

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.

## Welcome to the 15 International Peat Congress!

The International Peat Congress will be held with more than 830 participants from over 30 countries in Kuching, Malaysia on **15 - 19 August**, including business meetings on **14 August**, excursions and social events. For last minute information and to register visit [www.ipc2016.com](http://www.ipc2016.com) and see [http://ipc2016.com/registration\\_guidelines.php](http://ipc2016.com/registration_guidelines.php). The programme can be found at [http://ipc2016.com/docs/daily\\_programme\\_24july2016.pdf](http://ipc2016.com/docs/daily_programme_24july2016.pdf), check the website above for updates. To share news from the Congress use the hashtags **#peat2016** and **#peatlands**. We will update you on the event as soon as possible. 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 Malaysia!

Summary by Country

No.	Country	Total
1	Malaysia	454
2	Indonesia	148
3	Japan	38
4	USA	29
5	Finland	27
6	United Kingdom	24
7	Germany	18
8	Netherlands	11
9	China	11
10	Estonia	9
11	Canada	6
12	Sweden	6
13	Singapore	6
14	Australia	5
15	Ireland	5
16	Russia	5
17	Latvia	3
18	Poland	3
19	Korea	3
20	Denmark	2
21	Burundi	2
22	Switzerland	1
23	Peru	1
24	France	1
25	Brunei	1
26	Croatia	1
27	Vietnam	1
28	Belgium	1
29	Kenya	1
30	Iceland	1
31	Turkey	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>825</b>

## New Commission Meetings on 17 August in Kuching

We warmly invite all Congress participants to attend the meetings of the new **IPS Commissions on Economic, Social and Environmental aspects** of peat and peatlands, according to your interests, on Wednesday, **17 August** at 5pm (parallel to the poster sessions) [www.ipc2016.com/programme\\_at\\_glance.php](http://www.ipc2016.com/programme_at_glance.php). The previous Scientific Advisory Board will meet on **14 August**. For any additional meetings, please contact the Chair of your Commission and/or Working Group, National Committee or the Congress organizers: [www.peatlands.org/about-us](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us).

## Extended Deadline for Peatlands International

We have extended the deadline for articles for Peatlands International to **1 September 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 at 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).

## New Association for the Responsible Use of Energy Peat

A new association working in the field of energy policy has launched its operations in Brussels. The association, Energy Peat Europe (EPE), focuses on advancing the use of energy peat in a sustainable and responsible manner. According to the organization, the members wish to highlight peat's importance as an indigenous and local energy source, which can provide jobs as well as security of supply for many European countries. In their work, EPE's members are committed to the highest environmental practices and especially to the protection of environmentally valuable peatlands. In this regard, peat for energy should only come from drained peatlands. For more information, please visit the EPE website at [www.energypeat.eu](http://www.energypeat.eu). (EPE)

## AUD 500,000 for Indonesian Carbon Accounting System

Australia has promised to provide Indonesia with an amount of AUD 500,000 to support the country's carbon accounting system. Josh Frydenberg, newly appointed Australian Minister for the Environment and Energy, announced that this was part of its national carbon accounting system with a special focus on emissions from peatlands. According to Nur Masripatin, the Environment and Forestry Ministry's directorate general of climate change, Australia has already given AUD 30 million to Indonesia for the environmental sector. For more information see, for instance, [www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/08/03/australia-provides-indonesia-with-a500000-for-carbon-accountingsystem.html](http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/08/03/australia-provides-indonesia-with-a500000-for-carbon-accountingsystem.html). (Jakarta Post)

## People4Soil EU Initiative Registered

The EU-Commission has decided to register the European Citizens' Initiative „People4Soil“. People4Soil is a free and open network of European NGOs, research institutes, farmers associations and environmental groups. The Initiative wants to put pressure on European institutions to adopt specific legislation on soil protection, fixing principles and rules to be complied by the Member States. More information can be found at [www.people4soil.eu](http://www.people4soil.eu). (IMCG)

## Evaluation of EU Directives on Birds and Habitats

The Refit check of the EU Birds and Habitats directive online public consultation has received 552,472 replies so far. The evaluation study came to the conclusion that the directives are fit [www.euractiv.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/06/draft-FC-study-copy-2.pdf](http://www.euractiv.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/06/draft-FC-study-copy-2.pdf). In addition, the European Parliament came out strongly in favour of not revising the Directives, with 86% of its members stressing that full implementation and enforcement of the Nature Directives is a vital prerequisite for ensuring the success of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The European Commission's Communication on the results of the Fitness Check has been postponed to autumn and is expected to be finally voted by the Environment Council in December 2016. (IMCG)

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