

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.

Final Programme ready - Pack your bag for the Congress!

If you have not yet registered and printed your flight tickets it might be soon too late! There are currently 535 participants from 33 countries registered for the International Peat Congress in Stockholm on **3 - 8 June** - THE major peat and peatland event this year - and you could be one of them.



Please visit quickly www.ipc2012.se and register if you have not done that yet! The **full Congress Programme** with the titles and time slots of all presentations is now freshly posted at the Congress website, so there is much new knowledge and networking to look forward too. Have a look!

We especially invite you to attend the Commission meetings on Sunday and Tuesday, the popular "Growing Media in Balance" workshop on Tuesday, and the exciting fifteen Field Trips on Wednesday. You are also very welcome to the presentations and a panel discussion on the Future of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management, and the IPS Annual Assemblies for all Congress participants on Friday morning. See you in Sweden!!!

WANTED: Research and Project Proposals for 2012-2016

The International Peat Society is looking for research topics for the years until the next International Peat Congress in Malaysia. Which topics should IPS and our members mainly look at? Which are future projects, what themes and tasks are our members interested in? Please submit your short proposals for projects, study groups, publications or events now by email to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) or fill in the written questionnaire at the Congress. We will help you to make your dreams come true, as long as they deal with peat and peatland research and technology!

New Address and Intern for the IPS Secretariat

After **15 June 2012**, the IPS Secretariat will move to its new office. Please note our new address: International Peat Society, Kauppakatu 19 D 31, FIN-40100 Jyväskylä, Finland. Our mobile numbers are +358 40 418 4075 for Communications Manager Susann Warnecke and +358 50 406 4836 for Secretary General Jaakko Silpola. Please note that our old office and fax numbers will not work anymore after 15 June! Office hours are approximately 8:30 to 16:30 hrs EET from Monday to Friday. During the summer, we will be supported by intern Ms. Celia Zanin from France who is

studying Intercultural Communication at the University of Jyväskylä. Her email address is celia.zanin (at) peatsociety.org and she will also be happy to meet and assist you during the International Peat Congress in Stockholm.

Special Congress Volume of Mires and Peat

To mark the Stockholm Congress, a Special Volume of invited articles is proposed for the IPS-IMCG academic journal Mires and Peat. Approximately 20 high-quality papers will be selected from the Congress contributions by Guest Editors Sakari Sarkkola and Ing-Marie Gren and developed together with the authors to full peer-reviewed journal articles, to be published later this year. We are glad about this innovative cooperation and look forward to future IPS conference issues of Mires and Peat. All so far published papers can be downloaded for free at www.mires-and-peat.net. If you are presenting your work at the Congress, do look out for your invitation to be part of this elite publication!

Industry and Energy Peat Meetings at the Congress

IPS Commission II on the “Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes” kindly invites you to its meeting in Stockholm at the City Congress Centre on **Sunday, 3 June** at 16:00 - 17:30 hrs. The Commission II meeting in Stockholm will be followed by a meeting of the Energy Peat Working Group at 17:30 in the same room. In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact for Commission II: Gerald Schmilewski, phone +49 4492 8275, mobile: +49 171 693 8582, gerald.schmilewski (at) klasmann-deilmann.com; and for the Energy Peat Working Group: Magnus Brandel, phone: +46 7065 71589, magnus.brandel (at) svensktorv.se. More information on Commission II can be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c2-utilisation-economic-purposes.

Commission V: Peatland Restoration Meeting in Stockholm

As announced earlier, IPS Commission V will have its meeting on Tuesday, **5 June** from 16.20 to 18.00 at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm. The meeting will contain the following:

- Overview of IPS activities 2011/2012 and outlook 2012/2013
- Global Peatland Restoration and Rehabilitation project map
- Socio-economic aspects of Finnish peatland restoration, Anne Tolvanen
- Restoration succession of spruce mires in Finland, Liisa Maanavilja
- Other related developments: Peatlands - guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use (FAO May 2012)
- Election of the Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for 2012-2016

More information can be obtained from the Chair Catherine Farrell, catherine.farrell (at) bnm.ie and at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c5-restoration.

Proposals for IPS Commission Key Persons

There will be elections for the future key persons of the IPS Commissions at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm. Please note that the following suggestions have been submitted in advance to the IPS Secretariat. Further proposals can be made at the Commission and EB meetings during **3 -7 June**. The new Chairs, appointed by the IPS Executive Board, will be announced at the General Assembly of the IPS on Friday, **8 June** and become members of the Scientific Advisory Board

(SAB) after that. The positions of Vice Chair and Secretary for all Commissions are still open if not otherwise mentioned below.

C1: Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands

Chair: Lars Lundin – available for re-election

C2: Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes

Chair: Gerald Schmilewski – available for re-election

Vice Chair: Pat Fitzgerald – available for re-election

C3: Agricultural use of peatlands and peat

Proposal for Chair: Dr. Barbara Kalisz, University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland

C4: Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

Chair: Jürgen Schoenherr – available for re-election

C5: Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands

Chair: Catherine Farrell – available for re-election

Proposal for Vice Chair: Dr. Maris Klavins, Latvia

C6: Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics

Proposals for Chair: Prof. Dr. med. André-Michael Beer, Germany / Medicine Licentiate Leena Larva, Finland

Proposal for Vice Chair: Riitta Korhonen

C7: Ecology and management of forested peatlands

All positions open

C8: Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands

Chair: Michiel Gerding – available for re-election

Proposal for Secretary: Mg. geol. Ilze Ozola, Latvia

C9: Tropical peatlands

Chair: Jack Rieley – available for re-election

Standing Committee on Peatlands and Climate Change

Chair: Mats Nilsson – available for re-election

Organic Soils & Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative

Wetlands International and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations held a side event to launch the global “Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative” at the inter-sessional climate session of the United Nations in Bonn, Germany on **17 May 2012**. The event presented the activities of the Initiative to promote emission reductions under the UN Climate Convention through the policies Reducing Emissions of Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA's); and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry of the Kyoto Protocol (LULUCF). Speakers at the side event included representatives from FAO, UNEP, IUCN, Greifswald University and Wetlands International. At the session, also the new publication “Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use” was launched and can now be downloaded at

www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/en/. The Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative is an informal network of organizations and people interested in reducing emissions from peatlands and safeguarding their other vital ecosystem services. Currently involved are FAO, Wetlands International, Greifswald University, IUCN UK, Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Global Environment Centre (GEC), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the University of Helsinki.

Peatland Rewetting Conference in Germany in June

A seminar on the rewetting of raised bogs “Wiedervernässung von Hochmooren – Ein Erfolgsmodell?” will be held at Camp Reinshlen, Schneverdingen, Lower Saxony, Germany on **27 - 28 June 2012**. The event is organised by the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) and the German Peat Society (DGMT). The programme consists of seven presentations by German and Dutch specialists and an excursion to the nature conservation area Grosses and Weisses Moor. The registration fee amounts to € 140, please sign up before **11 June 2012**. Additional information can be obtained in German from www.dgmtev.de/veranstaltungen.html and by contacting margrit.nalezinski (at) nna.niedersachsen.de, phone +49 5198 9890 70.

Galway Bog Week with Arts and Community Events

The Connemara Bog Week with art exhibitions, concerts, parish walks, cycling and soccer will take place in Letterfrack, Galway, Ireland from **25 May to 4 June**. This annual celebration of Ireland’s bogs started in 1984 and has been going strong ever since. The festival will open on 25 May with a children’s concert in Ellis Hall. Later that evening, there will be an exhibition in the National Park and two concerts. On 27 May, there is the 5 km Connemara Fun Run for families and throughout the week, ecologists and artists will visit schools in the area to talk about the bog landscape. School gardens, vegetable growing and field trips will also form part of the programme. Further concerts and happenings are planned during the weekend. For more information, please see: www.galwaynews.ie/25866-letterfrack-celebrates-bog-week-arts-and-community-events.

Excursion to Chartley Moss National Nature Reserve, UK

Natural England and the British Dragonfly Society are organising a “Bouncing Bogs and Dragonflies” excursion to the Chartley Moss National Nature Reserve, Drinton, Stafford on Saturday, **26 May**. The participants will have the chance to see an amazing floating peat bog (Schwingmoor, the largest in the UK) with a chance to observe 20 dragonfly species on the two-mile walk. Please register in advance with mel.brown (at) naturalengland.org.uk, +44 195 281 2111 and see also www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/activity/bouncing-bogs-and-dragonflies/occurrence/55339.

Irish Turf-Cutting Film at Major Film Festival in Canada

“Home Turf” is a short documentary by film makers Ross Whitaker and Aideen O’Sullivan on the personal experiences of ageing friends in Ireland who “go to the bog” every year to cut turf for their homes. The movie is one of 189 documentaries chosen from thousands of entries from around the world for the major Hot Docs documentary festival in Toronto, Canada. The film was funded by the Irish Film Board’s Reality Bites scheme and supported by Culture Ireland, showing traditional peat cutting by hand in north Kerry. For a short trailer and more information on the festival, please visit www.thejournal.ie/irish-turf-cutting-film-premieres-to-major-film-festival-435131-Apr2012/.