

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. Our mission is to serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration. Currently the IPS has 1486 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 35 countries.

## Last chance: International Peat Congress 2016

You can still register for the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia on **15 - 19 August** – use this opportunity to see your colleagues, partners and friends at this unique worldwide event on all aspects of peat and peatlands. Visit [www.ipc2016.com](http://www.ipc2016.com) and register as local or international participants on the right. There is also a special discount for students, for low-income countries, and for accompanying persons. The full programme of the Congress will be available later in July. All IPS members and Congress participants are also invited to attend the General Assembly of the IPS on **19 August** at 10 am at the Pullman Hotel. We look forward to seeing you in Southeast Asia!

## IPS Executive Board Candidates Revealed

The following persons are nominated as candidates for the Executive Board of the IPS for 2016-2018/20.

### **President**

*Gerald Schmilewski*

### **2nd Vice President**

*Jack Rieley*

*Samu Valpola*

### **Ordinary Member**

*Donal Clarke*

*Guus van Berckel*

*Jack Rieley*

*Lulie Melling*

*Paul Short*

*Samu Valpola*

### **1st Vice President**

*Björn Hånell*

*Guus van Berckel*

*Samu Valpola*

The six new Executive Board members will be elected by the representatives of the IPS National Committees (that have paid their membership fees) at the Annual Assembly in Kuching, Malaysia on **19 August**. The open positions will be filled in the order: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and ordinary members (2 four, and 1 two-year period). We would like to highlight that the traditional balance between industry and science should be safeguarded as far as possible. In addition, diverse backgrounds, personal characteristics and cultures are appreciated. For more details see the Statutes and Internal Regulations of the IPS, [www.peatlands.org/about-us](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us).

## More Effective Commissions for the IPS

With effect of summer 2016, the IPS has established a new structure for its scientific work. In future, the Society will have three Commissions only – focusing on social, environmental and economic aspects of peat and peatland management. We would like to introduce the new Chairs:

Economic:

Guus van Berckel, the Netherlands

[vanberckel@griendsveen.de](mailto:vanberckel@griendsveen.de), [nl.linkedin.com/in/guus-van-berckel-45667410](http://nl.linkedin.com/in/guus-van-berckel-45667410)

Environmental:

Bernd Hofer, Germany

[hofer@hofer-pautz.de](mailto:hofer@hofer-pautz.de), [de.linkedin.com/in/bernd-hofer-48a93131](http://de.linkedin.com/in/bernd-hofer-48a93131)

Social:

Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden

[marie.kofodhansen@gmail.com](mailto:marie.kofodhansen@gmail.com), [se.linkedin.com/in/marie-kofod-hansen-6428621a](http://se.linkedin.com/in/marie-kofod-hansen-6428621a)

The new Chairs will contact all IPS members in early autumn to create and strengthen their networks. This might also include special expert and project groups which will help IPS to fulfill its mission and vision during the next four years. The Commission Chairs form, together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the Scientific Advisory Board of the IPS. The old SAB will meet in Kuching, Malaysia on **14 August 2016** for the last time.

## Extended Deadline for Peatlands International

We have extended the deadline for articles for Peatlands International to **1 August 2016**. Please write your article (1-3 pages A4 Arial 10) as Word document and submit any pictures or graphics as separate jpg files, with captions and the names of the photographers or copyright holders. Special IPS Theme of the Year is Peatland Biodiversity, but also other topics are welcome. All speakers of the Malaysia Congress are especially invited to report about their research or professional work. For a specimen and further info see [www.peatlands.org/publications/peatlands-international](http://www.peatlands.org/publications/peatlands-international).

## Best Restoration Practice Conference in Cumbria

Bookings are now open for Restoring Peatlands – The development of Best Practice, Cumbria BogLIFE's mid-project conference. The 3-day event will be held during **4 - 6 October 2016** in Penrith, Cumbria, UK to showcase and share best practice from some of the most successful and innovative peatland restoration projects from across the UK and continental Europe. Keynote Speakers are Richard Lindsay: Author of leading peatland publications, Rob Stoneman: Editor of *Conserving Bogs – the Management Handbook*, and Managers of large-scale EU bog conservation projects in Lithuania, Sweden and Estonia. The conference offers opportunities to visit several large-scale peatland restoration projects, as well as workshops on Ecosystem Services; bog edge restoration; pre-works species surveys; IUCN Peatland Carbon Code; Climate Change and peatland monitoring and condition assessment. Attendance is free of charge. More info: <https://naturalengland.sym-online.com/registrationforms/boglife>. (Tania Crockett, Cumbria BogLIFE Project)

## Sphagnum Farming Project Searches for Funding

Dr. Jan Felix Köbbing, IPS Sphagnum-Farming Coordinator, is sharing some information on progress of their project. The newly established group has, during the last two months, focused on looking for suitable funding programs to realize the project idea. The most promising program is by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST, [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)), an intergovernmental organization supporting the collaboration of nationally funded science and technology research through the creation of networks. It is a Pan European network of researchers and scientists and brings together academia, industry, public and private sector laboratories in one team. For more information and to participate in the project, please contact [jan.koebbing.ext@peatlands.org](mailto:jan.koebbing.ext@peatlands.org). (Jan Koebbing)

## German Peat and Humus Day launches Programme

The German Garden Industry Association has published the programme of its Deutscher Torf- und Humustag on **29 September 2016** in Bad Zwischenahn. One of the speakers will be Neil Wright, CEO of Micropropagation Services Ltd. who will report on "Beadamoss® - micropropagated Sphagnum, a sustainable source for Sphagnum farming". In addition, the organisers have invited Felix Koschnik, R&D Director for Berry Production at LWK Niedersachsen who will introduce the needs of the berry industry for growing media. For more info and to register, see [www.ivg.org/dtht-2016](http://www.ivg.org/dtht-2016). Bad Zwischenahn can be reached via the airports in Hanover, Hamburg, Amsterdam or Köln/Düsseldorf. (IVG)

## Next Ramsar STRP Meeting in Switzerland

The Standing Committee has approved the STRP work plan 2016-2018 at its 52nd meeting, and the next STRP meeting (STRP20) will take place from **13 - 17 February 2017** at the Ramsar Secretariat Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. IPS will strive to be present at the meeting and report accordingly. More information: [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org). (Jack Rieley)

## Indonesian Peat Prize Review – 44 Applications

The Indonesian Peat Prize Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) convened from **25 to 26 May** in Jakarta to review 44 applications from 10 countries, representing a wide range of industries — from the private sector to academic and research communities, from government agencies to NGOs. Ultimately, the Board selected 11 teams to participate in the yearlong Solution Development and Demonstration phase of the prize. Teams hail from Indonesia, USA, Australia, UK, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Malaysia, and Singapore. During this phase, the prize committee will continue to oversee teams as they develop and refine their solutions tested at predetermined peatland sites. For the full press release see <http://indonesianpeatprize.com/prize-updates>. (submitted by Budi Indra Setiawan)