

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.

Contribute to Peatlands International 2/2012!

Would you like to write a 1-4 page report about your current research or work project? Why not to consider Peatlands International, the global magazine of the IPS? If you are interested, please send your text document (Arial pt 10 in single line spacing, without extra formatting) and a few photos or graphics (separate jpg or pdf files) by **30 September** to susann.warnecke (at) peatsociety.org. The Editorial Board reserves its right to choose and edit articles. More information on Peatlands International and its contents is available at www.peatsociety.org/peatlands-international. Older issues of the magazine can still be ordered at www.peatsociety.org/shop/peatlands-international.

IPC Stockholm Book of Abstracts Available

The book of short abstracts for the International Peat Congress 2012 in Stockholm, "Peatlands in Balance" can now also be ordered from the IPS online shop. Please see www.peatsociety.org/shop/congress-proceedings and pay by credit card to receive your own copy within a few days. The book was given to all Congress participants in June. The longer, extended abstracts were handed out on a USB memory stick to all registrants. They will be made available to all IPS members via our website database in early 2013, after a six-month protection period.

12th Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Tallinn

There are just a few days till the beginning of the 12th Baltic Peat Producers Forum "Knowledge is necessity in peat" which will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, **5 - 7 September 2012**. The organising committee is happy to announce that so far almost 170 participants from eight countries have registered. Registration to the Forum is extended now until **3 September!**

In addition to the traditional presentations from representatives from all Baltic States and abroad, all participants can visit numerous exhibitors' stands and get useful contacts of different service providers during the lunch and coffee breaks. Also for the first time there are targeted master classes for peat companies and unique excursion destinations.

Presentations at the moment include:

- *Opening of the forum*
- *The EPAGMA / QUANTIS Life Cycle Assessment of Horticultural Growing Media - Objectives, Results, Conclusions – Mr Gerald Schmilewski*
- *Estonian peat industry – an overview of current status and future possibilities – Mr Erki Niitlaan*
- *Latvian peat industry in 2012 – Mrs Ilze Ozola*

- “Lithuanian peat industry. Review season 2011/2012, facts and questions” – Mr Giedrius Kavaliauskas

Master classes (parallel sessions, preregistration is needed):

- Peat production technologies – Mr Ilkka Heikkilä
- Rehabilitation of cutover peatlands – Mr Edgar Karofeld
- Growing Media in Balance – Mr Hans Verhagen
- Finding competitive advantage on export markets – Mr Mariko Rukholm
- Responsible Energy from Peat – Mr Kari Mutka

Evening session

- Conclusions of master classes
- Future challenges of the peatlands and peat industry – Mr Jaakko Silpola
- Responsibly Produced Peat - outlook to certification – Mr Hein Boon
- From Peat to Pallet – Mr Frank Hellinga

Please note that the master class on “Financing peat production equipment purchases” was replaced with “Growing Media in Balance” led by Mr Hans Verhagen from RHP. The social programme includes an ice-breaking party in the Tallinn Seaplane Harbour (www.lennusadam.eu/en) and a gala dinner with a show of Viru Cabaret (www.varietee.ee).

During the excursions the guests will visit old and new greenhouses (www.sagro.ee and www.nurmiko.ee), which use also peat as growing media, the recently launched Vão combined heat and power plant (www.elektrijaam.ee), and one of the biggest ports in Baltic countries, Muuga Harbour (www.portoftallinn.com/muuga-harbour). Muuga Harbour is among the deepest (up to 18 m) and most modern ports in the Baltic Sea region. It is also the biggest cargo harbour in Estonia and specialized in handling transit origin goods but also local peat.

For the full programme, please visit www.bppf2012.eu. The organisers want to show their sincere gratitude to our sponsors, especially to KIK, Tootsi Turvas, MSC and the Estonian peat industry. Please see www.bppf2012.eu/Sponsors/id/45/ for more information on their products and services. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Tallinn! (Erki Niitlaan)

Peatland Restoration for Practitioners in Alberta, Canada

A seminar and workshop “Peatland Restoration for Practitioners” is being organised in Peace River, Alberta, Canada for **6 - 7 September 2012**. The event website reports that “in situ oil and gas production in Alberta is projected to increase 5-fold; from the current 20 plants to 100 plants in 2025. In situ is typically located in peatland ecosystems and includes large scale well pads, resource roads, borrow pits, and utility corridors. Alberta Government is introducing ecologically-based criteria for the restoration of these sites. Restoration practitioners, industry, government field personnel, consultants, and contractors require practical, baseline information as this sector grows. NAIT Boreal Research Institute, in partnership with industry and universities, coordinates applied research and demonstration in the emerging field of peatland restoration. Participants will gain baseline knowledge about peatland ecology, terminology, and significance; regulatory context; tools and techniques for practitioners, including mapping; earthworks; resource roads; re-vegetation; hydrology. The outdoor component of this event will complement and supplement the seminar by providing direct exposure to four field studies. The research sites are established around the Shell

complex in the Peace River Region.” For more information and to register, please see www.regonline.ca/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1109595 and www.nait.ca.

Excursion to Puula and Peat Use in Finland

The Finnish Bioenergy Association (Bioenergia ry) has organised a field trip to show peat production and modern runoff water purification measures as well as peat usage in Southern Finland on **30 August 2012**. The trip started and ended in Helsinki and guided the participants to peatlands and peat production sites in Joutsa, showed growing media and litter use in Orimattila as well as the Bioenergy power station of Kerava Energia, at the same time introducing them to the acquisition of wood and peat fuels. Bioenergia ry continues the activities of FINBIO, Woodenergy ry, the Finnish Pellet Energy Association and the Association of Finnish Peat Industries. More information on the new Association and its activities can be obtained from www.bioenergia.fi.

Peatlands at Ramsar Convention 2012 in Bucharest, Romania

The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties “Wetlands: home and destination” took place in Bucharest, Romania, **6-13 July 2012**. According to Wetlands International, the following resolutions with regard to peatlands were handled:

- Draft Resolution 10 (energy) preventing increased greenhouse gas emissions from energy development - in particular biofuels - in wetlands
- Draft Resolution 14 (climate change) stimulating the new incentives created under the Kyoto Protocol and opportunities under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) to restore and better manage peatlands
- Draft Resolution 20 (responsible investment in land) to ensure wetlands and their underlying freshwater are protected from the growing impacts of foreign-based land investment.

In addition, Wetlands International organised a side event on “Peatlands: global challenges and opportunities for Ramsar” on **10 July**, featuring a presentation on the WI publication: Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use.

Presentations given at the side event included:

- Tatiana Minayeva, Wetlands International: Ramsar and peatlands - the implementation of Res. VIII.17 on Global Action on Peatlands by Ramsar parties
- Jan Peters, Michael Succow Foundation: Latest global peatland policy developments and initiatives
- Chen Kelin, Wetlands International China: Peatlands in Ruergai China: challenges and opportunities for conservation and rewetting
- Wu Ning, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD): Conservation of High Altitude Peatlands in the Greater Himalayas
- Anatoli Lis, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus: Peatlands: global challenges and opportunities for Ramsar
- Viktor Fenchuk, APB-BirdLife Belarus: Peatland restoration and conservation in Belarus
- Andrey Sirin, Russian Academy of Sciences: Latest developments in peatland related climate policies including UNFCCC, IPCC and voluntary carbon markets
- Izolda Matchutadze, International Mire Conservation Group: Unique Kolkheti peatlands of Georgia - its conservation, rehabilitation, ecotourism development

A presentation “For peat’s sake! Arctic wetlands in a changing world” was given on **12 July**. The slides can be downloaded at www.caff.is/images/Press_releases/RamsarCAFFpresentation-July12.pdf.

More information on peatland sessions, final resolutions and the above mentioned side events at COP11 can be found e.g. at www.wetlands.org/News/Pressreleases/tabid/60/Default.aspx. More information on the Ramsar Convention is available at www.ramsar.org and about COP11 at www.ramsar.ro. The final COP11 report can be downloaded at www.tiny.cc/p17ojw and information about a major Romanian Ramsar peatland site is given at www.tiny.cc/y27ojw.

New Book on Peatland Protection in Poland

The Polish National Committee of the International Peat Society has just published a monograph „Necessity of Peatlands Protection”. The book was edited by L.W. Szajdak, W. Gaca, T. Meysner, K. Styla and M. Szczepański. It is a full-colour, hard cover monograph published on quality paper. It was written by 60 authors from six countries - Poland, Estonia, Ukraine, Russia, Romania, and Belarus. The monograph shows the multidisciplinary character of our knowledge of wetlands and peatlands, divided into several chapters: (i) characteristics of wetlands and peatlands in several areas (8 chapters), (ii) peatland vegetation (5 chapters), (iii) peatland soils and their properties (8 chapters), (iv) chemical properties of peat (8 chapters), (v) therapeutic properties of peat (2 chapters). The monograph is dedicated to the memory of Professor Tomasz Brandyk who passed away in 2009. He was well-known to the members of “International Peat Family” and played an invaluable role in the activities of our Society. (*Lech Szajdak*)

Master Thesis on CN-ratios in Swedish Peatlands

A new Master thesis was recently published at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences by Miguel Ribeiro Cabral: “Relation and change over time of CN-ratios throughout Swedish peatlands and in seven fertility classes”. This is showing good correlations for forest fertility classes to CN-ratios and pH, meaning the forest production related to the chemical conditions of the soil: “The purpose of this work was to observe the CN-ratio proprieties and trends for peatlands during the last 30 years and throughout different regions of Sweden. Included were C/N values observed within a specific fertility classification to see how they correlated with the different fertility classes. For the purpose, three soil datasets (1983-87; 1993-98; 2003-08) were used. It was observed as expected that the CN-ratios were low in the more fertile classes and high on the less fertile ones. However, there were no noticeable CN-ratio trends throughout the years. Within the different regions of Sweden the results were contradicting the expectations, since the C/N values were lower in the north than in the south of Sweden, as opposed to the N deposition values, which are much higher in the south than in the north.” More info: www.tiny.cc/n44ojw (*Lars Lundin*)

IUCN UK Peatland Programme Restoration Booklet

The UK Peatland Programme of the IUCN has published a booklet on “Peatland Restoration: Demonstrating Success”. The booklet showcases successful restoration project across the UK, illustrating sustainable management as well as innovative ways of engaging people in conversation action. This booklet was launched at the recent joint symposium with the British Ecological Society at Bangor University, June 2012. The publication is now available to read at www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/resources/199. The IUCN has a limited supply of hard copies. For more information and to order, please contact [rea.cris](mailto:rea.cris@iucn.org.uk) (at) iucn.org.uk. (*Rea Chris*)