

2016

Annual Report of the IPS



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Secretary General's Review

The successful International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, in August characterized the activities of the IPS in 2016. It is my pleasure to thank once again the Malaysian organizers and all involved who organized and participated in the 15th International Congress of the IPS with the title "Peatlands in Harmony".

The Congress, with close to 1,000 participants, was a landmark not only as the opening of the Society in Asia, but also as a beginning or an end of many internal processes that were geared to the quadrennial cycle of Congresses. Content-wise, the event emphasized the increasing importance of a holistic view of peatlands, although much work is still necessary to gain a truly balanced understanding of their role in economy, environment and society. The diversified tasks performed by peatlands are also reflected in the name of the IPS much better than in the past.

A major process, the new IPS Strategy 2016–2020, entered its implementation phase after the Congress. The structural change, moving from the previous ten to three Commissions with flexible Expert Groups, was introduced in the course of last year. I can say now that is also welcomed by

the majority of the membership. With the given resources, we have better capability to be the leading international organization promoting the responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat.

However, a lean organization calls especially for its members to utilize the potential of the IPS network fully. Every member is equally important and welcome to utilize the potential of the Society. You are also invited to support our expert clusters with your own experience and contacts. The Executive Board has made efforts to improve the IPS' representation at international conventions and meetings. Often it is all about personal contacts and linking IPS duties to the work that is done in any case – adding an IPS aspect to your current tasks can lead to many win-win situations in theory and practice. Active discussions on future projects for the IPS continued throughout the year. It is still expected that these will eventually improve possibilities for obtaining funding. Individual people are again the most important asset in this.

I am glad that this Annual Report will give you an insight into the IPS activities and involvement. Please also pay attention to the budget and how much can be accomplished within it. On a personal note, I will return to my work at the Finnish Bioenergy Association in January. I am sure that the IPS still has its deserved place in the peatland world and wish my successor and the Executive Board all success. I thank all members for contributing to the IPS' goals and objectives during both 2016 and the years before! All the best for 2017,

Hannu Salo

Secretary General
until 31 December 2016

Annual Report 2016

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Cover photo:
International Peat Congress in Kuching, August 2016
All other photos: Susann Warnecke, if no other photograph mentioned

Report of the Executive Board

IPS Membership

Membership Development

As of 31 December 2016, the IPS had 1,495 (2015: 1,486) members in 42 (35) countries. These comprised 1,091 individual, 271 corporate, 65 student, 42 honorary (partly local) and 26 institutional members. Most members of the IPS are still found in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands. The membership database on the IPS intranet is updated in collaboration with our National Committees and directly by our members, at least once a year.

All corporate and research institute members can nominate up to six contact persons to receive full membership benefits, including Peatlands International, Peat News/Peatland Snippets and registration fee discounts at IPS conferences. Please ask your friends and colleagues to join the IPS at www.peatlands.org/join-us.

National Committees

The IPS is represented by 16 National Committees with a total of 1,441 (1,413) members, of which 11 operate in Europe, two in North America and three in Asia. These comprise 1,067 individual, 253 corporate, 13 research institute, 11 governmental



The IPS Executive Board in Kuching. Left to right: Paul Short, Jack Rieley, Guus van Berckel, IPS President Gerald Schmilewski, Samu Valpola, Donal Clarke, Claes Rülcker and Moritz Böcking.

institute, 59 student and 38 honorary members (partly local). In January 2016, the Norwegian National Committee ceased its activities.

Other Countries

In 2016, the IPS had 24 individual, 18 corporate, six student, four honorary and two institutional members in 21 countries without National Committees.

Commissions

The IPS replaced its ten Commissions in summer 2016 with three new Commissions, dealing with:

- Peatlands and Economy (Chair: Samu Valpolo)
- Peatlands and Environment (Chair: Guus van Berckel) and
- Peatlands and Society (Chair: Marie Kofod-Hansen)

These are authorized to suggest expert and project groups, foster information exchange and initiate international conferences and other events. Vice chairs for the Commissions and coordinators for the Expert Groups will be appointed in early 2017.

Commission membership is informal and open to all IPS members. All Commission chairs are members of the IPS' Scientific Advisory Board. The reports of the Commissions and their contact details can be found in the appendices.

Main Activities

IPS Strategy and Structure

The Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board of the IPS have started to implement the IPS Strategy 2016-2020. Major goals are focused upon streamlining the IPS and its structure, better internal and external communication, and active representation of its members at international conventions and other meetings of global importance.

Conferences and Other Events

The IPS' most important activity was the 15th International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, on the island of Borneo during 15-19 August 2016. This was attended by about 1,000 participants from science and industry, government



representatives and NGO stakeholders. The Congress was a very successful event with more than 400 presentations on all aspects of peatlands. It also received considerable media attention. However, all members were once more reminded that there is still much to do to truly achieve "wise use" and responsible management of peatlands worldwide.



This was the first time an IPS Congress has been held in Asia, and of course the conversion of pristine tropical peatland forest to agricultural land, mostly for palm oil plantations, was one of the hot topics of the week. The organizers and hosts of the Malaysian Peat Society offered guests, in addition to the interesting scientific and cultural programme, a broad range of impressive excursions to peatland, agriculture, forestry and other local sights. More information on the Congress is still available at www.ipc2016.com. The IPS will publish the proceedings of the Congress on its intranet in 2017.

The next International Peatland Congress will be held in Tallinn in 2020, hosted by the Estonian National Committee of the IPS. The bidding process for 2024 will be opened in 2017, presumably.

In addition to the International Peat Congress, the IPS National Committees and Commissions organized or attended a broad variety of peat- and peatland-related symposia and excursions. IPS representatives also attended a number of important peatland workshops and meetings, delivered by other organizations at regional, national and international levels, to follow up international decision-making on peatland issues. A list of these can be found in the appendices, while more information is included in the reports of the Commissions and National Committees.

Publications

Peatlands International

Three issues of the IPS magazine were published in 2016 and distributed to our members by email. The Chief Editor was Secretary General Hannu Salo, supported by the Communications Manager, Susann Warnecke.

A number of corporate members support the IPS by placing advertisements in the magazine. Members receive Peatlands International for free. The magazine is supported by an Editorial Board consisting of the following members in 2016:

Catherine Farrell, Ireland
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden
Tom Malterer, USA
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands
Paul Short, Canada
Lech Szajdak, Poland
Michael Trepel, Germany

Previous issues of Peatlands International can be found via the IPS document database, while most of the printed issues (before 2013) can be ordered from the Secretariat. To publish in the magazine, please contact susann.warnecke@peatlands.org. Deadlines are the end of February, May, August and November.

Opening of the International Peat Congress with local children and government officials. Left Congress General Lulie Melling and IPS President 2012-2016 Björn Hånell.

Photo: IPC 2016



Peatland Snippets

Peat News was renamed as Peatland Snippets in autumn 2016 to give a better reflection of the mire researchers and peatland managers among IPS membership. The monthly electronic newsletter of the IPS is sent out by email to all IPS members.

In 2016, 12 issues were distributed to approximately 1,300 persons per issue. All previous newsletters can be downloaded from our members' intranet. Deadline for contributions is around the 20th of each month.

Mires and Peat Scientific Journal

In 2016, Mires and Peat published 34 peer-reviewed articles by authors from 29 countries. These were published in Special Volume 17 – Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Degraded and Restored Peatlands: Global Perspectives – which included eight articles, and Standard Volume 18, which contained 26 articles.

Launched in 2006, Mires and Peat is the peer-reviewed open access scientific journal of the IPS and the IMCG, which is freely available to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The Editor is Dr Olivia Bragg, who is supported by Deputy Editor Jack Rieley and an enlarged Editorial

Board. The IPS is supporting the journal with approximately €5,000 annually. The journal can be accessed free of charge from www.mires-and-peat.net.

Mires and Peat is indexed by the Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA and the Directory of Open Access Journals. Its Web of Science impact factor amounted to 1.095 in mid-2016. Since the end of 2015, new papers are DOI-numbered and safely archived via Portico. High-quality papers are welcome to maintain this important publication.

All printed issues of the former International Peat Journal, published until 2004, can still be ordered from the IPS website.

Other Publications

The IPS' printed publications can be ordered directly from the Secretariat; a list is available at www.peatlands.org/publications. The most popular books remain the Convention Report, Peatlands and Climate Change, Finland-Fenland and the Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands, as well as proceedings of previous symposia. It is planned to revamp the online store in 2017.

IPS Website

The current pages at www.peatlands.org contain, in the public section, basic information on the IPS, an events calendar, contact details for the Executive Board, Commissions and National Committees, general information on peat and peatlands, a list of publications, and other information on the Society and its work. In addition, the site offers a news section and a list of open positions.

For members, we offer an online document database for conference proceedings, brochures and other publications, a searchable member database and the option to post open positions. Additional resources are still needed to enable the uploading of all previous IPS proceedings to the document database. A full redesign of the website has been further postponed.

Social Media

The IPS is actively sharing information about its own and related activities, press articles and conference announcements via its Facebook and LinkedIn pages on a daily basis. At the end of 2016, almost 800 people were following IPS' information on Facebook, most of whom were not yet members of the Society. Those aged between 25 and 34 years comprise the most common age group of these followers.

The IPS' LinkedIn group, which allows networking between around 300 peat and peatland professionals, has also proved a great tool for quickly sharing and collecting information as well keeping new contacts in mind.

Members are also active on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Wikipedia, in English and their own languages.

Public Discussion

Climate change, biodiversity, tropical peatland forest management, waterway protection and bog restoration were the most important topics with respect to peatland management in the public eye in 2016. Other topics vary slightly from country to country.

The IPS regularly follows Google News and different Google Scholar alerts on peat, mire and peatland topics and shares these via email with the EB, SAB and National Committees as well as in Peatland Snippets and on its Facebook page.

Project Plans

Further progress was made on the Peat Dialogue and Sphagnum Farming Projects. The update of Global Peat Resources (Lappalainen 1996) will be carried out once resources are available.

Cooperation

The IPS cooperated internationally with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG), the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), and the new Energy Peat Europe (EPE) and Growing Media Europe (GME) associations.



The IPS also applied for membership of the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) and further pursues observer status at UNFCCC.

Locally, the IPS cooperated with Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Ltd, the University of Applied Sciences, the University of Jyväskylä, the Finnish Peatland Society, the Finnish Bioenergy Association and, of course, our National Committees and industrial member associations worldwide.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions. On the next pages you can find a list of our events.

Finances and Funding

The IPS is fully funded by membership fees. These come mainly from its corporate members, totalling €113,000 (2015: €116,500), and the National Committee contributions of €27,300 (2015: €28,400). In addition, the International Peat(land) Congress, which is held every four years, and the Society's other symposia, such as in Aberdeen 2017, are an important financial resource for the IPS.

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a surplus of €1,300 (2015 deficit of €9,300) for the 2016 financial year. This resulted mainly from savings in all account groups. Bad debts amounting to €1,700

(unpaid invoices in 2015) had to be removed from the Income Statement. The 15% commission from the Congress has not materialized yet, and receivables, mainly membership fees, amounted to €32,000 at the end of the year. The IPS keeps searching for additional core and project funding from outside sources.

The total income of the IPS was €169,900 (2015: €185,800), with expenditure amounting to €167,800 (2015: €194,000). The depreciation of equipment amounted to €800 (2015: €1,070; 25%). Assets and liabilities decreased to €161,900 (2015: €168,800). More details can be found in the financial appendices. The accounts and financial statements of the IPS were audited by the Authorized Public Accountant, Arto Saarinen, from DHS Audit / Crowe Horwarth.

Administration

Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held on 19 August 2016 in Kuching, Malaysia, attended by representatives of 15 National Committees (Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the USA) and a large number of observers. The Assembly elected a new Executive Board and approved the Annual Report



2015, the Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership Fees 2016, as well as an interim budget and membership fees for 2017. The Assembly also elected the Auditors for the IPS for 2016. This was followed by the General Assembly of members, which is held every four years.

Executive Board

According to the Statutes of the IPS, the Executive Board consists of the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents and between two and six Ordinary Members. The members of the Executive Board at the end of 2016 and their terms of office were as follows:

President

Gerald Schmielewski
2016-2020

1st Vice President

Guus van Berckel, the Netherlands/Germany
2016-2020

2nd Vice President

Samu Valpola, Finland
2016-2020

Ordinary Members:

Moritz Böcking, Germany	2014-2018
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	2014-2018
Claes Rülcker, Sweden	2014-2018
Jack Rieley, United Kingdom	2016-2018
Donal Clarke, Ireland	2016-2020
Paul Short, Canada	2016-2020
Samu Valpola, Finland	2016-2020

In addition, the Executive Board has given observer status to representatives of all Asian National Committees. Juhani Päivänen, Emeritus Professor of the University of Helsinki, was officially appointed as Honorary President of

During one of the scientific sessions of the Congress.
Photo: IPC 2016



the IPS, the second to hold this post after Allan Robertson.

The main administrative meetings of the IPS Executive Board in 2016 were:

Helsinki, Finland, 5-6 April 2016
Kuching, Malaysia, 14 and 19 August 2016
Naaldwijk, the Netherlands, 17-18 November 2016

Phone meetings:

24 February, 18 May, 8 June, 27 September, 1 November

The decisions of these meetings were disseminated through Peatland Snippets and Peatlands International and by email to the National Committees and Commissions.

Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board held its 2016 meetings by email in May, face-to-face on 14 August in Kuching and on 12 October in Hamburg, Germany, as well as together with the Executive Board in Naaldwijk, the Netherlands, on 17-18 November.

Samu Valpola replaced Jack Rieley as the new Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board in August. The Scientific Advisory Board consists of the three IPS Commission chairs (previously 10) and the



The Scientific Advisory Board of the IPS met in autumn in Hamburg. Left to right: Communications Manager Susann Warnecke, IPS President Gerald Schmielewski, Commission Chair Marie Kofod-Hansen, 2nd Vice President Samu Valpola, Commission Chairs Guus van Berckel and Bernd Hofer. Photo: Marriott Courtyard Hamburg Airport

Second Vice President of the Society. It provides the IPS with advice and information on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance, drawing upon the pool of knowledge available from the Commissions and elsewhere, along with promoting and disseminating research results.

The Scientific Advisory Board normally meets twice a year in conjunction with other IPS meetings. As in previous years, the IPS has provided funding for travel of up to €500 per member.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board at the end of 2016 were:

Chairman:

Samu Valpola, Finland, 2nd Vice President

Secretary:

Susann Warnecke, IPS Secretariat

Members:

Bernd Hofer
Marie Kofod-Hansen
Guus van Berckel

Secretariat and Staff

The IPS Secretariat is situated at the Start Up Leipomo centre for young enterprises at

Nisulankatu 78, 40720 Jyväskylä, Finland; mobile +358 40 418 4075; emails ips@peatlands.org and firstname.lastname@peatlands.org.

Mr Hannu Salo worked as Secretary General of the IPS for one to two days per week, in addition to his duties at the Finnish Bioenergy Association, until the end of the year. It is planned to recruit a full-time Secretary General in 2017 if funding can be obtained.

IPS Communications

Manager Susann Warnecke took care of the administration, communications, event management and finance of the IPS, supported by the accounting office TietoAkseli and other service providers.

In addition, the IPS Secretariat was assisted by interns Jane Kask from Estonia (February-April) and Tram Trinh from Vietnam (May-July).

Honours

Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

In 2016, the IPS sponsored the Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals as travel grants to the International Peat Congress in Kuching. Funding was made available from the IPS budget for the previous Awards of Excellence and generous contributions from IPS members. The winners were:

Grants of € 500

- André Vicente Liz, Universidade Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Dhandapani Selvakumar, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

- Mizuki Morishita, Department of Geography, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
- Ariane Blier-Langdeau, PERG/Université Laval/CEN, Canada
- Alison Hoyt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

Grants of € 250

- Chloe Brown, University of Nottingham, UK
- Nicholas Girkin, University of Nottingham, UK
- Emma Brown, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, United Kingdom
- Kartika Hapsari, University of Goettingen, Germany
- Mari Parkkari, Natural Resources Institute Finland
- Hanifah Nurul Atilia Shafienaz, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Herman Maraden, APRIL Asia, Indonesia
- Norliyana Zin Zawawi, University of Aberdeen, UK
- Meli Fitriani Saragi, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), CIFOR, Indonesia
- Nisa Novita, Oregon State University, USA
- Sara Thornton, University of Leicester, UK
- Randi Ade Candra, Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia

Deadline for the Allan Robertson Grants 2017 is 30 April.

Honorary Members

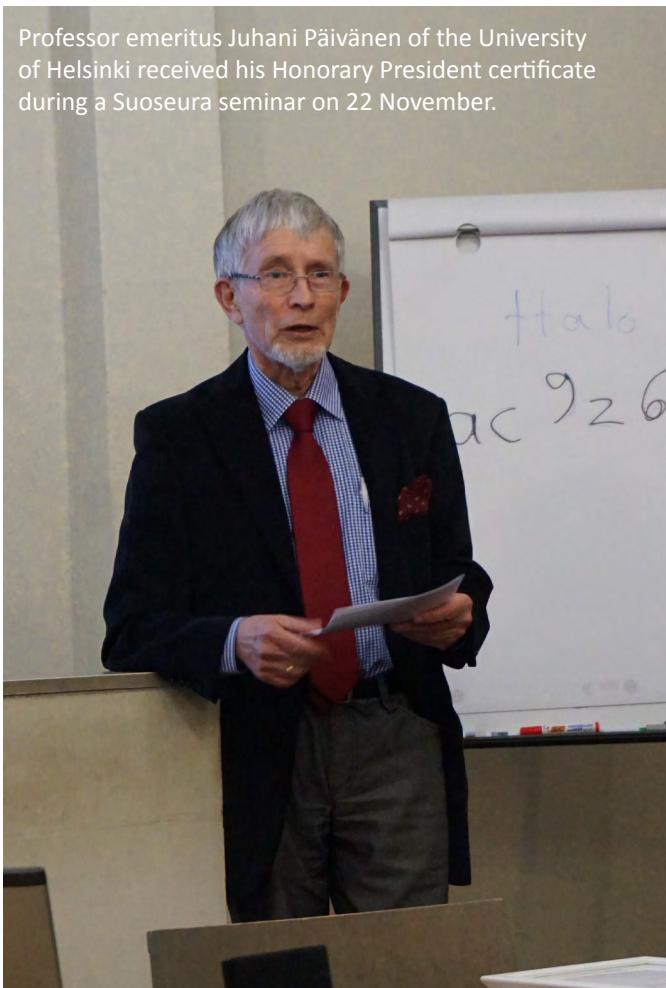
At the end of the year, the IPS had 22 honorary members. Juhani Päivänen was elected Honorary President and officially introduced at the Annual Assembly in Kuching.

Honorary membership is conferred by the Executive Board on persons nominated by National Committees who have made outstanding contributions to the IPS and to international cooperation on peatlands and peat.

These are currently:

Belarus:	Ivan I. Lishtvan
Canada:	Jean-Yves Daigle, Gerry Hood
Finland:	Matti Hilli, Markku Mäkelä, Yrjö Pessi, Juhani Päivänen, Jaakko Silpolä, Raimo Sopo
Germany:	Hartmut Falkenberg
Hungary:	F. Baranyai
Ireland:	Paddy Hughes, P. McEvilly
Latvia:	Ansis Snore
Poland:	Piotr Ilnicki
Russia:	A.K. Dergunov, B.N. Sokolov
United Kingdom:	David Bellamy, Richard Clymo, Neil Godsman
USA:	Don N. Grubich, Tom Malterer

It was with great sadness that we heard about the passing of former IPS President Reidar Pettersson from Sweden and András Tóth from Hungary, who were both very active, friendly and well-known members of the “peat family”. We will surely miss them.



Professor emeritus Juhani Päivänen of the University of Helsinki received his Honorary President certificate during a Suoseura seminar on 22 November.

Events of the IPS and its National Committees

Peatlands in the Bioeconomy World
First National Peatland Day
Helsinki, Finland
2 February 2016
www.suoseura.fi

Executive Board meeting
by phone
24 February 2016

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Helsinki, Finland
5 - 6 April 2016

Finnish National Committee
Spring Seminar
Helsinki, 7 April 2016
www.suoseura.fi

11th Annual SWS European Chapter Meeting
17-20 May 2016 Potsdam, Germany
in cooperation with the German Peat Society
<http://sws-europe.igb-berlin.de>

IPS Executive Board Meeting
by phone
18 May 2016

Finnish National Committee Excursion to Estonia
2 - 3 June 2016
www.suoseura.fi

IPS Executive Board Meeting
by phone
8 June 2016

German Peat Society
Peatland conservation in Lower Saxony
Meppen, Germany
22 - 23 June 2016
www.dgmtev.de/veranstaltungen.html

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Scientific Advisory Board Meeting
National Committee Round Table
Kuching, Malaysia
14 August 2016



At the Executive Board meeting in Helsinki in April.



Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board visiting a local greenhouse in the Netherlands in November.

15th International Peat Congress
"Peatland in Harmony - Agriculture, Industry, Nature"
Kuching, Malaysia, 15 - 19 August 2016
www.ipc2016.com

IPS-IMCG Meeting
Kuching, Malaysia
18 August 2016

IPS Annual Assembly and General Assembly
IPS Executive Board Meeting
Kuching, Malaysia
19 August 2016

Baltic National Committees
16th Baltic Peat Producers Forum
Kaunas, Lithuania
14 - 16 September 2016
www.asocdurpes.lt/en

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Phone/Skype
27 September 2016

German Peat and Humus Day
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
29 September 2016
www.ivg.org

IPS Scientific Advisory Board
Hamburg, Germany
12 October 2016

Indonesian National Committee
Seminar on Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands
Bogor City, Indonesia
26 - 28 October 2016
semnashgi@gmail.com

IPS Executive Board Meeting
by phone
1 November 2016

IPS Executive Board & Scientific Advisory Board Meeting
Naaldwijk, Netherlands
16 - 18 November 2016

IPS Finnish National Committee (Suoseura)
Autumn assembly and seminar
Helsinki, 22 November 2016
www.suoseura.fi

IPS Chinese National Committee
2nd China Peat Industry Forum
Beijing, China
24 - 25 December 2016

Other peat and peatland events

Grüne Woche
International Green Week Berlin
Berlin, Germany
15 - 24 January 2016
www.gruenewoche.de

IPM Essen at the Messe Essen
Essen, Germany
26 - 29 January 2016
www.ipm-essen.de

World Wetlands Day
2 February
www.worldwetlandsday.org

Webinar:
The Importance of Wetlands in Addressing Climate Change and creating a Role for Wetlands through The Paris Climate Accord (Part 1) & Northern Peatlands and the Global Carbon Balance – Why We All Need to Care! (Part 2)
11 February 2016
www.sws.org

Parc des Expositions
Angers, France
16 - 18 February 2016
www.salonduvegetal.com

Giardina
Zürich, Switzerland
16 - 20 March 2016
www.giardina.ch

Keukenhof
Lisse, Netherlands
24 March - 16 May
www.keukenhof.nl

43rd session of IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya
11 - 15 April 2016
www.ipcc.ch

Flower Expo Ukraine
International Exhibition Centre
Kiev, Ukraine

12 - 14 April 2016
www.flowerexpo-ukraine.com

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Coral Springs, Florida, USA
18 - 22 April 2016
www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2016

Nordic Baltic Bioenergy
Vilnius, Lithuania, 19 - 21 April 2016
www.nordicbalticbioenergy.eu

Peatlands in the EU Regulatory Environment
Brussels, Belgium
19 April 2016
<http://succow-stiftung.de/peatlands-in-the-eu-regulatory.html>



Ramsar Workshop in Vilm, Germany.
Photo: Hannu Salo

International Palm Oil Conference (INPOC 2016)
Medan, Indonesia
20 - 22 April 2016
palmoilconference.com

World Bioenergy Week
Stockholm, Sweden
24 - 26 May 2016
www.iwbweek.com

2016 Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists
Texas, USA
31 May - 4 June 2016
swsannualmeeting.org

8th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity
“Food systems for a sustainable future: Interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture”
Trondheim, Norway
31 May - 3 June 2016
www.trondheimconference.org

Bloom Ireland
Phoenix Park
Dublin, Ireland
2 - 6 June 2016
www.bloominthepark.com

2016 Flower Trials
14 - 16 June 2016
Germany / Netherlands
www.flowertrials.com

6th International Meeting on the Biology of Sphagnum
Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia
15 - 24 August 2016
<http://mukhrinostation.com>

IMCG Field Symposium and Congress
Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo
Malaysia and Brunei
19 - 28 August 2016
www.imcg.net

Exploring Finnish peatlands. Jan Köbbing, Sphagnum Farming project manager (right) with IPS Secretary General Hannu Salo in Leivonmäki.



10th European Conference on Ecological Restoration
‘Best Practices in Ecological Restoration’
Freising, Germany,
21 - 27 August 2016
www.ser.org

CAFEI2016
3rd International Conference on Agricultural and Food Engineering
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
23 - 25 August 2016
www.cafei.upm.edu.my

Global Peatland Initiative
FAO Headquarters
Rome, Italy
1 - 2 September 2016
www.unep.org/stories/Climate/Peat-fires-stoke-global-warming.asp

24th International Trade Exhibition Green is Life
Warsaw, Poland
1 - 3 September 2016
www.greenislife.pl

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016
Hawaii, United States
1 - 10 September 2016
www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org

Raptors, Uplands and Peatlands
Conservation, Land Management & Issues
Sheffield & the Peak District
United Kingdom
9 - 10 September 2016
www.ukeconet.org/raptors.html

Ramsar Workshop "Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change"
Isle of Vilm, Germany
11 - 14 September 2016
<http://ow.ly/pUwD303FDy5>

10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference
'Hotspots of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services under Global Changes'
Changshu, China
19 - 24 September 2016
<http://intecol-10iwc.com/EN/Index.aspx>

LIFE+ Project
Making Moor Space workshop
South Yorkshire, United Kingdom
26 September 2016
www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

44th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Bangkok, Thailand
17 - 20 October 2016
<http://ipcc.ch>



EUROPARCS Conference 2016
Seminar about peatland restoration, paludiculture and climate change
Jura Vaudois Regional Park
Switzerland
19 - 23 October 2016
www.europarc.org

Finnish Bioenergy Day
Tampere, Finland
24 October 2016
www.bioenergiapaivat.fi

Biofuels in History - Issues of Energy, History, Landscape & Environmental Change
Sheffield, United Kingdom
17 - 18 November 2016
www.ukeconet.org/biofuelhistory.html

22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) and 12th COP to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12)
Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco
7 - 18 November 2016
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Business and Biodiversity Forum
Cancun, Mexico
2 - 3 December 2016
<http://cop13.mx/en/business-and-biodiversity-forum-2016>

Convention on Biological Diversity
13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Cancun, Mexico
4 - 17 December 2016
www.cbd.int/cop

BRG International Symposium Towards Integrated, Organized and Massive Peatland Restoration Action in Indonesia
Jakarta, Indonesia
15 - 16 December 2016
<http://peatlandsymposium2016.info>

See also
www.peatlands.org/events

Members of the IPS

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Canada	9	31	0	0	2	1	43
China	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Estonia	0	28	0	1	0	0	29
Finland	318	2	1	1	8	9	339
Germany	271	53	5	5	12	32	378
Indonesia	105	0	1	0	0	0	106
Ireland	32	5	0	1	2	1	41
Japan	46	2	0	0	0	2	50
Latvia	2	27	0	0	7	0	36
Lithuania	1	22	0	0	0	0	23
Malaysia	41	5	0	0	0	0	46
The Netherlands	55	14	2	1	2	5	79
Poland	94	3	0	0	1	0	98
Sweden	11	53	3	0	0	1	68
United Kingdom	24	5	1	1	2	7	40
USA	21	3	0	1	2	1	28
31 December 2016	1067	253	13	11	38	59	1441
31 December 2015	1070	230	13	11	38	51	1413
31 December 2014	1057	236	13	12	39	55	1412
31 December 2013	1089	245	14	12	41	53	1454

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	Research Institutes, Universities	TOTAL
Argentina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Australia	1	0	2	0	0	3
Belarus	0	1	0	1	0	2
Belgium	1	1	0	0	0	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brazil	1	0	1	0	0	2
Burundi	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chile	0	0	1	0	0	1
Denmark	2	1	0	0	0	3
France	0	4	0	0	0	4
Hungary	5	0	0	1	0	6
Italy	5	0	0	0	0	5
Norway	2	4	0	0	1	7
Peru	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Russia	2	1	0	2	1	6
Singapore	1	0	1	0	0	2
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	2	1	0	0	0	3
Turkey	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	0	0	0	1
31 December 2016	24	18	6	4	2	54
31 December 2015	19	14	2	5	2	42
31 December 2014	24	16	3	5	2	50
31 December 2013	32	20	2	3	0	57

2016
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1495

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	Dec 2016	Dec 2015	Dec 2014	Dec 2013	Dec 2012	Dec 2011	Dec 2010	Balance
NC members	1441	1413	1412	1454	1354	1372	1413	28
Non-NC members	54	42	50	57	58	46	37	12
	1495	1455	1462	1511	1412	1418	1450	40

IPS Commissions

Peatlands and Economy

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During 2016, the strategy of the IPS has changed. There is more focus on peatlands and related issues such as biodiversity and climate. As a consequence, the number of Commissions has been brought down to three: Peatlands and Environment, Peatlands and Society and Peatlands and Economy.

The overall aim of the IPS is to foster wise use of peatlands. It is our belief that sustainable development of peatlands is only feasible when not only environmental and social aspects are taken into account but also economic aspects. It is the overall aim of the Peatlands and Economy Commission to deliver these economic aspects and make them available for policymaking. The year 2016 saw a transition year from the old structure to the new.



For the first time, the IPS' International Peatland Congress was organized outside Europe, in Kuching in South East Asia. The main topic of the Congress was the use of tropical peatlands by the palm oil industry. It showed how difficult it is to balance social, economic and environmental aspects in order to achieve sustainable development.

During the Congress, the new strategy and structure of the IPS was presented and approved and the new chairs of the Commissions installed. In 2017, we will form Expert Groups under each Commission and our members are asked to join these Expert Groups. These Expert Groups will form the knowledge base of the Society, provide advice, keep track of new developments in their scientific field and generate ideas for projects and events. The members of Expert Groups may also be asked to staff projects.

Under the Peatlands and Economy Commission, the following Expert Groups will be formed:

- The use of peatlands by agriculture and forestry
- The use of peatlands by the peat industry – licensing, certification, harvesting techniques and use
- The use of peat by horticulture and for energy.

During the forthcoming event in Aberdeen, we will launch the new structure and discuss ideas for projects. At the moment, the following preliminary ideas have been identified:

- A. Related to licence to produce:
1. Socio-economic impact analysis of peat extraction (case studies);
 2. Life Cycle Analysis (LCAs) of peat alternatives;
 3. Movie (animation) about land use options of drained peatlands (education);
 4. Certification.
- B. Related to land use:
1. Demand planning for peat worldwide for the next 50 years:

- a. For food production (related to food security);
- b. For other uses, such as other horticultural products and energy;
- c. Inventory of current peat reserves required for industry and replenishment.

This is a preliminary list, which should be discussed and extended. All these projects have overlaps with other Commissions' aspects. Therefore, these projects can only be executed in collaboration with the other Commissions and their experts.

Peatlands and Society

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The new IPS Peatlands and Society Commission can and will play an important role in the future of the IPS. Socio-economic studies will be crucial to achieve wise use of peat and peatlands. We need a balanced view between economic activity, the environment and social interests regarding peatlands.

The main goal of the IPS is wise use of peat and peatlands. Peatlands play an important role in our natural and social heritage. For far too long, social and cultural aspects of peatlands have been playing a minor role in many parts of the world.

Asia is one exception, where research regarding peatlands and society has been a focus. At the Congress in Malaysia, on 13 August, oral and poster presentations were reviewed, mostly dealing with local Asian communities and their involvement with peatlands. During the Congress, two sessions were staged, one on social and economic aspects and one on local peatland communities.

During the autumn, the structure of the Commissions has been discussed. We started out with a wide range of subjects and ideas, and decided in November on a reasonable number of Expert Groups to start with.

The IPS has positioned the following Expert Groups in the Peatlands and Society Commission:

- Peatlands education, communication and publicity
- Peatlands culture, human well-being and balneology
- Peatlands and governance.

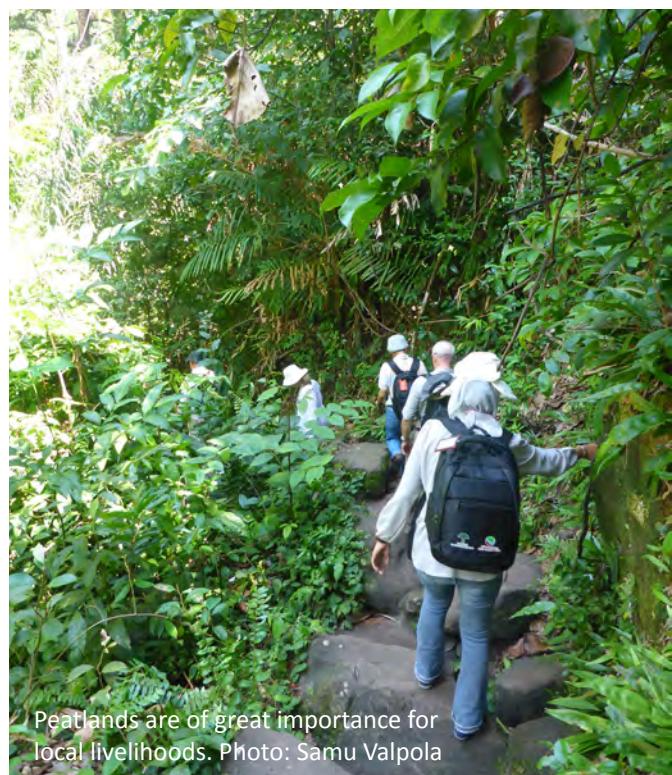
In January 2017, interested members will be asked to join the Expert Groups. The Expert Groups will be led by a head and a coordinator. They will represent the knowledge of the IPS. The coordinator will play an important role in external and internal communications.

The Expert Groups play a key role in the IPS' activities:

- They have a role in providing expert advice.
- They will stimulate ideas for events and projects and monitor, follow up and report on developments in their field.

Wanted: a large number of experts!

My mission, as chair of the Peatlands and Society Commission, is to involve a large number of experts so that, together with members of IPS, we can find the gaps in our knowledge and carry out research that will play a major role in the responsible use of peat and peatlands.



Peatlands are of great importance for local livelihoods. Photo: Samu Valpolo

Collaboration

The collaboration between the three Commissions is really important to achieve success. We also need to bring young people into the IPS. Social networking and social media are important tools to reach new target groups.

Project Ideas

The Need for Education – for Example, Wikipedia

One important goal is to reach the general public, who often have little knowledge about peat. We need to spread knowledge about peat to younger generations. The IPS has a mission to describe and explain the nature of peat. By using Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia, it is possible to reach out to interested people all over the world.

Peat is not always described in a professional way in the media. A first step towards a more scientific and accurate description is to begin with Wikipedia, which is an easy tool for lay people to use. A short, accurate description can be made and suggested links with more facts can be added.

Food Security – the Role of Growing Media

There is a strong need for drastically increased food production. The launch of a joint project about peat resource planning and land use is being discussed with the Peatlands and Economy Commission. Based on an increasing world population and related food production, the use of growing media will increase substantially. Questions that could be interesting to analyse include:

- Current contributions of growing media to food production
- The role of retailers and food companies
- Innovations in agriculture.

2017: Most important steps for the Commission:

- To find dedicated experts to staff the Expert Groups
- To get an overview of the most urgent and important projects in the field with connection to the Commission
- To get the above-mentioned projects started.

Peatlands and Environment

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In 2016, the new Commissions were launched and since the IPS Congress, the structure of the Peatlands and Environment Commission had slowly taken shape. Over the coming months, interested members will be asked, or may apply, to join the Expert Groups:

Peatlands and Climate

For decades, the outstanding importance of peatlands as a carbon sink, stock or source has become more and more widely known. Different foci are the results of GHG measurements, situations and developments in various hot spots of the world and strategies for reduction of emissions.



Peatlands and Biodiversity

This group comprises a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as Ecology, Botany, Zoology, Hydrology, Geology, Pedology etc. This group is the scientific basis of the Commission, paying close attention to research and development.

Restoration of Peatlands

Restoration of drained or extracted peatlands has been a main focus since the beginning of the IPS. The former Commission V was one of the most active in the IPS and this Expert Group will hopefully continue its valuable contribution.

These Expert Groups will be led by coordinators and represent the knowledge of the IPS. The Expert Group on Peatlands and Biodiversity should be viewed as a comprehensive group embracing basic research in scientific disciplines including Geology, Hydrology, Ecology, Botany and Zoology.

The most important tasks of the Expert Groups are to scan and report on current developments in the different academic fields and to staff future IPS projects with committed experts.

The International Peat Congress 2016

In August 2016, the International Peat Congress, the prime scientific event of the IPS, was held in Kuching, Malaysia. The 15th International Peat Congress was different from all the previous Congresses. For the first time, the Congress was located in tropical Asia. The Congress was a platform for highlighting the characteristics, importance and problems of tropical peatlands. In addition, the significant role of Asia as a market in international trade became clear. During the Congress, the new structure of the IPS, with the reduction to the three new Commissions, was presented by the chairs.

The Congress provided a platform for a wide range of different presentations at an advanced scientific

Leivonmäki National Park in Central Finland.



level and issues of the Environment and Peatlands Commission were well represented. The Congress offered the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the subjects of tropical peatlands, palm oil production and the resulting conflicts. In particular, the opening ceremony made this potential conflict abundantly clear. Representatives of policy and the palm oil industry used this platform to state their points of view and controlled access to the local media, which resulted in the publication of an article stating that the IPS endorsed a view that palm oil production on peat was sustainable, and desirable. This view was far from representing that of many of the attendees of the conference, including several IPS members.

Lahiru Wijadesa and Roxane Andersen led the preparation of a letter that was sent to the editors of "Global Change Biology" in response to the events that unfolded in Kuching at the International Peat Congress 2016. The letter made it clear that the current scientific evidence did not support the view that palm oil production, as presently undertaken, was sustainable. The letter was endorsed by a total of 139 academics and practitioners from around the world, representing 115 institutions. There has been no reply from the Malaysian press or the Tropical Peat Research Institute following the publication.

IPS Peat Dialogue

The IPS Peat Dialogue started in May 2015 with Reinier de Man as moderator and Bernd Hofer



Congress participants during the excursion to Bak National Park. Photo: Nick van de Griendt

providing scientific support. Its overall goal is to work out common positions and strategies between NGOs and the peat industry in order to have a more successful influence on decision makers and policy at the European level. After development of a timetable and a description for the Peat Dialogue, the project was presented at the IPS meeting in Ireland in June 2015 and at the IVG (German Garden Industry Association) meeting in Germany in April 2015.

The next task was to create a first draft of a common position paper between NGOs and the industry as a basis for the first meeting. In parallel, a number of NGOs were contacted. Finally, a first dialogue meeting was organized in Bremen on 19 May 2016. The level of participation was satisfying: five from NGOs (including the Greifswald Mire Centre), four from industry and two consultants. Unfortunately, the WWF sent a last-minute cancellation, but they remain interested. The discussion atmosphere was excellent and the contributions were diverse but all on a high level.

The main argument from some of the NGO representatives was that a “lesser loss” is not a “win”. In other words, a reduction of impacts is not a real win and in this sense cannot be seen as a win-win situation from the environmental point of view. On the other hand, the industry agreed that as a first step, research into alternative raw materials should be carried out, including also the footprints of those materials. If the dialogue is continued, the next task would be to demonstrate:

- on the part of industry – is a whole or partial conversion, in the medium to long term, to alternative raw materials acceptable?
- on the part of NGOs – is a general and public statement on this basis to the general public and policymakers acceptable?

As written in a report of the workshop, we signal great interest from all participants in continuing the dialogue. If the Peat Dialogue proves to be successful, a wider circle of stakeholders than just the six NGO and four industry representatives who have participated so far should be included in this

following phase. There is a strong need to involve representatives from more countries, including Baltic and Nordic countries and Ireland (thereby avoiding a German bias) and from a wider array of both NGOs and industry (peat extraction, growing media and horticulture).

During the dialogue, the idea was born to make the dialogue not only a place to discuss principles, but to initiate and evaluate concrete win-win cooperation between NGOs and industry as well.

In combination with the enhancement of the position paper, these win-win-projects are an appropriate tool to vitalize the IPS Peat Dialogue through practical cooperation between NGOs and industry, resulting in concrete and visible results for policymakers. These projects, linked to the IPS Peat Dialogue, can become a vital element in developing the IPS’ new structure.

Special Section on Global Peatland Restoration for the Journal Restoration Ecology

Line Rochefort and Roxane Andersen have edited a special section on Global Peatland Restoration for the journal *Restoration Ecology*, due to be published in March 2017. The section comprises a short introduction and five review papers targeting Western Europe, North America, the Baltic, Australasia and South East Asia.

We strongly encourage other regions with peatlands to undertake the same exercise.

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Environmental Stewardship

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management and Collaborative Research & Development Grant (CRD) continued



to be implemented across the expanded national programs (Alberta, Manitoba, Québec, New Brunswick). Canadian peatland scientists were invited to China and provided information on peatland management.

Extensive support for research and development in areas of environmental interests particularly on peatland restoration, biodiversity, hydrology and greenhouse gas emissions have been maintained and strengthened.

The transfer of science outcomes into applied practices continued and was strengthened by the industries Science Coordinator (Stephanie Boudreau) across the industry, governments and scientists supported by the work of the industries Science Coordinating Committee.

Social Stewardship

Implementation steps (updated Environmental Life Cycle Analysis, updated Socio-environmental assessment) for the Industry Social Responsibility Report are underway and will continue to shape the efforts of the industry over the coming years.

Under the terms of the MOU with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), with a focus on the Boreal Region, the industry has continued to engage on research, policy and communications related to peatlands and wetlands.

Communications

An industry harvest report was completed in September and a press release distributed.

In New-Brunswick, the industry is slightly below average in its expected harvest volumes (New Brunswick North, 93%, New Brunswick South, 76%). A wet cool summer restricted harvesting. The harvest on Québec's South Shore (89%) is below expectations. However, some producers were able to achieve targeted volumes. In

Québec's North Shore (75%) the results are less favorable with no producer achieving their harvest expectations. Unfavorable weather conditions throughout the harvest period made for difficulties.

The Prairie Provinces (MB, SK & AB), have experienced a poorer (Manitoba, 83%, Saskatchewan, 70%, Alberta, 79%) harvest primarily due to adverse weather. Minnesota has experienced a similarly lower than expected harvest with only 84% achieved.

Presentations were made at the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHA) held in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), August 8-11.

Resource Governance

Federal Government

Discussion with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Canadian Forest Service, related to the management of peatlands and emissions have been maintained. This has become increasingly more relevant as the Federal Government adopts stronger engagement with the Convention on Climate Change.

Two key workshops, one on Ecosystems Goods and Services, the other on Wetland Policy were held as part of the continued development of a National Roundtable on Wetland Conservation in cooperation with a number of other associations, Federal agencies and Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGO's).

The industry continues to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to resolve concerns regarding peat use from several international governments.

Provincial Governments

Meetings continued with the Alberta and Manitoba government through the respective industry Task Forces and Working Groups. Alberta's policy framework for peatland management was approved for implementation January 1 2017. In Manitoba, there have been some delays in advancing elements of the new peatland resource Act and Regulations. A Peat Practices Committee, met to develop the guidelines and forms needed for the exploration, management planning and recovery planning as well as the timelines for the overall harvest license approval.

During the industry meeting at the Congress.

Photo: Samu Valpolo



In the province of Quebec, the APTHQ have been engaged with the Government of Quebec to ensure, were possible, consistency in legislation, regulations, policies and programs.

Meetings were held with the New Brunswick Government agencies responsible for peatland management to discuss policies affecting industry. (Climate Change, Aboriginal Consultation, Research)

International

Continued to work with the IPS to engage more fully with the international conventions (UN Forum on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) and Agreements (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement), RAMSAR. Contacts with the newly formed Growing Media Europe Association were maintained under our MOU originally agreed upon with EPAGMA.



China

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China is a country with a large population and experiencing rapid economic development. It is also one of the primary markets for peat and coir in the world given that food safety and environmental conservation are at the core of China's national strategy. According to an analysis report issued by the Chinese National Committee (NC) of the IPS, China's gross peat demand in the next 10 years will reach 50 million m³ per year. However, China's peat market is difficult to invest in at moment due to peat resource shortages and inappropriate public awareness. Shortages concerning the availability and type of peat resources have forced China to import sphagnum peat and coconut coir involving with long-distance transportation.

Meanwhile, the lack of public awareness explains the need for the government's severe policy towards the extraction and use of peat resources. Therefore, it is very important to set up and implement an overarching development strategy for the peat industry of China, including a resource allocation strategy, a public awareness strategy, a technical strategy and a product strategy.

The global resource allocation strategy is one of the Chinese peat industry's strategies. As more sphagnum peat and coconut coir are needed in order to use domestic sedge peat and agricultural residues, China has declared, at the 15th International Peatland Congress, that it will import 50 million m³ of peat and coir from

the international peat market. An increasing number of foreign companies has contacted the Chinese NC concerning cooperation on peat resources, while more than 30 of them sent their representatives to China at the end of last year.

The Chinese NC has also been appealing to the central government to decrease the customs tax for peat and coir, with some success, as the customs tax for coir has decreased significantly this year.

Raising public awareness is important for the development of China's peat industry. Due to a lack of appropriate public awareness, peat extraction is prohibited in China, while peat use in horticulture is discouraged by the government. Meanwhile, most professional and amateur users fail to recognize the advantages offered by peat and peat products.

In order to modify the government's conservative policy towards peat resource management and to increase knowledge of peat and peat products among all users, the Chinese NC has launched an awareness campaign via its public profile on the WeChat social media platform, as well as produced a series of science papers for lay publications. The WeChat public profile, which was set up in 2016, now has over 1,000 followers including high-ranking government officials. The Chinese NC also set up a WeChat group in 2016, in which more than 440 followers can participate in discussions

about the peat industry via their mobile phone. A total of six articles on the peat industry and peatland management were published in magazines and newspapers last year.

The technology strategy for China's peat industry is in three parts: introduction, following and innovation. The Chinese NC has introduced a wet agent produced by Turf Tech International, while a Chinese company has been selected to promote this product in China's marketplace.

China has also imported two growing media production lines from Canada and Europe. Furthermore, China is going to organize a programme for appropriate delegates to visit and learn from peat industry companies in Europe. The Chinese NC has also invited a Canada environmental conservation team to China in order to restore an area of wetland that has been cut off from peatland. In addition, a national demonstration site for wetland restoration has been set up.

The Chinese NC is a new member of the IPS family, whose knowledge about the peat industry and international cooperation skills are still limited. As such, China is learning from other countries in order to reach international technical levels after three to five years, as well as developing innovative approaches to peat products and production technology.



Opening of the ice breaking party in Kuching. Photo: IPC 2016

Estonia

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In 2016, the NGO Estonian Peat Association (EPA) had 30 corporate members from Estonia and abroad, all dealing with peat extraction, processing and consulting services. For different reasons, the Geological Survey of Estonia and Piiper Peat Products suspended their membership and AS Põlva Maaparandus declared its bankruptcy. As a new member, Turftech International Ltd joined.

The main activities of the EPA in 2016 concentrated on developing judicial cooperation with government bodies, namely with the Ministry of the Environment regarding the adoption of the revised Earth's Crust Act. In addition, cooperation continued in the preparation of the draft Water Act and the draft Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act.

In the second half of the year, the new Earth's Crust Act was adopted. At the end of the year, the government adopted the regulation governing the critical rate of peat reserves and use of abandoned peat areas disturbed by extraction and the Minister of the Environment issued a list of abandoned peat areas disturbed by extraction and peat areas suitable for extraction. The EPA was active in the preparation of all of the above-mentioned acts and regulations. Additionally, a

Erki Niitlaan working with the IPS Executive Board in Helsinki in April.



project on greenhouse gas emissions (LULUCF) by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the possible impacts of the BAT and BREF reference documents under the IED/IPCC Directive to peat production were analysed.

Close judicial cooperation also continued with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications in preparation of the draft District Heating Act and Electricity Market Act. As there was no breakthrough with the Electricity Market Act, it can be expected that the so-called "marginal rate" regulation will be reinforced in the draft District Heating Act that would improve the competitiveness of peat as fuel.

The main challenge was, and still is, how to raise the competitiveness of peat as fuel, that is, using peat areas disturbed by extraction that would otherwise just perish. Furthermore, several meetings and discussions were held in Estonia and internationally as similar problems have been detected across the Baltic States and in Scandinavia, as well as elsewhere. A meeting was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications to discuss organizing a seminar in April 2017 for all the EU peat producing countries to address these problems collectively.

The EPA issued an analysis on the current situation regarding the grants for investing in district heating systems and another analysis of water quality data results in peat mining.

Representatives of the EPA continued their work in four committees – Commission of Estonian

Mineral Resources, Peat Roundtable and the Energy Board at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The working group dealing with the list of usable peatlands successfully finished its tasks.

Members of the EPA took part and held presentations at several international conferences, including the International Peat Congress in Malaysia. Close cooperation also continued with the IPS. In 2016, the EPA became a member of Energy Peat Europe (EPE) as a result of the break-up of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA). Together with the other newly created organization, Growing Media Europe (GME), proposals were made for amending the European Union regulation relating to fertilizers. Cooperation also continued with the Latvian and Lithuanian Peat Associations.

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2016 marked the 67th year in action of the National Committee of the Finnish Peatland Society. The clear highlight of the year was its first Peatland Day, a full-day scientific event organized on 2nd February to coincide with World Wetland Day.

The event, on the theme of 'Peatlands in the Bioeconomy World', attracted a full house (130 participants in the House of Science and Letters in Helsinki) at its four sessions of oral presentations, plus a poster session and time for mingling in the fabulous peaty atmosphere. Peatland Day is now planned to be a biannual event, to be held on World Wetland Day or the closest working day.

The traditional Spring Seminar, which follows the Spring Assembly, dealt with ecosystem services and new products from peatlands, while the Autumn Seminar, following the Autumn Assembly, focused on the utilization of wood ash as fertilizer in peatland forests and the afforestation of cutover peatlands. In the Autumn Seminar, we also had the pleasure of witnessing former IPS President Björn Hånell, from the Swedish Agricultural University, and Susann Warnecke, also from

the IPS, present the Diploma of the Honorary Presidency of the IPS to our Honorary Member Juhani Päivänen.

In 2016, the Finnish Peatland Society went on its annual excursion to Estonia's peatlands for two days in early June. The destinations included the Soomaa National Park, while utilization aspects were presented at a peat harvesting site and production plant. The excursion was kindly hosted and guided by colleagues from the University of Tallinn, the Estonian Peat Association (Estonian National Committee) and Tootsi Turvas.

2016 also marked the 67th volume of the journal *Suo - Mires and Peat*. The volume consisted of 140 pages, with a print run of 400. The editors were further busy organizing a new web service for the journal, which will be launched in 2017.

Meanwhile, the National Committee website was renewed during 2016 for a 2017 relaunch. The main aim of the renewal is to make the process of updating easier. While the website has been on hold during the renewal phase, the National Committee's Facebook site has been integral in spreading information on our events and other peatland- and peat-related information.

The Executive Board in 2016 was as follows:

- Chair: Dr Raija Laiho, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Vice chairs: Dr Leila Korpela, Luke, Dr Tapio Lindholm, Finnish Environment Institute
- Secretary: Dr Tuula Larmola, Luke
- Treasurer: Maija Lampela, MSc, University of Helsinki
- Members:
Dr Tuomas Haapalehto, Metsähallitus, State Forest Enterprise
Heikki Karppimaa, MSc, Oulun Energia Oy
Markku Koskinen, MSc, University of Helsinki
Juha Ovaskainen, MSc, Vapo Oy
Dr Sakari Sarkkola, Luke
Dr Samu Valpola, Geological Survey of Finland

Sakari Sarkkola was also editor-in-chief, while Leila Korpela was section editor for peatland ecology, on the journal *Suo - Mires and Peat*. Furthermore, Jenni Simkin represented the National Committee on the Finnish Ramsar Work Group.

Finnish Congress participants at Bako National Park.
Photo: Samu Valpola



Germany

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The Indonesian Peat Society (HGI) and Indonesian Agricultural Agency for Research and Development

(IAARD) of the Ministry of Agriculture has organized the seventh Congress with a theme of "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands", followed by the Annual Seminar on Sustainable Management of Suboptimal Lands in Bogor City, 26-28 October 2016.

The event was opened by the head of IAARD. Welcome and keynote speeches were given by the Major of Bogor City and the Governor of Jambi respectively. Invited speakers included representatives from the Peat Restoration Agency, who talked about the peat moratorium and the current state of the peat restoration project, the Indonesian chamber of trade and industry (KADIN), the Indonesian Association of Forest Industry (APHI), and the Indonesian Association of Palm Oil Industry (GAPKI), who talked about the implications of the peat moratorium on the sustainability of agriculture, plantation and industrial forest and economic developments.

Lessons learned from how Japan and European countries have managed peatlands were also addressed.

The Congress agreed to reappoint Prof. Supiandi Sabiham for the period of 2016 to 2020. Four agendas to be prioritized are: 1) organizational and institutional developments; 2) consolidation and development of national-international cooperation; 3) development of peat policy and knowledge; and 4) dissemination and communication of peat knowledge. It is also planned to continue holding several focus group

Boat excursion during the Congress.

Photo: Nick van de Griendt



discussions and an annual seminar, as well as issuing news and scientific journals in cooperation with Lambung Mangkurat University (<http://ijwem.unlam.ac.id/index.php/ijwem>).

The official website of HGI is <http://hgi.or.id>.

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The Irish Peatland Society committee had a very successful year. It organized a national conference on fen peatlands. The two-day event was held on the 11 and 12 October 2016 in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Attendees heard talks from nine experts on all aspects of fens in Ireland.

These included an overview of the status of fens in Ireland, the indicator species that define the quality of the habitat including bryophytes and Vertigo snails, aspects of the communication about fens to the public, the wetlands of Ireland map construction and a detailed case study on Pollardstown Fen, a Special Area of Conservation in Co. Kildare.



The day of talks was followed by a field excursion to visit the intact fen habitat at Pollardstown Fen, the sphagnum restoration project on Lodge Bog and the wetland creation project at Lullymore. During the conference, new members were elected to the National Committee following the retirement of others.

The committee particularly wishes to acknowledge and thank Dr Catherine Farrell, Secretary of the IrPS, for all the hard work she undertook in building the National Committee and organizing many conference workshops and publications. She has been replaced by Dr Dearbhail Ní Chualain of Bord na Móna. In addition, the committee wishes to thank Mr John Connolly for his contribution to the work of the committee. He has been replaced by Dr Maurice Eakin of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Following the conference, it was agreed that a fens working group should be set up involving all stakeholders to work through some of the issues surrounding the conservation and wise use of fens that were highlighted during the conference and field excursion. It is expected that this group will meet in 2017. Another action of the IrPS was to publish two habitat booklets on Irish Bogs and Irish Fens to help raise awareness of these important habitats and resources in Ireland among school children and the general public. Follow the Irish Peatland Society on Facebook.

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On 30 March 2016, the structure of the organization was changed, such that the administrative system currently consists of the board and five board members: Member of the board - Ingrīda Kriģere; chairman of the council - Uldis Ameriks; members of the council - Pēteris Romanovskis, Edijs Ločmels, Dans Čiščakovs and Hendrik Robert Zomer.

In 2016, the association actively engaged in making changes to basic control laws and regulations related to the industry. Currently, several industry control laws and regulations are in place, while the industry is working on making changes.

Latvia

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In 2016, the Latvian Peat Association underwent several changes. The general meeting of the association decided to change its name from the Latvian Peat Producers Association to the Latvian Peat Association. As of last year, natural persons can also become members in the role of scientific members.

In 2016, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia began to develop the National Peat Strategy. The peat industry, the University of Latvia and the Latvia University of Agriculture are involved in the development process. The strategy will be completed in 2017. By the adoption of the strategy, the industry will have a clear development perspective and receive future investments.

The association has also fostered highly successful cooperation with universities. A collaborative project with the Latvia University of Agriculture has now concluded regarding students' training and practice; in return, the university in return is undertaking necessary research on behalf of the industry. Meanwhile, the University of Latvia is conducting research on manufacturing products with added value from dark peat, as well as jointly organized a broad scientific conference about peat with industry stakeholders.



Large amounts of peat are exported from the Baltics to Western Europe, e.g. for flower and food production.

The Latvian Peat Association is also participating in the LIFE REstore project, "Sustainable and responsible management and reuse of degraded peatlands in Latvia". The main goal of the LIFE REstore project is to develop a decision-making support system

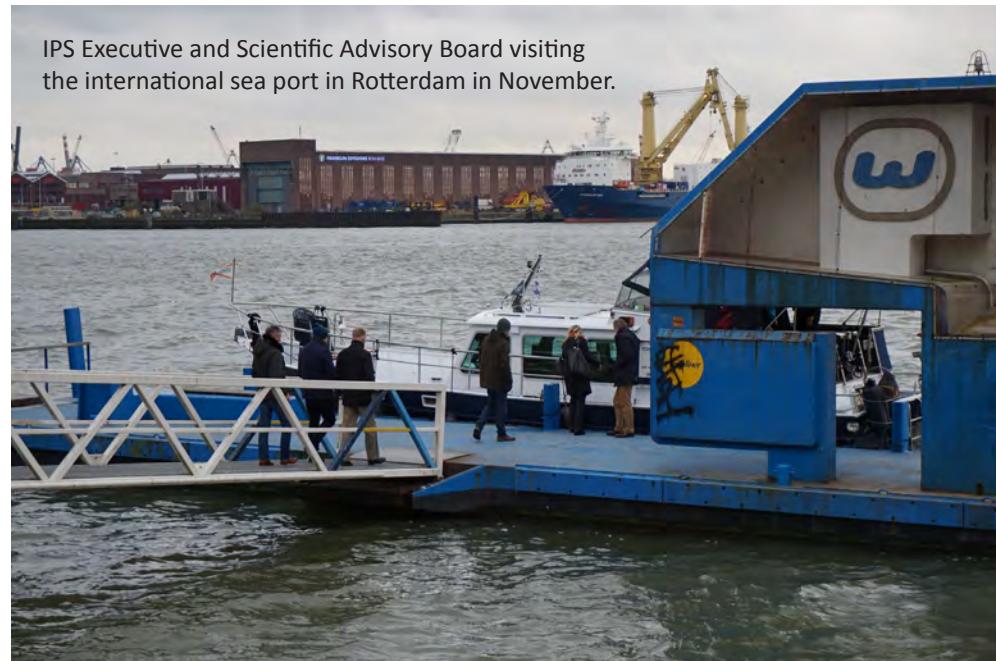
for sustainable and responsible management and reuse of degraded peatlands in Latvia.

The main objectives of the LIFE REstore project are as follows:

- to appraise a field measurement-based methodology for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission accounting from managed wetlands in Latvia in accordance with the Supplement to the IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories: Wetlands;
- to perform an inventory and develop a database of degraded peatlands in Latvia for public access and use of obtained data;
- to develop a decision-making support tool for land reuse planning in degraded peatland areas, providing the most optimal balance between ecological restoration for biodiversity, economic growth benefits and GHG emission reductions for the long-term mitigation of negative climate change impacts in Latvia;
- to support policymakers by providing a strategic framework for implementing developed approaches to sustainable and responsible management and the reuse of degraded peatlands in the National Peat Strategy.

The main project actions are as follows:

- to analyse basic laws and regulations and planning issues that prevent sustainable and responsible management of degraded peatlands, contributing to environmental problems;
- to study and analyse the experience of other countries in the management of degraded peatlands;
- to appraise the methodology for GHG emission accounting, in accordance with the IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories: Wetlands, in order to elaborate country-specific emission factors;
- to contribute to National GHG Inventory



improvements and the impact evaluation of the proposed actions;

- to develop criteria for the classification of degraded peatlands and determine an optimal management approach, thus obtaining input data for the optimization model;
- to perform an inventory of degraded peatlands and develop a database of degraded peatlands, thus obtaining input data for the optimization model and GHG emissions accounting;
- to select the demonstration territories and perform hydrological and habitat studies, as well as an economic assessment of the ecosystems and their value to territories and adjacent areas, thus obtaining input data for the optimization model and demonstrating the reuse practices of specified peatlands;
- to develop a decision-making support tool, i.e., a map-based land-use optimization model for the reuse of degraded peatlands, using a combination of multi-criteria methods and GIS systems, and perform a strategic environmental impact assessment procedure for the tool/developed strategical approach;
- to test and demonstrate the optimization model by implementing the scenarios for land reuse and management in the selected demonstration territories;
- based on the conclusions derived from practical experience, to develop a set of recommendations and mechanisms for the application and implementation of the developed optimization model for peatland reuse and innovative approaches in

- policymaking for peatland management;
- to promote the cooperation, involvement and participation of the public and private sectors through awareness-raising actions.

In terms of peat extraction, 2016 experienced significant rain and other weather conditions unfriendly to the industry. Compared to 2015, peat extraction volumes in 2016 decreased by 30%.

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Government relations and partnership

The Lithuanian Peat Producers Association has been actively engaged in national legislative changes, in the form of links with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Geology Survey under the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, the State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture regarding energy peat, the Forests Cadastre and the Underground Law, as well as special conditions for exploitation, the regulation on fertilizers and the maintenance of specific national charges.

Work continued with Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists regarding the Labour Code and support on various other matters. The Study of Energy Peat was conducted in cooperation with the Lithuanian Energy Consultants Association. The association has developed a partnership with the Lithuania Fund for Nature, as well as engaged in various environmental activities: for instance,

Truly international atmosphere at one of the many dinners of the International Peat Congress in Kuching. Photo: IPC 2016



in September 2016, an international workshop was held, entitled “Harvested and damaged peatlands: the prospects of restoration and conservation”, in Vente (Silute Region) and the Aukstumala peatland. In the course of the workshop, the association presented environmental projects implemented by its members.

International cooperation

Close cooperation with the IPS, Growing Media Europe (GME), Energy Peat Europe (EPE), the Latvian and Lithuanian Peat Producers’ Associations, scientists and other organizations continued.

Season

The harvest season in 2016 was the weakest in six years. Peat extraction reached less than two million m³. This was less than expected, while volumes were 34% lower than the previous year. Accordingly, in 2016, the number of permanent employees in the peat industry dropped from 830 to 745, although the number of seasonal employees remained stable. Seasonal results were disappointing due to unfavourable weather conditions. Mean annual precipitation reached an average of 65.3 mm per month in comparison to 46.8 mm per month in 2015. Indeed, the rainfall in August peaked at 121 mm, which was 55% above the normal (1981-2010).

16th Baltic Peat Producers Forum

2016 was an extraordinary year for the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association because of the Baltic Peat Producers Forum. Early preparations started at the beginning of the year, while becoming increasingly busier as the September event drew closer.

This annual event is a highlight on the calendar of all peat industry companies in the Baltic Region. It has also increased in popularity among representatives of other countries. This year, the Baltic Peat Producers Forum welcomed participants from 15 countries and over 100 organizations.



Networking between Congress sessions, here Nick van de Griendt (left) and Tomi Yli-Kyyny. Photo: IPC 2016

Due to the great input of our sponsors, the three-day event was considered to be a success. It started with an “ice-breaking” party on Wednesday night at Kaunas Town Hall, referred to as the “White Swan”. After an excursion to the historical museum and the basements of this 16th century building, guests were invited to enjoy the food and music, as well as network.

At the heart of the 2016 Baltic Peat Producers Forum was a two-day conference, with a particular focus on specific regional challenges and opportunities. The conference’s thematic sessions explored peat use within the energy sector as well as innovations in industry. Company representatives, professionals, delegates, experts and scientists gathered to share their experience of the peat industry and knowledge of economics, the investment climate, politics and lobbying. All the presentations generated much interest among the participants and added significant value to the event. Thanks to our wonderful speakers.

The high point of the 2016 Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Kaunas was the gala dinner held on Thursday at the Renaissance Raudondvaris Manor. This 17th century architectural gem was reborn for the evening, with theatrical entertainment provided for guests, while the premises were especially illuminated. The event continued with the performance while guests tasted delicious food. At the end, Lithuania handed over responsibility of the forum to Latvia where the next forum will be held. The following day, bird enthusiasts joined the excursion to Novaraistis Ornithological Reserve, a former peatland. The



The evening programme of the Congress was a enjoyable experience for most of us. Photo: IPC 2016

In 2016, the Malaysian Peat Society (MPS) was made up of 46 registered members with four corporate members and 42 ordinary members.

MPS memberships consisted of a balance between industry, academic, non-governmental organization and government sectors as of 31 December 2016.

excursion also included a visit to the Forest Museum of Lekeciai. Thanks to all the participants for creating such an exciting atmosphere.

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The sixth Annual General Meeting of the MPS was convened in Kuching on 14 May 2016 to review and discuss the reports of the Secretary General and Treasurer General, the proposed budget, proposed plan of activities for 2016, appointment of auditors and GST Authorized Personnel for the financial year 2016.

The two other committee meetings in 2016 were held mostly to discuss the final preparations of the 15th International Peat Congress, to iron out several issues associated with the number of participants and abstract submissions, the scientific programme, excursion programme, Congress venue etc.

The main event of the MPS in 2016 was the 15th International Peat Congress with the theme "Peatlands in Harmony – Agriculture, Industry and Nature". The theme aimed at highlighting the closely linked relationship between the environment, industry and socio-economic factors and peat. The five-day event was held from 15 to 19 August 2016 at the Pullman Hotel in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Over 1,000 delegates took part in the Congress, with 332 contributions for oral and poster presentations under six main themes:

1. Inventory, biodiversity, conservation & functions of peatlands
2. Peatlands and ecosystem management

3. Peatlands after-use, restoration & rehabilitation of ex-production peatlands
4. Peat use, peatlands technology & agro-technology
5. Responsible utilization & management of peatlands
6. Cultural, educational, medicinal & socio-economic aspects of peatlands, peat and sapropel

Special sessions:

- (a) Soft soil engineering
- (b) Peat for horticulture & energy
- (c) Publicly managed peatland carbon storage, ecosystem services & management
- (d) Tropical peatland biodiversity & conservation in Southeast Asia
- (e) Peatland restoration: the way forward
- (f) Asia Flux

Congress participants also took part in the field excursions on the first day of the Congress to various places showcasing peatland areas near Kuching. The site visits included:

1. Agriculture on tropical peatland: smallholder farms
2. Agriculture on tropical peatland: oil palm industry
3. Semenggoh Nature Reserve
4. Bako National Park



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Our Annual Meeting on 3 June 2016 was combined with a visit to the “Nationaal Park de Weerribben” in Ossenzijl (www.natuurmonumenten.nl/natuurgebied/nationaal-park-weerribben-wieden). After the welcoming words of our President Guus van Berckel, four experts presented their views on the past and future of our peat pasture areas, and relevant lessons learned for tropical peatlands. About 50 persons attended the meeting. A boat trip through the National Park highlighted and closed this successful meeting. One spin-off of this meeting, as is usually the case when our meetings are combined with those of other interests (e.g. geology, agriculture, history), is the fostering of new contacts, one of the central aims of the Nederlands Veengenootschap.

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In November the Nederlands Veengenootschap had the honour of hosting the IPS Executive Board and the Scientific Advisory Board. The meeting was held in Naaldwijk, main town in the Westland, the centre of Dutch glass house horticulture. The Executive Board, the SAB, the Board of the Dutch National Committee and invited guests convened

and discussed current IPS matters, like the new organisational figuration of the IPS.

Between the meetings our guests had a tour in the harbour of Rotterdam and visited the research centre of the substrate producing company Van der Knaap. The excursions were sponsored by Van der Knaap - Group of Companies and Klasmann-Deilmann Benelux.

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In 2016, the Torv Forsk, the Swedish National Committee of the IPS, increased the amount of company members of the Society in Sweden by around 50%. This was achieved by bringing together all members of the Swedish Peat Producers Association and the Peat Research Foundation. This arrangement not only increases the range of benefits to members in both organizations, but also provides access to much more information on IPS work. The Torv Forsk now has 56 members.

Some 1,000 participants from all over the world were eager to learn as much as possible about peat and peatland management. Photo: IPC 2016



Last year, the Torv Forsk of the Peat Research Foundation worked on the following four research projects:

1. Contaminants in soil products made from peat. This project has resulted in added value for peat soil industry products.
2. Restoration of peat extraction areas by rewetting. The project is ongoing and will offer more data on how to improve areas after peat extraction.
3. Evaluation of peat pyrolysis. The project has shown that it is possible to create peat pyrolysis, but the yield is lower compared to wood.
4. Climate impact from different actions on drained peatlands. The project has provided examples showing that peat extraction is better for the climate than doing nothing or rewetting. The project also confirmed that burning peat is better than burning oil and coal; it is even better than burning natural gas, but the positive effects take a longer time.

During 2017, the rewetting project and climate impact project will continue. The soil contaminants and pyrolysis projects have now reported their findings.

The Swedish Peat Producers Association, known as the Svensk Torv, is involved in lobbying and providing information about peat and peat extraction for horticulture peat and energy peat. One of the most important political issues in Sweden last year concerned a report from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency about using peat.

As the report, which was Commissioned by the Swedish Environmental Department, was negative towards using peat, while peat firing requires emissions rights in the EU emissions trading system, several combined heat and power (CHP) plants in Sweden have decided to stop using peat

The commercial exhibition was also part of the learning experience. Photo: IPC 2016



as a fuel. This is now a problem in Sweden because peat can no longer be used together with biofuel.

We also know that large areas of drained peatlands in Sweden have to be restored. One way of approaching this issue is to use peat with adequate after treatment instead of importing fossil fuels such as oil and coal. Stopping the use of peat has meant that we have lost an important tool with which to tackle emissions from drained peatlands.

The Swedish National Committee has organized an annual meeting in Falköping for April and an autumn meeting in Lund for November. The Torv Forsk has also arranged a seminar about climate impact from drained peatland, to take place during the 2017 Almedalen Week on Visby, which brings together most Swedish politicians in early July every year.

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A warm thank you to all organisers, sponsors and participants of the International Peat Congress in Kuching.
Photo: IPC 2016



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Last year was a very busy one for peatlands and peat people in the UK. The increased attention being given to peatlands globally by national and regional governments, international conventions and international NGOs highlights their importance as carbon stores and mitigators of climate change processes. UK members of the IPS have been involved in many ways, contributing to the science of peatlands and their restoration.

Unfortunately, our UK IPS membership numbers that have been reasonably stable at around 40 for several years have declined slightly in 2016. This is partly because some have retired from their jobs and no longer feel the need to maintain their membership and partly because research students have completed their courses and have moved on to other 'pastures' in which they no longer wish to remain as members of the IPS.

This means we need to have a constant flow of new members but in 2016 these have been relatively few. I hope you will all try to convince colleagues and students of the advantage of IPS membership and the services the Society provides.

The main event of 2016, the International Peat Congress held in Kuching, Sarawak was attended by many participants from the UK including many IPS members. This gave our UK members the opportunity to experience tropical peatland, many for the first time, and to share experiences with our southeast Asian partners.

Allan Robertson Grants

The UK Peat Society was the driving force in persuading the IPS Executive Board to establish the Allan Robertson Grants for young peatland researcher and managers. Allan's family financially supports these, together with the IPS and independent donations. Owing to people's generosity we were able to provide 15 awards to young scientists and professionals who attended the Kuching Congress. For more information see www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

Peatland restoration

The UK is a leader in practical aspects of peatland restoration and numerous of those involved are members of the UK Peat Society. The focus is mainly on upland blanket peatland, especially in National Parks. Some of these activities have been reported in Peat News now renamed 'Peat Snippets'.

A £14 million project that will help protect and transform moorlands across the South Pennines

and the Peak District National Park in England was launched by the UK Environment Minister. The five-year project, hosted by the Peak District National Park Authority, will enable the team at Moors for the Future to continue the progress that has been made over the past 12 years, protecting huge areas of the internationally important South Pennine Moors.

The funding for MoorLIFE 2020 includes £10 million from the EU's LIFE fund, the largest ever award to a UK nature conservation project. For more details go to www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk. Unfortunately, since the UK has voted to leave the EU, there is some uncertainty about the funding of this project.

Conferences

The Cumbria BogLIFE Conference was held in Penrith, Cumbria, UK during 4-6 October 2016 under the title "Restoring Peatlands, The Development of Best Practice Techniques". The conference comprised a mix of presentations, workshops and site visits highlighting the issues involved in planning and managing restoration work on peatlands.

The 6th IUCN UK Peatlands Programme Conference "Creating a legacy for peatlands" was held on 29th November to 1st December 2016 in the Shropshire Conference Centre, Shrewsbury, England. Many of the participants were members of the IPS. There were five key themes that ran throughout the conference that were investigated to determine knowledge gaps and assist with the review process of the draft UK Peatland Strategy.

The IPS Convention in 2017 will be held in the Marriott Hotel Dyce, Aberdeen from 28-31 May. It is being organised by the UK Peat Society. A website to provide information about the event

including accommodation and travel has been launched at www.peatlands2017.net.

USA

Chair

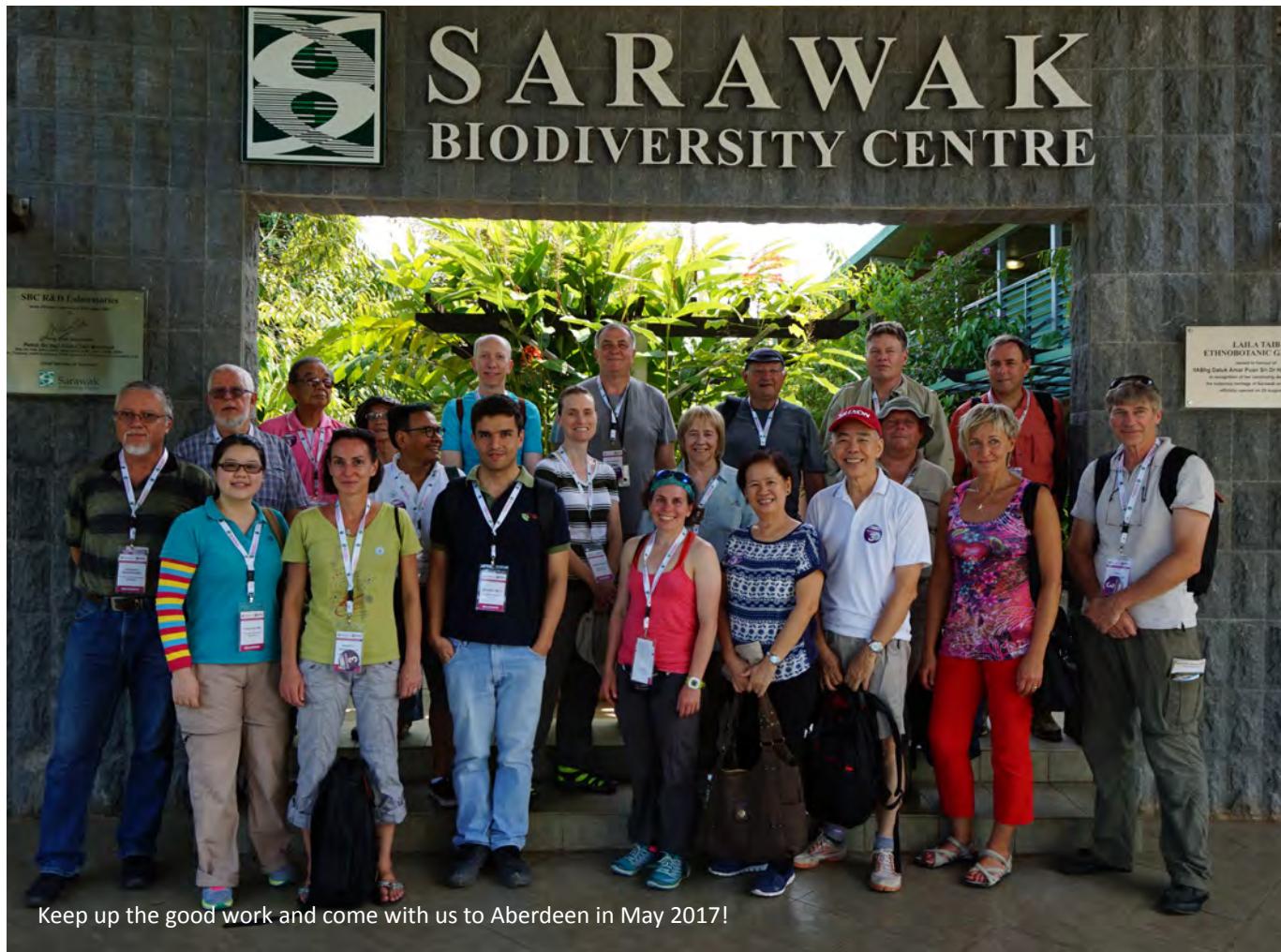
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The U.S. National Committee (USNC) met several times during 2016. Two goals were addressed during the year. The first, to maintain (refresh) contacts with state and federal agencies that regulate horticultural peat harvesting and the preservation of peatlands. The ever changing personnel in these agencies require personal contact so IPS perspectives can be presented and weighed as part of regulatory decision-making. Seven agencies were contacted. After the November presidential election, the status of the regulatory environment is in a high state





of uncertainty. The USNC remains active in communicating with regulatory agencies during this time of uncertainty. Principally, the Committee acts in an educational capacity by providing agencies with reference publications and through discussions of peatlands during site visits.

The second goal was to increase IPS membership in the U.S. The main effort was coincident with the 15th International Peat Congress (IPC) in Malaysia and follow-up communications. Tom Malterer represented the USNC at the Congress. In addition to participating in official IPC functions, Tom met all registered participants from the USA. Two participants were already IPS members and 23 were not.

The non-members were affiliated with numerous federal agencies, universities, research centers and a couple of companies. All expressed some interest in joining the IPS, but asked that they be emailed application information. Upon return to the USA, Tom emailed applications and was able to sign up only five new members. It seemed that

once the IPC was over, they quickly lost interest in becoming members. Also, much communication went back and forth between the five that joined. Each wanted an electronic fund transfer (EFT) so that membership cost could be charged to their employers. Suffice it to say, setting up an EFT process for each employer was a struggle.

Also, the USNC continues to work with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS has nationwide responsibility for collecting and publishing yearly data on peat production and use. They are dependent on a voluntary reporting system by peat producers. We have given the USGS contact information for companies and encouraged producers to report their production. We have also reviewed yearly estimates with local resource managers.

*Follow the IPS also at
www.fb.com/peatlands.*

International Peatland Society

Business ID: 1074181-4

Financial statement in accordance with the Accounting Ordinance for
small- and micro-sized enterprises

1.1.2016-31.12.2016

This financial statement is to be stored until 31.12.2026

Financial statement 1.1.2016-31.12.2016

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The financial statement and accounting journals are to be stored for 10 years after the financial year.

Financial year's bookkeeping material is required to be stored for 6 years, beginning from the end of the year the financial year has ended.

This financial statement has been prepared by:

TietoAkseli Oy, authorized accounting firm
Puistokatu 2 C
40100 Jyväskylä
Finland

Contact information for International Peatland Society

Address: Nisulankatu 78, 40720 Jyväskylä

Business ID: 1074181-4

Domicile: Jyväskylä

Balance sheet

	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Tangible assets		
Machinery and equipment	2 409,63	3 212,84
Tangible assets total	2 409,63	3 212,84
Investments		
Other shares	0,00	84,09
Investments total	0,00	84,09
NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	2 409,63	3 296,93
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables		
Short term		
Trade debtors	31 179,50	33 056,70
Other receivables	1 031,12	576,29
Prepayments and accrued income	218,35	390,72
Short term receivables total	32 428,97	34 023,71
Receivables total	32 428,97	34 023,71
Cash in hand and at banks	127 088,29	131 457,00
CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	159 517,26	165 480,71
ASSETS TOTAL	161 926,89	168 777,64
	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
LIABILITIES		
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Retained earnings	147 618,65	156 969,62
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	1 337,46	-9 350,97
CAPITAL AND RESERVES TOTAL	148 956,11	147 618,65
CREDITORS		
Short term		
Advances received	0,00	3 553,39
Account payables	1 159,78	1 771,51
Other creditors	2 578,30	2 287,56
Accruals and deferred income	9 232,70	13 546,53
Short term creditors total	12 970,78	21 158,99
CREDITORS TOTAL	12 970,78	21 158,99
LIABILITIES TOTAL	161 926,89	168 777,64

Income statement

01.01.2016 - 31.12.2016 01.01.2015 -31.12.2015

ACTUAL OPERATION

PUBLISHING

Income	8 007,33	10 393,00
Expenses	-4 986,33	-5 085,07

PUBLISHING TOTAL

3 021,00 5 307,93

CONFERENCES

Income	0,00	6 260,00
Expenses	-804,00	0,00

CONFERENCES TOTAL

-804,00 6 260,00

PROJECTS

Income	10 000,00	14 000,00
Expenses	-13 576,27	-15 395,76

PROJECTS TOTAL

-3 576,27 -1 395,76

OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION

Income

Income	4 053,39	4 543,70
--------	----------	----------

Expenses

Staff expenses	-99 793,75	-106 085,89
Depreciations	-803,21	-1 070,95
Other expenses	-46 923,16	-60 612,13

OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL

-143 466,73 -163 225,27

ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL

-144 826,00 -153 053,10

SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT

-144 826,00 -153 053,10

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Income	147 870,00	150 569,00
Expenses	-1 668,00	-6 801,00
MEMBERSHIP FEES TOTAL	146 202,00	143 768,00
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	1 376,00	-9 285,10

INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY

Income	0,00	1,77
Expenses	-38,54	-67,64

INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY

-38,54 -65,87

SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT

1 337,46 -9 350,97

SURPLUS (-DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1 337,46 -9 350,97

Company name	International Peatland Society	SW 18.4.2017
Accounting report type	IPS, new income statement report	
Receipt status	Business transactions	
Receipt date	01.01.2016 - 31.12.2016	
Report length	All accounts	
Report columns	Total sum for selected period	
Comparison data	Budget	

INCOME STATEMENT	Realised 2016	Budget 2016	Realised 2015
INCOME			
Membership fees			
National Committee fees	27 270 €	28 778 €	28 397 €
Corporate and industrial fees	113 000 €	113 000 €	116 552 €
Individual member fees	1 275 €	969 €	920 €
Company fees	6 200 €	4 960 €	4 650 €
Student member fees	125 €	50 €	50 €
Membership fees total	147 870 €	147 757 €	150 569 €
Publishing			
Sale of magazines	60 €	0 €	0 €
Advertisement income	7 350 €	10 000 €	9 895 €
Sales of publications	388 €	300 €	488 €
Other publication income	209 €	100 €	10 €
Publishing total	8 007 €	10 400 €	10 393 €
Events			
Travelling and meeting income	0 €		3 044 €
Conference income (15% commission)	0 €		6 260 €
Events total	0 €		9 304 €
Other			
Health insurance refunds	222 €	400 €	391 €
Grant contributions	4 053 €	4 500 €	1 500 €
Project income	10 000 €	0 €	14 000 €
Interest income			2 €
Other income total	14 276 €	4 900 €	15 892 €
INCOME TOTAL	170 153 €	163 057 €	186 158 €
EXPENSES			
Staff and external services			
Salaries (1.3 persons)	-74 588 €	-79 000 €	-79 367 €
Auditing	-2 195 €	-1 800 €	-1 600 €
Accounting	-6 481 €	-7 500 €	-7 322 €
Social security	-1 526 €	-1 700 €	-1 646 €
Pension funds	-13 185 €	-15 000 €	-14 214 €
Insurances required by law	-1 045 €	-1 200 €	-1 043 €
Healthcare	-437 €	-850 €	-781 €
Other social costs	-266 €	-260 €	-254 €
Training	-294 €	-250 €	-250 €
Staff and external services total	-100 016 €	-107 560 €	-106 477 €

Facilities and administration			
Rent	-8 965 €	-9 080 €	-7 838 €
Cleaning	0 €	0 €	-198 €
Office equipment	-1 390 €	-1 037 €	-406 €
Office materials	-131 €	-200 €	-135 €
Printing and copying	-1 889 €	-2 600 €	-2 618 €
Books and magazines	-80 €	-50 €	0 €
Mailing	-2 107 €	-1 300 €	-1 289 €
Phone and internet	-1 198 €	-1 300 €	-1 213 €
IT and maintenance	-835 €	-1 500 €	-1 342 €
Office catering and staff occasions / move	-51 €	-200 €	-383 €
Other insurances	-1 132 €	-1 200 €	-1 112 €
Other costs	-6 €	-1 000 €	-1 776 €
Facilities and administration total	-17 784 €	-19 467 €	-18 310 €
Travelling			
Domestic travelling and accommodation	-857 €	-700 €	-655 €
Domestic allowances	-256 €	-220 €	-120 €
Foreign allowances	-1 540 €	-2 000 €	-1 811 €
Mileage allowances	-154 €	-600 €	-603 €
Secretariat foreign travelling and accommodation	-6 450 €	-6 356 €	-5 861 €
EB travelling and accommodation	-3 896 €	-7 000 €	-6 644 €
SAB travelling and accommodation	-3 307 €	-4 000 €	-5 284 €
Meeting costs/room rents	-2 455 €	-2 000 €	0 €
Representation / catering	-665 €	-2 000 €	-3 100 €
Registration fees	-2 398 €	-3 000 €	-1 000 €
Other travelling costs	-1 446 €	0 €	-7 416 €
Travelling total	-23 422 €	-27 876 €	-32 496 €
Publishing			
Online journal Mires and Peat	-4 019 €	-4 500 €	-4 031 €
Proofreading PI+PN	-474 €	-1 000 €	-394 €
Other publication costs	-3 €	-300 €	-55 €
Website and email	-491 €	-500 €	-605 €
Book scanning	0 €	-200 €	0 €
Publishing total	-4 986 €	-6 500 €	-5 085 €
Other			
Other costs	0 €	0 €	-6 021 €
Project expenses (Peat dialogue)	-13 576 €	-13 644 €	-15 396 €
Conference expenses	-804 €	0 €	0 €
Allan Robertson Grants	-4 750 €	-5 500 €	-2 500 €
Marketing	-78 €	-500 €	-114 €
Membership fees	-83 €	-110 €	-83 €
Others total total	-19 291 €	-19 754 €	-24 114 €
Financial			
Credit losses	-1 668 €	-7 000 €	-6 801 €
Depreciations	-803 €	-800 €	-1 071 €
Banking fees	-658 €	-700 €	-683 €
Webshop/credit card fees	-149 €	-400 €	-405 €
Interest expenses	-7 €	0 €	-68 €
Other financial expenses	-31 €	0 €	0 €
Financial total	-3 317 €	-8 900 €	-9 028 €
EXPENSES TOTAL	-168 816 €	-190 057 €	-195 509 €
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	1 337 €	-27 000 €	-9 351 €

Notes on the financial statements

Notes on the preparation of the financial statements

The financial statement has been prepared by using the valuation and sequencing presumption of principles and procedures in accordance with the Accounting Ordinance for small and micro-sized enterprises.

Notes on employees and members of governing bodies

	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Average number of employees per annum	1	3

Notes on capital and reserves

	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Retained surplus	147 618,95	156 969,62
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	1 337,46	-9 350,97
Capital and reserves total	148 956,11	147 618,95

Total income

	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Total income	169 930,72	185 767,47
Total expenditure	-167 790,05	-194 047,49
Depreciation	-803,21	-1 070,95
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	1 337,46	-9 350,97

Date and signatures

Lund 02. III 2017

The image shows three handwritten signatures in blue ink on horizontal lines. The first signature 'Lund' is at the top left. Below it is a signature that includes 'Saarinen' and 'Pihl'. At the bottom left is another signature.

Auditor's note

Auditors report has been issued today

Jyväskylä 20.4. 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arto Saarinen'.

DHS Audit Partners

Auditor Mr. Arto Saarinen, authorized public accountant

List of accounting records and materials

Accounting records and materials and method of preserving

Financial statement

Financial statement	Separately bound
Balance sheet specifications	Separately bound

Chart of accounts and balance lists

Account-specific income statement	Digital archive
Account-specific balance sheet	Digital archive
Chart of accounts	Digital archive

Accounting records

Accounting journal	Digital archive
General ledger	Digital archive
Accounts receivable	Digital archive
Accounts payable	Digital archive
Payroll accounting	Digital archive
Salary/wage ledger	Digital archive

Receipts

Bank statements	Digital archive
Sales invoices	Digital archive
Purchase invoices	Digital archive
Salary statements and reports	Digital archive
Memo vouchers	Digital archive
Kausiveroilmoitukset	Digital archive
Note vouchers	Digital archive

All material is digitally archived. Backup files are archived on CD-ROM.

AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation of the Finnish original)**To the Annual General Meeting of International Peatland Society****Report on the Audit of Financial Statements****Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of International Peatland Society (business identity code 1074181-4) for the year ended 31 December, 2016. The financial statements comprise the balance sheets, the income statements and notes.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the society's financial performance and financial position in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. My responsibilities under good auditing practice are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable in Finland and are relevant to my audit, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements. The Board of Directors is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the society's ability to continue as going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to liquidate the society or cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities in the Audit of Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance on whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with good auditing practice will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with good auditing practice, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the parent company's or the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the parent company's or the group's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events so that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during our audit.

Other reporting requirements

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the report of the Board of Directors. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the information included in the report of the Board of Directors and, in doing so, consider whether the information included in the report of the Board of Directors is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. My responsibility also includes considering whether the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

In my opinion, the information in the report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the information in the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations requirements.

If, based on the work we have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement in the information included in the report of the Board of Directors; we are required to report this fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

In Jyväskylä, 20. April 2017



Arto Saarinen
KHT