordinary members of the Executive Board was retained at six. This spring, the IPS Executive Board had already reviewed the Internal Regulations of the organisation. Both documents can be downloaded at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=5](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=5). The next Annual Assembly will be held in Stockholm, Sweden in early June 2012, during the 14<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress.

## Johannes Welsch New General Manager of German Garden Industry Association

Mr. Johannes Welsch, who has lead the Bundesverband für Torf- und Humuswirtschaft (BTH), the German peat and humus producer’s association, and thereby been a partner of IPS for many years, will be responsible for developing new service offers in his new function as General Manager of the Industrieverband Garten, the German Garden Industry Association, from **1 July 2011**. Mr. Welsch can be contacted at Industrieverband Garten, phone: +49 21 02 / 94 08 50, email: verband (at) ivg.org. More information on his organisation can also be found at [www.ivg.org](http://www.ivg.org).

## Society of Wetland Scientists Meets in Prague

A joint conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control (WETPOL) and the Wetland Biogeochemistry Symposium will be held in Prague, Czech Republic on **3 - 8 July 2011**. The final programme of the conference includes at least 40 oral and poster presentations on mire and peatland matters. Please visit [www.sws2011.com](http://www.sws2011.com) to register.