



International Peat Society | IMTG MTO

International Peat Society
ANNUAL REPORT
2007

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Secretary General's Review

The International Peat Society (IPS) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization. Our vision is that peatlands are managed for the benefit of mankind, now and in the future. According to its Mission Statement, the IPS is an international organization of scientific, industrial and regulatory stakeholders, dedicated to fostering the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

The 11th Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held in May in Riga, Latvia. I would like to thank once again our hosts for organizing such a splendid program for IPS representatives.

The second Wim Tonnis Peat Award of IPS was conferred in Riga in May 2007 during the IPS Annual Assembly on Mr. Hartmut Falkenberg for his outstanding engagement in the development of the 'Wise Use' concept in Germany and internationally.

During the year, the IPS Climate Change Working Group carried on its good work. The aim of the group is to gather scientific data about peat, peatlands and climate change and publish an easy-to-understand assessment report for decision makers. The book will be launched at the International Peat Congress in 2008. The project is financed by the corporate members of IPS.

The Scientific Advisory Board continued its operation during 2007 by holding two meetings. Its main role is to activate the eight Commissions, increase the flow of information and all in all promote the scientific activities of the IPS.

The scientific journal "Mires and Peat" has now established its place in Society affairs and several articles were published during the year. I hope that



Secretary General Jaakko Silpola, First Vice President Donal Clarke and Honorary President Allan Robertson at the EB meeting in Riga. Photo: Varpu Savolainen

the journal will become known by all peat and peatland stakeholders in the near future.

Information on many other activities held under the auspices of IPS during the year can be found in the reports of Commission and National Committee reports in this Annual Report.

IPS also approved a new logo during the year based on the result of a logo competition and further designing by advertising agency Zeniitti Oy in Finland.

As of 31 December 2007, the IPS membership comprised a total of 1,285 (2006: 1,261) members in 35 (38) countries. The membership database is updated continuously through information from the National Committees and by direct contacts.

The Profit and Loss Account of the IPS shows a profit of EUR 43,221.93 (2006: profit of EUR 11,088.43) for the financial year 2007. This is mainly due to the Climate Change Working Group project, which will have costs during the next year, as well. The

total income of the IPS was EUR 183,725.19 (2006: EUR 170,654.07), with expenditure amounting to EUR 140,503.26 including depreciation (2006: EUR 159,565.64). Bad debts amounted to EUR 336.00 and the depreciation to EUR 409.00. Assets and liabilities increased to EUR 132,744.70 (2006: EUR 86,239.71). I am pleased that IPS has managed to have some savings because the Climate Change project still needs money during the year 2008, as planned, and IPS will probably face some other projects in the near future, too.

I want to give my hearty thanks to all IPS members and to all of you who have contributed to IPS, mostly on a voluntary basis. I want to thank members of the Executive Board for good and smooth cooperation as well as the Scientific Advisory Board, the National Committees, Commissions and Working Groups, who have once again done most valuable work for the IPS and for peat and peatlands.

Jaakko Silpola

Report of the Executive Board

Administration

Annual Assembly of National Representatives

The International Peat Society held its 11th Annual Assembly of National Representatives on Saturday, 26 May 2007 in Riga, Latvia. The Assembly was attended by twelve (12) representatives of the National Committees, coming from Belarus, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and Sweden. Additionally, eleven (11) observers were present.

The Assembly adopted the balance sheet, the annual report and the auditor's report for 2006, and approved the plan of activities, budget, affiliation and membership fees for 2007 as well as a framework for budget and membership fees 2008. Arto Saarinen from Deloitte & Touche Oy was elected as auditor and the company was authorized to nominate a substitute auditor for IPS.

The tradition of holding a Round Table Discussion for National Committee Representatives was successfully continued with presentations and discussions about tropical peatlands, industrial fees and other financial issues, the different tasks of IPS and, from industrial members' point of view, EPAGMA. Other topics included communication issues and the arrangements of the upcoming Tullamore Congress.

The Annual Assembly 2008 will be held in connection with the International Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland in June 2008.

Meetings of the Executive Board

In 2007, the IPS Executive Board met three times: in Tullamore, Ireland in March, in Riga, Latvia in May and finally in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in August.

Tullamore, Ireland in March

EB meeting No. 36 was held in Tullamore, Ireland on 10 March 2007. Eight (8) Board members attended the meeting. Executive Board member Gerry Hood sent his appologies. Additionally, Honorary President Allan Robertson, Secretary General Jaakko Silpola, Communications Manager Susann Warnecke, Organisation Manager Varpu Savolainen as well as, accompanying Mr. Gogin, Nikolay Pentin and Anya Sycheva-Mikhailova attended the meeting.

Besides a number of administrative decisions, the Board decided to confer the Wim Tonnis Award 2007 on Hartmut Falkenberg. The Board reviewed the logo proposals and agreed on the winning design which will be developed further by an advertising agency. Furthermore, the Board reviewed the achievements of the IPS Strategic Goals and the Wise Use Application Guidelines. It noted the report of the Climate Change Working Group and of Olivia Bragg, Editor of the journal *Mires and Peat*. It was agreed further to

discuss the establishment of an online Global Peatland Database at the IPS-IMCG meeting in Sweden in June. The Board also approved the annual report 2006 and the frameworks for the budget and membership fees 2008, subject to approval by the Annual Assembly. Last, but not least, the Board members conferred the title of Honorary member on Mr. Paddy Hughes, Ireland, and approved a number of events to be organized under the auspices of IPS.

Riga, Latvia in May

The 37th Executive Board meeting was held on 24 May 2007 in Riga, Latvia. Seven (7) Board Members participated in the meeting, as well as IPS Honorary President Allan Robertson, Secretary General Jaakko Silpola, Project Coordinator Varpu Savolainen,



EB members on a peat train during an excursion in Riga, Latvia. Photo: Varpu Savolainen

Anna Sycheva-Mikhailova and Nikolay Pentin. President Markku Mäkelä and Executive Board member Håkan Bjur sent their apologies.

The Board discussed the relationship between IPS and IMCG and the programme for the IPS-IMCG excursion and meeting in Sweden, on 25 - 28 June 2007. Moreover the Board decided to hire an advertising agency to develop the winning IPS logo further, noted a report of the Secretary General about the Climate Change Working Group and an updated letter to the European Commission about the renewability of peat. Last but not least, the Board discussed the establishment of an online Global Peatland database, the schedule for the EB excursion and meetings in Indonesia around 20 - 31 August 2007, as well as the current situation regarding the International Peat Congress 2008.

Yogyakarta in August

The 38th Executive Board meeting on 26 August 2007 was attended by six (6) Board members; Allan Robertson, Tomasz Brandyk, Gerry Hood and Valerij Kozlov sent their apologies. In addition to the Board members, Secretary General Jaakko Silpola and the future Board Member Björn Hånell attended the meeting.

At its last meeting for 2007, the Board noted the financial status of IPS as of 30 June 2007. The Board also officially agreed on the new logo for IPS and discussed the outcome of the IPS-IMCG excursion and meeting in Sweden, on 25 - 28 June 2007. Furthermore IPS involvement in Asia was reviewed and further actions discussed. The Board also considered the establishment of an IPS Commission on Tropical Peatlands, which will be taken up at the strategy meeting of the EB in March 2008. The Board noted the current state of preparations for the International Peat Congress 2008 in Tullamore, Ireland, and noted the President's proposals for the celebration of the 40th anniversary



In Indonesia several trials are going on in order to make drained peatlands green again. On the experiment site: Dr Suvido H. Limin (left), the Finnish Ambassador Markku Niinioja and Professor Harri Vasander. Photo: Jaakko Silpola



On the experiment site in the tropical peatland forest of Kalimantan: Dr Herbert Diemont (left) and IPS President Professor Markku Mäkelä. Photo: Jaakko Silpola

of IPS. It was decided that the next Executive Board meeting would be held in Brussels, on 13-16 March, in connection with a meeting with the Board of EPAGMA

Members of the Executive Board

According to the Statutes of the IPS, the Executive Board consists of

the President, the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and from two to six ordinary members. The current members of the Executive Board and their terms of office are:

	Term of office
President Markku Mäkelä Finland	2004-2008
1st Vice President Donal Clarke Ireland	2004-2008
2nd Vice President Tomasz Brandyk Poland	2004-2008
Ordinary members Gerry Hood Canada	2004-2008
Jack Rieley United Kingdom	2004-2008
Dmitriy Gogin Russia	2005-2008
Håkan Bjur Sweden	2006-2010
Valerijs Kozlovs Latvia	2006-2010
Jutta Zeitz Germany	2006-2010

The National Committees will select new members for the IPS Executive Board to replace the members whose four-year-term is over. Selection will take place at the Annual Assembly in Tullamore, on 13 June 2008.

Meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), a group consisting of the IPS Commission Chairs and the 2nd Vice President of IPS, was founded at the group's first meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 November 2004. It is the SAB's premium task to act as a pool of scientific knowledge for IPS

by exchanging ideas concerning the scientific work of the commissions and to ensure a better communication among its members and with the Executive Board. The Scientific Advisory Board met twice in 2007, on 9 March in Tullamore, Ireland and on 2 - 4 November in Vlotho, Germany.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board

Chairman: IPS 2nd Vice President Tomasz Brandyk, Poland

Members: Chairs of Comm I - VIII
I Lars Lundin, Sweden
II Gerald Schmilewski, Germany
III Lech Szajdak, Poland
IV Nikolay Bambalov, Belarus
V Line Rochefort, Canada
VI Riitta Korhonen, Finland
VII Hannu Hökkä, Finland
VIII Anne Jelle Schilstra, Netherlands

Members of the IPS

As of 31 December 2007, the IPS membership comprised a total of 1,285 (2006: 1,261) members in 35 (38) countries. The membership database is updated continuously through information from the National Committees and by direct contacts.

National Committees

The IPS is represented by 20 (2006: 20) National Committees with a total of 1,255 (2005: 1,221) members, of which 17 (2006: 17) operate in Europe, two in North America, and one in Southeast Asia. A complete list can be found in the appendices.

Members in Countries Without a National Committee

As of 31 December 2007, the IPS had 26 (2006: 34) individual and 4

(2006: 6) corporate members in 15 (2006: 18) countries without National Committees.

These comprise 7 European countries, 4 in Asia and the Middle East, 2 in South America, one in Africa and one in Australia. The complete list is posted in the appendices.

Honorary Members

In 2007, the IPS had the following Honorary Members:

Honorary President
Mr. R. A. Robertson UK

Honorary Members
Mr. F. Baranyai Hungary
Dr. A. K. Dergunov Russia
Dr. R.S. Farnham USA
Mr. H. van de Griendt Netherlands
Mr. D.N. Grubich USA
Mr. P. Hughes Ireland
Prof.dr.hab. P. Ilnicki Poland
Acad. I.I. Lishtvan Belarus
Prof. Dr. G. Lüttig Germany
Mr. P. McEvilly Ireland
Dr. Y. Pessi Finland
Mr. R. Pettersson Sweden
Mr. B.N. Sokolov Russia
Mr. R. Sopo Finland
Mr. T.E. Tibbetts Canada
Dr. A. Tóth Hungary

Mr. Hughes was conferred with the title of Honorary member as of 10 March 2007.

Wim Tonnis Peat Award

On 26 May 2007 at the IPS Annual Assembly in Riga, the Wim Tonnis Peat Award 2007 was conferred on Mr Hartmut Falkenberg for his outstanding engagement in the development of the 'Wise Use' concept in Germany and internationally.

The International Peat Society confers the Wim Tonnis Peat Award annually on an IPS member who has made a distinguished contribution to peat and peatland science or industry, especially in the promotion of Wise Use. The award consists of a framed scroll and a cash prize of € 1,000.

The Wim Tonnis Peat Award was



Hartmut Falkenberg

launched in 2005 in honour of the late Wim Tonnis (1933-2005), a very committed and active IPS member and former Chairman of the IPS Dutch National Committee who promoted and participated in many important peat projects.

The IPS Secretariat

The Secretariat of the IPS has been located in Jyväskylä, Finland since January 1992. The current address is Vapaudenkatu 12, FIN-40100 Jyväskylä.

The Secretariat is managed by Mr. Jaakko Silpola, M. Sc. (Agriculture and Forestry), MBA, who has held the post of IPS Secretary General since 1 November 2004. Communications Manager Ms. Susann Warnecke (Diplom-Kauffrau, FH), has been working for IPS since January 2002 and is currently on maternity leave (May 2007 – May 2008). Katharina Neff was intern from late May until August 2007 and at the moment Carolin Winter is working at the Secretariat as Communications Assistant. Organization Manager Varpu Savolainen from the Association of Finnish Peat Industries has assisted IPS on part time basis during Ms. Warnecke's maternity leave. Mrs. Birgit Hyryläinen, Office Manager of the Association of Finnish Peat Industries, is responsible for the financial accounting of the IPS.

Cooperation

The IPS cooperates with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG), the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) and the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI).

Economic Survey

The Profit and Loss Account of the IPS shows a profit of EUR 43,221.93 (2006: profit of EUR 11,088.43) for the financial year 2007. This is mainly due to the Climate Change Working Group project, which will have costs during the next year, as well. The total income of the IPS was EUR 183,725.19 (2006: EUR 170,654.07), with expenditure amounting to EUR 140,094.26 (2006: EUR 159,565.64). Bad debts amounted to EUR 336.00 and the depreciation to EUR 409.00. Assets and liabilities increased to EUR 132,744.70 (2006: EUR 86,239.71).

Audit

The accounts and financial statements of the International Peat Society were audited by the Authorised Public Accountant Arto Saarinen from Deloitte & Touche Oy, an Authorised Public Accounting Firm.

Principal Operations

Congresses, Symposia and other Events

- *Swedish NC, Comm I, IMCG:* Mire conservation, utilization and restoration, Sweden, 25 - 27 June 2007
- *Swedish NC (Torvforsk):* Nordic Bioenergy Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, 11 - 13 June 2007

- *Indonesian NC:* Tropical Peatland Symposium, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 27 – 31 August 2007
- *HOPE/Commission II with ISHS:* Peat in Horticulture, Nottingham, United Kingdom, 2 – 8 September 2007
- *French NC:* Peat in Horticulture and Peatland Restoration, Lamoura, France, 8 - 11 October 2007
- *Commission VI:* Bad Neydharting Round Table, Vlotho, Germany, 2 - 4 November 2007

Workshops and Meetings

- *WG Peatlands and Climate Change:* Tullamore, Ireland, 8 March 2007
- *WG Peatlands and Climate Change,* Riga, Latvia, 24 May 2007
- *Commission II and VIII,* Riga, Latvia, 24 May 2007
- *IPS-IMCG meeting and excursion,* Sweden, 25 - 28 June 2007
- *Commission II,* Nottingham, United Kingdom, 2 - 8 September 2007

Other activities of the IPS Secretariat

During the year, the IPS Climate Change Working Group carried on its good work. The book of the articles will be launched at International Peat Congress 2008 in Tullamore, Ireland. IPS also had a new logo during the year based on the result of the logo competition and further designing by advertising agency Zeniitti Oy in Finland. There were plenty of other activities in the IPS which can be easiest studied from Commission and National Committee reports from this Annual Report.

Publications

Scientific Journal

In July 2006, the joint scientific journal of IPS and IMCG, "Mires and Peat" was launched as an online publication, openly and freely accessible to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The editor is Dr. Olivia Bragg.

In 2007, nine articles were published as volume 2 (2007) of the journal, which can be found at the URL www.mires-and-peat.net.

All issues of the former International Peat Journal, the last issue of which was published in 2004, can still be ordered from the IPS Secretariat for EUR 14 including mailing costs.

Peat News

Peat News, the electronic newsletter of the IPS, is sent out monthly by e-mail to all members of the Society. The latest issue as well as a list of topics covered during 2002 - 2007 can also be read at the IPS website. In 2007, 12 issues were distributed.

Orders for Peat News can be directed to ips@peatsociety.org. IPS members are authorized to receive Peat News by e-mail. Since 2005, the newsletter has been distributed in PDF format and all advertisers in Peatlands International have been mentioned as official supporters of Peat News.

Peatlands International

Peatlands International is the half-yearly magazine for members of the IPS. Secretary General Jaakko Silpola is editor-in-chief, supported by Susann Warnecke for the publication of the issue 1/2007. Carolin Winter and Varpu Savolainen assisted with the issue 2/2007 which highlights a special theme on "Tropical Peatlands".

Special emphasis for future issues rests on receiving high quality articles from many different fields of peat and peatland research and utilization as well as on attracting advertisers.

Issue 1/2007 of Peatlands International was published in April. As a supplement, the Annual Report 2006 was included in the magazine and distributed to all IPS members and other interested parties, including the participants of different peatland events. Peatlands International 1/2007 contains, among others, previews on the International Peat Congress 2008 and the 4th Workshop & Short Intensive Course on Wetland Water Management, Poland, as well as reviews of the International Conference "Peat and Peatlands 2007" in Lamoura, France and the Peat in Horticulture Symposium in Nottingham. Research reports deal with the restoration of blanket bog in Ireland, a global team to tackle the carbon time-bomb, the Aquatic Warbler as Europe's most threatened song bird, water protection and nutrient loading in Finnish peat production and polygon mires in Northeast Yakutia (Siberia). Finally it introduces a new publication about modern peat therapy.

Peatlands International 2/2007 appeared in December and contained a 23 pages special theme about tropical peatlands. Current tropical peatland issues are discussed, among others their distribution and extent, tropical peatlands and fire, deforestation and degradation, palm oil plantations on tropical peatlands, subsidence and water management, rehabilitation and fibre plantation management. Additionally the magazine reports on the upcoming International Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland, in June 2008, and looks back on the IPS Annual Assembly in Riga in May 2007, as well as on excursions to Greece and Sweden. Peatlands International 2/2007 gives insights on the Russian peat industry, the Coordination Committee for Global Actions on Peatlands (CC-GAP), the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, as well as mires in Northeast China and Latvia. Last, but not least, our readers are informed about a strategy for long-term sustainable utilization of peat,

stock fire prevention and the new IPS logo.

All previous issues of Peatlands International, since 2004, further information on the magazine and a media kit are available at the IPS website.

Reports of Commissions

Commission I: Stratigraphy, Inventory and Conservation

Chair: Lars Lundin

Scope

IPS Commission I embraces inventory, stratigraphy and conservation of peatlands. Included in this context are ecology, geology, hydrology, biology and terminology. Each of these subjects could constitute a working group. A perspective is to achieve new activities within the working groups, while keeping in mind collaboration with other Commissions.

State

All IPS members interested in Commission I activities are invited to sign up and join. So far there are members from 13 countries: Belarus, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Ireland, Russia, Sweden, UK and US.

There has also been a start to form Working Groups (WG) for Geology, Ecology and Hydrology.

Responsible for the WGs are: Geology – Mall Orru, Estonia and Kimmo Virtanen, Finland; Ecology – Mati Ilomets, Estonia; Hydrology – Elve Lode, Estonia/Sweden.

Activities and Plans

The priorities of Commission I continue to be Inventory, Stratigraphy and Conservation of mires and

peatlands with special relation to the working groups of geology, hydrology and ecology.

Two Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meetings have been held; the first in Tullamore, Ireland on March 9, 2007 and the other in Bad Senkelteich, Vlotho, Germany on November 2, 2007. There has also been a meeting of the working group on peatlands and climate change in Tullamore, Ireland on March 8, 2007 and further work on the publication has been carried out by e-mail.

Commission I participated in planning and carrying out the annual IPS-IMCG meeting, held in June 25-28, 2007 with seminars and excursions in the central part of Sweden. The Commission I chair was also involved to the bilateral meeting and excursion of the Finnish Peat Association and the Swedish Peat Research Foundation group on September 18-20, 2007.

In the working group on geology, Mall Orru continued her work on harmonisation of peat geological methods. It is important to develop peatland survey technology, comparison of peat type characteristics, peat types and humification determinations and other studies on the physical and chemical properties of peat. Then of course to review and present UN classifications, standardisation of industrial classification and other classification system would be beneficial.

Durable Decisions

Regarding ideas for a new inventory of mires and peatlands, it was found better to keep updated with ongoing work than to start new inventories. There is a lot of new information in webpages such as IMCG and GLOBWET. Also work in an ALTER-Net project "Peat Bank" should be considered.

From the Ecology working group intentions on activities to be carried

out refer to biodiversity and assessment to be elaborated with plans for a seminar or workshop in the coming years. The Commission has contacts to the NoE ALTER-Net regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services also in wetlands. Plans for a review and indicator work have started.

In the Hydrology working group intentions are to continue ongoing initiatives for reference sites, partly as catchments, in an international network in collaboration with existing sites.

Peat as a natural resource was discussed from various points of view in different countries as was the EC statement that mainly considers it as a not renewable resource. IPCC has classified peat as "PEAT" but it would, by EC anyhow, suffer from not being a biofuel but considered together with oil and coal. However, each country may decide about its viewpoint, which will be accepted, related to the existing special importance. Costs for emission trading are there and are proving most variable. Sustainability will, however, be an ongoing issue.

Further, ideas on ecology/biodiversity development for mires and peatlands were brought up and it was mentioned that contacts should be made with Ramsar, the Biodiversity convention and the World Wildlife Fund among others.

The Commission also follows other activities within the other Commissions of IPS.

The arrangements of activities and meetings beyond conferences and other co-arrangements are still rather problematic to carry out due to lack of financial resources.

These and other issues will be brought up at the forthcoming quadrennial Commission meeting in June.

Commission II: Industrial Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands for Energy, Horticulture, Environmental Protection and Other Purposes

Chair: Gerald Schmielewski

As in the past, peat production and use for horticultural and energy purposes comprise the main fields of activity of Commission II. Discussions on the balance between peat production, environmental issues and alternative materials have been the main topics.

Commission II held two meetings in 2007. On 8 May 31 attendees came together in Riga, Latvia. The second meeting was held on 12 October in Amsterdam. The work conducted by the Commission and other achievements made during 2007 are summarized below.

Riga Meeting

At the Commission meeting in Riga, Magnus Brandel gave a report on the use of peat in Sweden in which he explained its highly accepted use as an energy source and that latest findings proved that combustion of peat with wood was more efficient than wood alone. Guus van Berckel drew attention to developments in Germany where the Federal Emissions Law regulates the fuel types that can be used and the emissions that these cause in small-firing installations like home furnaces.

It was confirmed at the Riga meeting that all country reports shall be published in Peatlands International.

Based on the IPS Internal Regulation and in cooperation with the IPS Secretariat, Commission II is seeking a purposeful tool for collecting peat production data as the basis for the industrial membership fee. The industrial membership fee is an important part of the total IPS budget.

Amsterdam Meeting

At the Commission meeting in Amsterdam, Hein Boon gave a report on the growing media industry and horticulture in the Netherlands. He emphasized the need to use qualified constituents only. These can include materials like coir, woodfibres and composts. Peat, however, is still the most reliable constituent in a highly technicalized industry. Furthermore, in Amsterdam the IPS peat production survey was presented and discussed for further development.

As a result of a discussion on bulk peat transportation on trucks stowed in the under deck space of ships, Nick van de Griendt and Gerry Hood of Commission II will make a proposal to the International Maritime Organization on how to ship peat in bulk in a safer way in order to avoid hazards caused by electrical installations.

A number of peat-related events took place in 2007 which were attended by members of Commission II and reported on during the meeting:

- IMCG/IPS meeting in Sweden, 25-28 June;
- International Symposium and Workshop on Tropical Peatland, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 27-31 August;
- ISHS/IPS symposium on Growing Media, Nottingham, UK, 2-8 September;
- International Bioenergy Conference, 3-6 September, Jyväskylä, Finland;
- International Conference on Peat and Peatlands 2007, 8-11 Oct., Lamoura, France;

International Symposium on Growing Media in Nottingham

From 2 - 8 September 2007 and for the second time, IPS Commission II had the opportunity to join the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in organizing a symposium on growing media. As in Angers in 2005, Commission II

representatives, scientists and experts from industry engaged in a Peat in Horticulture Day which was embedded in a whole week of lectures, posters and excursions. Only peat-related topics were tackled that day. The chairman of Commission II gave an invited oral presentation on 'Growing Media used in the EU'. That paper was based on answers to specific questions sent out as a questionnaire. In the afternoon, a workshop on microbiological aspects of growing media, prompted by Commission II, proved very successful, attracting much discussion and debate.

Over 100 participants from 32 countries attended the event, of which about 20 percent were from the peat and growing media industry and another 20 percent from ancillary industries – figures never reported to be so high before. This mix of science and industry is appreciated by both sides.

The convener of the next biannual ISHS symposium on growing media in North Carolina asked for the support of IPS Commission II. Commission II promised their support by organizing another day on Peat in Horticulture.

Survey on materials used for growing media production

At its meeting in Amsterdam, Commission II mandated the HOPE WG to conduct a new survey on the amounts of materials used for the production of growing media in Europe. Such a survey was carried out by the WG once before in 2002 and resulted in an often quoted publication by Claes Bohlin of the Commission. The results of this new study formed the basis for the presentation given by the chairman of Commission II in Nottingham during the ISHS/IPS symposium on growing media. The data received were also presented in part at the conference on 'Peat and Peatlands 2007' in Lamoura, France in October. The data show that peat is by far the most commonly used growing media in the EU and that peat-free media play a very subordinate role.

The use of materials other than peat is increasing in some countries. The survey also showed new interesting data, i.e. the fact that Italy, having no indigenous peat resources, is second to Germany in the production of growing media.

The data will be published in the proceedings of the Nottingham symposium (see above).

IMCG/IPS Meeting in Sweden

Several representatives of Commission II participated in the joint IPS/IMCG meeting in June which took them to interesting peatland sites and facilities of peat use for the production of growing media and peat combustion. The Commission would like to extend its sincere thanks to the head organizers Marie Kofod-Hansen of Torvforsk and Magnus Brandel of the Swedish Association Torvproducenterna. Differences in opinion on various topics were acknowledged. A small contribution to help overcome some of these differences is to use common definitions for certain peat- and peatlands-related terms. It was decided that a small working group would be appointed to develop definitions of some relevant terms or concepts with policy implication that have caused misunderstandings. The group is to make a short report at the Peat Congress in Tullamore.

Outlook

- Next meeting of Commission II will be held during the Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland.
- ISHS/IPS Symposium on Growing Media, May 2009, North Carolina
- SympoPeat/IPS Comm. II symposium on Peat in Horticulture – Life in Growing Media, autumn 2009

Commission III: Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands in Agriculture

Chair: Lech Szajdak

Micro Meetings of the Commission

There have been three micro-meetings of Commission III since the last report was published. The first was held in Belarus and its aim was to compare particularities of the chemical structure and the amphiphilic (hydrophobic and hydrophilic) properties of humic acids extracted from a peat soil with different reagents. It is well known, that humic acids are involved in different kinds of interactions and fulfil various ecological functions. Humic acids as the major constituents of soil organic matter actively participate in the global C cycle, exert influence on the atmospheric CO₂ concentration and consequently, the global climate, and control the fate of different contaminants in the environment. Humic acids are heterogeneous macromolecules characterized by various chemical structures, sizes and properties. It was shown, that the investigation of humic fractions with different physicochemical characteristics and stability seems to be very important, not only for peat soils and their degradation. Their reactivity in the environment has its origin in the heterogeneity and poly-chemical properties of composing compounds. It is significant to isolate and investigate fractions of humic acids with definite physicochemical characteristics and functional activity. Although, chromatographic methods of humic acid fractionation are very effective and widely used for mineral soils, there is a lack of information concerning their usefulness for organic soils.

The second meeting was held in Estonia and its aim was to elucidate soil cover suitability for different plant covers (species, associations, crops) on the basis of soil characteristics, characterize the edaphic conditions needed for different plant covers, and

show the importance of ecologically sound matching plant covers (forests, grasslands, crops) with local soils of the area. It was shown, that natural plant associations indicate soil properties (water regime, nutrient supply, acidity). However forest and grassland plant covers were matched with soils, as a result of their mutual influence. The biodiversity of plant cover is substantially influenced by the pedodiversity of a soil cover, as it depends on the soil type and its properties. At the same time the plant cover diversity depends to a great extent on the land management. However, soil cover composition in every region of the world has, according to soil conventions, certain properties which are distinctive only for that region.

The next meetings took place in Russia. The aim of this event was to evaluate the changes of organic matter in meliorated and unmeliorated peatlands. The melioration of peatlands has led to biotic and abiotic changes, which later on have contributed to the degradation of organic matter and organic compounds. Long-term cultivation and agricultural use of peatlands has caused the lowering of the water table, increased aeration, and changes in plant communities. The decline in peat soil moisture content due to drainage leads to the shrinkage of the peat. Drainage in particular results in a sharp change of biotic and abiotic properties and consequent degradation of peat organic matter. Peat-muck soils may undergo a process of secondary transformation as a result of drainage and a number of other factors including oscillation of ground water level, changes of aerobic conditions, different plant communities, root exudes and products of degradation of the rest of the plant remains. A change of hydrophilic to hydrophobic properties of organic matter during secondary transformation seems to be a very important factor in this process.

Session on "Organic soils, processes, mechanisms and utilization"

Several members of Commission III of IPS attended the session on "Organic soils, processes, mechanisms and utilization" during the European Geosciences Union (EGU) Vienna, Austria, 15 – 20 April 2007, General Assembly. The organizers of the session were: Lech Szajdak (convener) and Teodore Miano, Joachim Blankenburg (co-convener).

The goal of this session was to learn about processes, mechanisms and utilization of organic soils: peatlands (fens and raised bogs), mires, and gyttja and moorshes. It was shown that peat is a highly organic sediment, structurally different from mineral soils, yet exhibiting certain similarities to them. Humus in organic soils is composed of known and unknown chemical structures whose impact on the physico-chemical properties and processes is of paramount importance. The topic of organic soils was often considered in most of the agrochemistry, landscape ecology, organic growing media, humic substances, and soil science meetings all around the world. However this has been the first occasion, here at the EGU meeting in Vienna, to hold a special session concerning the physical, chemical and biological properties of organic soils.

Its purpose was to advance the research and the knowledge on peat systems and to provide a forum for scientists interested in this subject. Moreover, session organizers intended to encourage chemists, biochemists, biologists, who study the conversions and transformations of organic matter in organic soils, to communicate and cooperate with each other. Widening of the knowledge on the chemical composition, molecular and functional nature of humic materials will certainly contribute to a better understanding of the physical and chemical properties of these substances. It is worth mentioning that this session was addressed to young scientists who

have been involved in this field only recently.

During this session the most recent progresses and advancements in soil physics, soil chemistry, soil biochemistry, and soil microbiology of organic soils and their interactions with various components have been extensively discussed. Results presented during the session demonstrated that humic substances draw attention of scientists from different disciplines and that several problems can only be solved through multidisciplinary work. Moreover, numerous studies on chemical and physical properties of organic soils are still being carried out in order to understand their function in the environment. It was shown that the information presented during the session on processes, mechanisms and utilization of organic soils will provide a stimulating background for the development of physical and chemical properties of organic soils in the future.

The presentations revealed that peat contains relatively unstable substances, whose reactivity contributes to its usefulness. Several abstracts described that the physiological activity of peats stimulate and promote plant growth. In addition, the presentations showed that peat can readily undergo ion-exchange, recombinations, and separations, and there is a large variety of lithotypes. This variability concerns their behavior with respect to water, and particularly: (a) swelling and drying properties; (b) thixotropic properties; (c) ability to change status between sol and gel, and dissolve or become suspended; and (d) irreversible loss of swelling properties, and wettability, when peat muds are dried. The results presented during the session concerning the processes, mechanisms and utilization of organic soils were expected to provide a better insight into chemical and physical properties of organic soils and help to explain their function in the environment.

Selected papers from the session will be published in the special issue of *Plant and Soil*.

Publishing Activity

Agronomy Research published the first part of the papers, presented during the session organized by III Commission of IPS on “Restoration of Peatland Soils for Agricultural Use”, during the 5th European Conference on Ecological Restoration, Land use changes in Europe as a challenge for restoration, Greifswald, August 22-25, 2006.

In 2007 a number of members of Commission III carried out investigations, the results of which were published in the following scientific journals: *Agronomy Research*, *Agrophysics International*, *Biology and Fertility of Soils*, *Geoderma*, *Soil Biology and Biochemistry* and *Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science* and others.

In 2007 members of Commission III of IPS (prof. T. Brandyk, dr. J. Szatyłowicz, dr. T. Gnatowski, and dr. R. Oleszczuk) took part in the 27th Congress on the 70-years Jubilee of the Polish Society of Soil Science and the International Scientific Conference (3-7 September 2007 Warsaw Agricultural University). During the Congress Dr. R. Oleszczuk gave an oral presentation on “The analytical description of shrinkage curves in selected moorsh deposits”. What is more, Dr. T. Gnatowski also presented a poster on “The analysis of retention and hydraulic properties in a soil profile developed from willow peat”.

In 2007, the monograph entitled “Wetlands, Monitoring, Modeling and Management” edited by T. Okruszko, E. Maltby, J. Szatyłowicz, D. Świątek and W. Kotowski (Balkema, Taylor & Francis) was published. The monograph contains 46 scientific papers which are divided into 3 main chapters (monitoring, modeling, management). Members of IPS Commission III published two papers in this monograph: (1) Szatyłowicz J., Gnatowski T., Szejba D., Oleszczuk R., Brandyk T., and Kechavarzi C.: “Moisture content variability in drained fen soil”, 113-120; (2) Oleszczuk R., Gnatowski T., Brandyk

T., and Szatyłowicz J.: “Calibration of TDR for moisture content monitoring in moorsh layers”, 121-124.

Dr. R. Oleszczuk (the secretary of IPS Commission III) was in 2007 still involved as a member of the Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Change of the International Peat Society. The main objective of this group is to prepare the book “Peatlands and Climate Changes” which will be addressed to researchers, students, journalists and policymakers. The aforementioned book will contain 9 chapters. Dr. R. Oleszczuk is the chapter co-ordinator on “Impacts of agricultural utilization of peat soils on greenhouse gas balance”. In addition prof. L. Szajdak (Head of Commission III of IPS) is also involved in writing the chapter. The Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Changes organized two meeting (Tullamore, Ireland, 7-8.03.2007; Riga, Latvia, 24-25.05.2007), where the members of this group presented and discussed the final materials for each chapter of this book.

Conclusion

Prof. Lech Szajdak, the chairman of the Commission III would like to express his gratitude to the members who participated in the meetings and the people who have worked voluntary for Commission III.

Commission V: After-use of Cut-over and Disturbed Peatlands

Chair: Line Rochefort

Mission

To promote the wise use management of peatlands and restoration practices after human use of the habitat or resources.

Goals

1. To promote the best restoration practices according to the residual peat substrate conditions and according to the biodiversity

and preservation priorities of the country.

2. To facilitate discussions on the development of self-imposed restoration and reclamation policies at each industrial company level.
3. To encourage the development of field operations and site management that will reduce the impact on peatland environments.

14th Peatland Restoration Conference in Canada

The Peatland Ecology Research Group composed of research members across Canada (Laval University, Québec; Waterloo University, Ontario; McMaster University, Ontario; University of Alberta, Alberta) organised its 14th annual symposium on peatland restoration. The aim of this annual conference is to present to the North American peat industry and related stakeholders the latest results in peatland restoration, keeping in mind to find the best ways to manage peatlands for future generations. This year as an open seminar during lunch time, Dr. James Michael Waddington presented a very comprehensive talk on “The impact of global warming on peatland greenhouse gas emissions”.

Besides the topics central to the theme for the research group on fen restoration or pool restoration in cutover peatlands, a hydrologist Dr. André St-Hilaire presented work done in collaboration with Premier Horticulture Ltd on “Suspended sediment concentrations downstream of a harvested peat bog: overview of the latest works in New Brunswick”.

We also had the pleasure to have guest speakers from South Africa. Mr Piet-Louis Grundling gave an overview of the peatland rehabilitation measures in South Africa and Ms Althea Grundling discussing the use of remote sensing as a monitoring tool for the rehabilitation of peatlands also in South Africa. Abstracts of the presentation can be downloaded at: http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr_colloques.html.

Scientific Advisory Board Meeting in Tullamore, Ireland

During the Scientific Advisory Board meeting in Tullamore in March, the IPS Secretariat organised a meeting between the Chairs of Commissions and the IPS Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Change. There was a good exchange of information between the lead author of the chapter on Restoration of disturbed peatlands in the context of climate change, Dr. Heinrich Höper and Commission V. Two members of Commission V, Dr Joachim Blankenburg and Line Rochefort, have been asked to review the chapter. This has been done by both reviewers. We do look forward to reading the end product of the whole working group.

8th Knowledge Transfer Workshop on the Sphagnum Transfer Approach to Restore Peatland

The Peatland Restoration and Sphagnum Culture Workshop, which took place from 22 to 24 October 2007, was a great success. This workshop was organised by the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG, Université Laval) in collaboration with the Coastal Zones Research Institute Inc. (CZRI). The workshop was held at University de Moncton, Campus Shippagan (New-Brunswick).

The aim of this workshop was to present the Sphagnum transfer method and exchange knowledge gained over the years by managers from the peat industry. In total, a group of 40 persons including partners of the peat industry, members of the Peatland Ecology Research Group, researchers from the United States and Poland as well as a group of peat producers, exporters and researchers from Chile participated to this event. The conferences and the field trips were presented in French, English and Spanish.

During these 3 days, several conferences took place at the University. We discussed about the

importance of restoring peatlands and planning the restoration activities.

A practical guide summarizing the different steps of the Sphagnum transfer method is available from the following web site http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/Guide2003_anglais.pdf.

Some producers presented the restoration activities undertaken by their peat company in recent years. Moreover, the regulatory framework for the restoration of peatlands in New Brunswick was introduced. We also discussed results concerning tree plantations on cutover peatland and the reintroduction of aquatics and semi-aquatics plants in wetter sections (like artificial pools) of restored peatlands. Finally, the aims of Sphagnum cultivation and the experiments realised at the Sphagnum experimental station were presented. In addition, people from Chile explained the approaches and problems encountered in Sphagnum cultivation: (<http://www.orchid-sphagnum-moss.com/>).

Several visits were organised on the field. Participants visited restored sites where the Sphagnum transfer method had been applied. To demonstrate how to realize each step of the restoration method, the PERG organised the restoration of a peatland in action. Moreover, people visited a restored site where pools had been created, as well as sites of tree plantations and the Sphagnum experimental station of PERG.

Sphagnum Biomass Cultivation

Research on Sphagnum culture is being carried out in four countries. In Germany, funding has been received to follow up on the past three years of research in Greifswald, Bremen and Georgia. Greta Gaudig the leader of the project has presented a synthesis of the work done so far at the International conference in Lamoura, France – Peat & Peatlands 2007 (http://www.pole-tourbieres.org/docs/Lamoura_Gaudig.pdf).

In Canada, the peat industry have approved support for the

industrial research chair on peatland management for another five years giving the mandate to the Chair holder to pursue research on the promotion of Sphagnum growth in a sustainable farm system. Canada is also in the process of formalizing cooperation with Chilean peat producers and researchers. A formal framework to exchange students is being designed to facilitate training overseas and a Sphagnum cultivation workshop is being organised by Dr. Christel Oberpaur for next November in Chile.

Working Group on Cloudberry Production on Peatlands

The goals of this working group are to promote and experiment on the cultivation of cloudberry on peatlands. Cloudberry is a nordic berry with good market potentials and might help diversify the economy in remote regions or regions stricken by the depletion of marine resources.

Dr. Line Lapointe and Dr. Line Rochefort (both from Laval University) in collaboration with graduate students have finalized the guidelines for cloudberry production in cut-over peatlands located in northern climate. In the end, the original idea of producing guidelines to grow cloudberry in peatlands have been expanded to other small berries: *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Aronia melanocarpa*, *Amelanchier* sp., *Sambucus nigra*, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, *V. oxycoccos*, *V. angustifolium*, *V. myrtilloides*, *V. corymbosum* and various less commercial berries. For now the French version is available at http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr_publications.html#2007. We are aiming to have an English version ready for IPC 2008 in Tullamore. The translation work is currently being done by the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association.

International Conference - Peat & Peatlands 2007

Peat in horticulture and the rehabilitation of mires after peat

extraction: which issues for tomorrow? October 8th to 11th, 2007 - Lamoura (French Jura) organised by Francis Muller

This was among one of the best meetings I was offered to participate in. The reason – the real mix between peat and peatland researchers and the peat industry. There was no parallel session, so we had time to listen and learn about the views of different stakeholders as to the pros and cons of using peat in balance to the conservation of peatlands. The question of going peat free is not so simple. Different points of view can be read and often visualised at the proceeding produced online:

http://www.pole-tourbieres.org/Actes_Colloque.htm#intro

One point that enthusiastically struck me is the greater know-how that is being developed throughout Europe on the restoration of peatland after-use. At one point an English technical restoration book should gather all this information. For example, Lithuania has a good knowledge on how to build dams, either with machines or when not possible by hand. However, all this technical knowledge is not available in English. It could be a book on how to 1. Define restoration goals, 2. Prepare restoration plans, 3. Prepare peat fields, 4. Reintroduce plant material, 5. Rewet and 6. Evaluate success.

Definitively, IPS needs to foster more meetings organised in the same fashion, that is with focus programs where there are presentations across disciplines with no parallel sessions and time allowed for focus group discussion. This is one way to go forward to find real solutions to the sustainable use of peatlands.

Future Activities of Commission V

The peatland ecology restoration group (PERG) in collaboration with IPS commission V is in the early stages of making contact with the Society of Biological Conservation to hold a meeting in Canada for 2010. The main point would be to get a picture across North America on the sustainable use

of peatlands.

But more immediately, energy is in the organisation of the next IPS congress in Tullamore in Ireland focusing on the sessions related to the after-use of peatlands.

For program details and registration form: <http://www.ipcireland2008.com>

See you there!

Commission VI: Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics

Chair: Riitta Korhonen

In 2007, Commission VI organized the 17th Neydharting Round Table Conference in Vlotho, Germany, 3 - 4 November 2007 after the SAB meeting. The Conference events took place at Moorland Bad Senkelteich and Bad Seebbruch nearby with about 30 participants all together. There were specialists from Germany, Poland, Finland, Holland and South Korea.

At the Conference internal questions of Commission VI were discussed as well as the recent situation of Peat Balneology spas and sanatoria, contributions to research and science on peat therapy, new therapeutic methods and materials, “non-peat-peloids”, cosmetics, healing earths and other specialities. Also the participation at the 13th International Peat Congress in Tullamore was discussed and it was recognised that there were only few abstracts about



Cold room at Bad Seebbruch



Commission VI at the 17th Neydharting Round Table Conference in Vlotho, Germany

topics concerning Commission VI. The professors Klöcking informed participants about their new research on Humic Substances: Prof. Renate Klöcking - In-vitro Investigations on the Effect of Peat Humic Substances on Inflammation and Prof. Hans-Peter Klöcking - Influence of Humic Substances on the Cytotoxicity of Surfactants.

After the meeting on the first day there was a sightseeing tour at Bad Senkelteich guided by director August Grossman and all participants had the possibility to have a peat bath. Bad Senkelteich is a real Peat Spa with many kinds of peat products; even peat drinks and peat bread were available.

On the morning of 4 November the meeting continued at Bad Seebbruch where we began by sightseeing around the Spa with a possibility to visit in the cold room with a temperature of minus 110 degrees Celsius! After that the spa doctors described problems and good experiences of the therapies. At the end of the meeting there were discussions about the possibilities of participating in the Tullamore Congress, where the next Commission meeting will be organized.

Commission VII: Ecology and Management on Forested Peatlands

Chair: Hannu Hökkä

Membership Information

Commission VII is open for all members of IPS who are interested in discussing peatland forest as a renewable natural resource. The approach is both to understand the functioning of a pristine mire ecosystem and to discuss alternatives when using peatlands for wood production on a sustainable basis. The number of members now totals 47 from 7 different countries. Hannu Hökkä (Finnish Forest Research Institute, Rovaniemi Research Unit) has been the chairperson since 2004. Commissions VII and V have one common working group – Forest plantation on cutaway peatlands.

Activities

During 2007 the commission members received two information letters from the chairperson by email. As a member of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board, Hannu Hökkä attended the

SAB meeting in Tullamore, March 9th and in Vlotho, Nov. 3rd. Subjects discussed in SAB meetings have been revised in the 2007 issues of *Peatlands International*.

In 2007 former Commission VII chairperson, Juhani Päivänen has been active in preparing Wise Use Practical Guidelines for peatland forestry. The first draft was finished by the end of 2007. This work is related to the application of wise use principle in different Commissions of IPS.

A new EU COST action FP 0601 “Forest Management and the Water Cycle (FORMAN)” has been established in 2007. The COST action aims at the enhancement of knowledge on forest–water interactions in Europe, and the elaboration of science-based guidelines for the improvement of the management of forests predominantly designated for the production and storage of water. Four of Commission VII members are working in different working groups of this COST action.

In the Finnish Forest Research Institute, a new research program ‘Production forestry on peatlands’ was initiated. The main concern is in the efficient use of peatland forest resources. The program leader is professor Jukka Laine.

Several research projects on peatland hydrology that were started in 2006 continued in 2007 with data collection.

By the end of 2007, the first forest management guide lines for Finnish peatland forest were published by the Forestry Development Centre TAPIO. The input to the preparation of the guide lines provided by several members of Commission VII has been invaluable.

New Book

The former chairperson, Juhani Päivänen has written a book ‘Suot ja suometsät – järkevän käytön perusteet’ (Peatlands and peatland forests – basics for reasonable use) published by Metsäkustannus Oy. It is printed in Finnish only, but there is a plan to

translate this excellent book into other languages, too.

Future Activities

In June 2008, IPS will arrange the 13th International Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland. In that meeting there will be two sessions that are related to peatland forests: 'Ecology and management on forested peatlands' and a special session on ecohydrology of forested peatlands. Commission VII chairperson is a member of the conference scientific committee.

Commission VIII: Cultural Aspects of Peat and Peatlands

Chair: Anne Jelle Schilstra

Two main issues were most important in the year 2007. Firstly, the web site: Both the technical side of the site and the contents were critically reviewed. They are planned to be overhauled next year, and to be synchronised with the main IPS web site. Improvement will be a matter of continuous attention. The site, which was started as an experiment with a Dutch URL, can now be found at www.peatandculture.org, like the IPS-site. Changes and additions have been made.

The idea was born to send along with PeatNews every now and then a "cultural item" as to present a kind of Commission VIII flavour. This could be paintings, texts or other items that can easily ride piggy-back on or in PeatNews.

Some effort has been made to promote special items for the Tullamore 2008 Congress. Sometimes experts on peat-related cultural subjects are not professionally engaged in these fields, rendering it difficult to visit the congress. So ad-hoc sponsoring has to be found, or other ways to bring their often fascinating knowledge to the forefront. This problem has been discussed this year, and will remain on the agenda for a while.

The Scientific Advisory Board has met twice in 2007, the first time in Tullamore so as to get things moving. One of the points of discussion in the meetings concerned the renewal or continuation of the chairmanships of the eight Commissions.

Reports of National Committees

Canada

During the past year the Canadian members of IPS have been busy both on the international front and within Canada.

The Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG), headed by Dr. Line Rochefort, held their annual meeting in February at which time several students and partners in the group reported on their year's activities. For further information you can go to the PERG website, <http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/>.

The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) hosted two meetings during the year. At their semi-annual meeting in June, the delegates visited the Sphagnum farming experimental site in Shippagan, New Brunswick. So far the research work is going very well. It will be continued as part of the second term of the Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management that starts in 2008.

Delegates to the meeting were also treated to a special beach walk on the coast of Lameque Island. It is there that a peatland of one of the members is actually the edge of the shoreline. The cliffs are between six and ten feet high and when you peer over them, you can see vacuum harvesters working close to the shore. Jacques Thibault of the New Brunswick department of Natural Resources acted as the tour guide. The tour gave delegates a chance to see a large cross section of peat that would otherwise be impossible to view. The

historic data that is stored in the bog goes back a few thousand years.

The CSPMA continues to work on reducing the risk of fire in its members' production plants. At their Annual Meeting last November the members continued to work on guidelines for fire departments, part of the Fire Prevention Guidelines that are being developed.

In late October, PERG held a workshop on peatland restoration and Sphagnum farming in Shippagan, New Brunswick. The aim of this workshop was to present the Sphagnum transfer method and exchange knowledge gained over the years by people of the peat industry. A group of 40 including partners of the peat industry, members of PERG, delegates from the United States and Poland as well as a group from Chile participated in this event. The conference and field trips were presented in three languages; French, English and Spanish. One of the topics presented and discussed at the workshop was the importance of planning before embarking on a restoration project. As part of a field trip at the end of the meeting, delegates were shown a field demonstration of the steps taken when restoring a peatland. They also visited a restored site where pools were created, a site where trees were planted and the Sphagnum experimental station.

Czech Republic

The Czech National Committee met twice in 2007. Recent results of peat research conducted by the Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation in Prague (RISWC) according to its research plan were presented and defended in front of the Committee at its spring meeting. The Committee acted on this occasion as a special commission of the RISWC Scientific Council.

The autumn meeting of the Committee was focused on its organisational affairs and its plans for 2008. A report on the state,

protection and exploitation of peat deposits - natural medicinal sources reserved for balneological use - was submitted to the Committee by some Committee members. The Committee discussed the report and endorsed it with recommendations for changes in the existing national legislation. The Committee delegated Dr. Frantisek Dolezal as its representant to the forthcoming 13th International Peat Congress (Tullamore, 2008).

Other activities included the preparation of materials on the country's peat bogs and their carbon balance for the Landscape Atlas of the Czech Republic. Various data on peat resources and properties from the RISWC archive were made available to researchers and students for their research, M.Sc. and Ph.D. projects.

Finland

The activities of the Finnish Peatland Society - Suoseura in year 2007 have been again numerous. Suoseura arranged three regular meetings for members; annual spring and autumn meetings, and one other meeting for members. In connection with every meeting there are always a few presentations about current topics concerning mires and peatlands. The member meetings are open to anyone interested. Two excursions for members were arranged: the early summer excursion to rich fens of aapa-mires of Northern Finland (Rovaniemi-Tervola-Keminmaa area) and the autumn excursion to the mires of Middle Sweden.

Meetings and seminars (see also www.suoseura.fi):

- I. Meeting, the annual spring meeting, 20th March 2007, in Helsinki (16 attendants), followed by two lectures:
- Ph.D. (Forest ecology) Sakari Sarkkola (University of Helsinki, Dept. Forest Ecology);
 - How the water level draw-down affects the succession of peatlands

(30 min.), M. Sc. Lea-Elina Nikkilä (University of Jyväskylä, Agora Center): Going on virtual mires with dry feet! (30 min.)

II. Member Meeting, 16th October 2007 in Kokkola, at the Geological Survey (GSF) of West -Finland (21 attendants)

Followed by a seminar: District Manager, Runar Blomqvist, Welcoming words and introduction of the research projects of GSF of West-Finland.

- Ph.D. Markku Mäkilä (GSF, Espoo), The carbon pools of the young peat layers in Finland.
- Ph.D. Päivi Picken (Vapo Oy), The role of mineral soil in after-use planning of cut-away peatlands.
- M. Sci. Olli Reinikainen (Vapo Oy), Optimization of reed canary grass cultivation on the cut-away peatlands. Ph.D.-work of Timo Parviainen (University of Oulu).

III. Meeting, the annual autumn meeting, 20th November 2007, in Helsinki (28 attendants)

- Program included the declaration of professor emeritus Kimmo Tolonen for the new member of honor and presentations of two honorary members:
- Professor emeritus, Rauno Ruuhijärvi, Mire conservation in Russian Carelia and in Finland.
- Professor emeritus, Juhani Päivänen, The importance of peatland forests for Finnish forestry.

Excursions

The rich fen area of the Tervola municipality "South-west corner of Finnish-Lapland"

The excursion was made in 12th - 13th June 2007, with nearly 30 attendants. The peatland researchers of the Geological Survey of Finland, Rovaniemi, Mr. Tapio Muurinen and Mr. Timo Hirvasniemi were the main guides and organizers. Ph.D. Pentti

Åman (Turveruukki Oy) introduced the system for environment protection of the Poikkimaanapa peat harvesting area. Ph.D. (forest science) Hannu Hökkä (Finnish Forest Research Institute, Rovaniemi Research Unit) introduced the restoration and regeneration study site of Reutuapa-spruce mire and M.Sci. Päivi Paalamo guided the excursion in the "Natura 2000"-area of Karhunaapa-Heinijänkä mires (Nature services of Metsähallitus, Finnish Forest and Park Service). The excursion was successful in many ways: people saw many herb species, typical for the area e.g. endangered species like *Cypripedium calceolus* and *Calypso bulbosa* as well as early summer species like *Trollius europaeus* flowering and many rich fen moss-species e.g. *Cratoneuron* and *Palustriella* species. Also special geological formations like rocks with "stromatolites" and special glacier-formations and even a "stone age village" along the great river Kemijoki were seen. A travel report written by Varpu Savolainen and Riitta Korhonen, (Lapin kolmio - lettosoiden valtakunta, Suoseuran opintoretkei Etelä-Lappiin 12.-13.6.2007. Suo 58 (3-4):99-102) is available.

The Peatlands of Middle Sweden

The second excursion was made, 18th - 20th September 2007, to the peatlands of Middle-Sweden with 13 Finnish attendants. The excursion was arranged together with Swedish peatland experts, mainly by Ms. Marie Kofod-Hansen and Mr. Magnus Brandel (Swedish peat producers association). The tours to numerous peatland sites were guided by Lars-Erik Larsson (Swedish Bio Energy Association, Svebio), professors Lars Lundin and Per-Arne Melkerud (University of Uppsala) and Mr. Stefan Östlund (Neova AB). Mire and nature experiences (like the Vendelsjö bird-lake) together with new knowledge about the studies of Swedish mires, peatlands and peat, spiced with the richness of the history and culture of Sweden and the sunny days made the excursion very pleasant

and unforgettable for the excursion attendants of the neighbouring country. A travel report written by Onerva Valo, Suoseuran retki Keski-Ruotsin soille 18.-20.9.2007. Suo 58(3-4):103-106, is available.

The journal of SUO (see also www.suoseura.fi/Suo)

In the year 2007, the Finnish Peatland Society published the 58th volume of the quarterly journal of SUO, altogether 118 pages with 600 reprints.

A project of a New Book of Peatlands of Finland

The Society started the project of preparing of a new book on the Peatlands of Finland. The book will comprise about 15 main themes and some 40 different sub-themes of recent knowledge in all on different aspects concerning peatlands of Finland, written by 38 experts in their own fields. The book will be published both in English and in Finnish in spring 2008 by the Finnish Peatland Society.

Activities in IPS and IPS Commissions

The members of the Finnish National Committee have been actively taking part in IPS- meetings and congresses also in the year 2007.

France

The French National Committee of IPS held two meetings in 2007: on 15 March a meeting in Orléans at BRGM (Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières) and on 10 October a meeting at Lamoura (Jura).

The main activity was to participate in the organization of the European Conference on the "Use of horticultural peat and peatland restoration". This conference, whose main organizer was the "Pôle relais tourbière" (French ministry of Environment), took place in Lamoura (Jura, Eastern France), from 8 to 11 October. 40 papers and posters were presented on topics relating to the use of peat in horticulture and operating problems and rehabilitation of bogs. The programme included a day of sightseeing of bogs in the French Jura mountains.

After this conference, it was decided to release a leaflet, in French, and for the French hobby market. The aim is to give consumers basic information in order to enable them to behave in line with the wise use of peat in gardening. This booklet is being prepared and should be available from spring 2008.

Germany

The German Peat Society was very active during the year 2007. The biannual assembly of the society took place in Bad Muskau at the German-Polish border, June 20 - 23. It was held in connection with a symposium, an excursion and a guided walk through one of the most famous landscape parks of Europe, the Fürst-Pückler-Park. More than 70 members joined the lectures for one and a half days covering the whole spectrum of the society, i.e. from balneology over humic acids of peat to nature conservation, agricultural use of peatlands and industrial use of peat. 65 members joined the one-day-excursion visiting a small almost natural mire in a forested area, an open lignite pit mine and a peat production area directly in front of the brown coal excavators.

In February 13 -14 around 40 experts discussed in Flintbek in Northern Germany the effects of subsurface drainage in peatlands and mineral soils on surface water quality, presented GIS methods for identifying drained areas on different scales and developed new ideas for a more environmental friendly water management. The reduction of non-point nutrient input into surface and coastal water bodies belongs to the challenges of implementing the water framework directive in Europe. In Europe as well as in Germany, drainage is considered to be a quantitatively important input pathway, where an effective nutrient management must start.

In April and September the German Peat Society organized two seminars each with 20 participants to identify different kinds of peat, to learn different drilling techniques for peatlands, to assess the conditions for rewetting after peat cutting and to learn the typical plant species of raised bogs. The seminar started on Friday afternoon with three lectures about the genesis and distribution of mires, the hydrological conditions of fens and



Visit in a bog during the conference in Lamoura, France.

raised bogs and the fauna and flora of mires. The whole following Saturday is reserved to deepen the theoretical knowledge by an excursion through different mires and a peat cutting area. The series of seminars started in September 2006 and both seminars in 2008 (seminar no. 4 and 5) are already completely booked. There is a great demand for the seminar from nature conservation authorities, foresters, peat producers and others.

“Climate protection through mire conservation?” was the title of a symposium with 86 participants, 22 lectures, 20 posters and a half-day-excursion. It was organised from October 5 - 6 in Freising near Munich in the south of Germany. Compared to the Scandinavian countries, Ireland and the countries in eastern Europe the use of peat as a regional fuel does not play any role in Germany and so the main focus of the symposium was aimed at issues like rewetting of former agricultural peatlands, differences in emissions of fens and raised bogs, the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions of peatlands referring to the overall emissions of Germany and the existing mire protection programmes in Germany. Methodical aspects of greenhouse gas measurements were addressed as well as the role of mires and peatlands in international agreements like Kyoto.

At the biannual assembly in June, the German Peat Society decided to support up to ten of its student members each with 200 € to participate at the International Peat Congress 2008 in Tullamore. The German Peat Society supports the students to present their investigations at the Congress by poster or lecture and wants to strengthen the contribution of the German Peat Society to the Congress.

Also in June the German Peat Society established a sponsorship award which can be given to young scientists or technicians for outstanding publications or developments with an interval of two years beginning in

2008. The capital for the new award was collected as donations, came from a surplus from symposia and from the capital of the society. The award is financed by interest from this capital and covers 1000 €.

At the end of the year the new volume of TELMA was published with a wide range of themes. The table of contents will be published in Peatlands International and on the renewed homepage of the German Peat Society. It includes a new database with more than 120 objects like museums, nature trails, peatland railways and spas all over Germany and in neighbouring regions. At the homepage, there is also a database with more than 6000 citations of German literature concerning peat and mires. An English version of the homepage is under construction: www.dgmtv.de

Altogether the German Peat Society offers a lot of meetings and services to its members. It supports the exchange between all people interested in peat and mires. Particularly young people and students profit from the network of the society and become new members. Over the years the German Peat Society has been growing and at the end of 2007 had more than 340 members.

Indonesia

In the year of 2007, the Indonesian National Committee of IPS actively chaired an ad-hoc-team of the ex-PLG Project in Central Kalimantan for Restoration and Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatland. The ad-hoc-team established links with local and national government, policy makers and involved them in the formulation and implementation of outputs. The Indonesian National Committee assisted the decision makers to formulate policies to implement sustainable wise use of tropical peatlands and evaluate the potential of different land uses to promote sustainable livelihoods. The mandate given to this ad-hoc-

team of the Ex-PLG Project in Central Kalimantan was to evaluate the handling of the project, to prepare a rehabilitation concept, to draft the handling mechanism through coordination of the team involved and to prepare alternative recommendations. Following this mandate, the ad-hoc-team has completed its task and produced the Acceleration of Rehabilitation & Restoration on Ex-Peat Area Development in Central Kalimantan, published with the support of RESTORPEAT EU-PROJECT 2007.

The review conclusion shall be used as guidelines for government institutions on central, provincial, regency, city levels as well as for local society and other stakeholders in their efforts to develop and manage the ex-PLG Project Area.

In preparation of Bali's conference on UNFCCC in December 2007, the Indonesian National Committee of IPS held two seminars and two symposia: First, on 27 June the “Regional Seminar on Tropical Peat Sustainability” was held in Hotel Sari Pan Pacific, Jakarta. Two hundred participants of the seminar intensively discussed Restoration, Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Tropical Peatlands. Two Malaysian peat scientists, Prof. Wan Sulaiman and Prof. Ted Murtedza, presented their papers. The Indonesia National Committee dealt with four main issues in this seminar: prospect of tropical peatland, important phenomena of tropical peat dome, need for increasing net transfer of carbon on tropical peatland and carbon losses on tropical peatland.

Secondly the International Symposium and Workshop on Tropical Peatland, “Carbon-Climate-Human Interaction-Carbon Pools- Fire-Mitigation-Restoration and Wise Use”, was held in Hyat Hotel, Yogyakarta, on August 27 - 29, 2007. This symposium was followed by a large symposium on August 30 - 31, held by the Indonesia National Committee “A National Symposium Indonesia Peat

Association; Carbon- Peat & Tropical Peat Forest, Fire and Climate Change”. The Symposia were attended by the IPS Executive Board and peat scientists from all over the world.

The Indonesian National Committee gave a presentation at the European Space Agency (ESA) side event at UNFCCC COP 13 and CMP 3 in Bali, at the Grand Hyatt Bali, on December 6. Topics of presentation were Carbon Accounting and Storage in Forests and Peatlands in Indonesia, from Local Experience to Global Impact.

Ireland

In March 2007 as part of the organisation of the 13th International Peat Congress in 2008, a special series of meetings of the International Peat Society took place in Tullamore. The first meeting was that of the Climate Change Working Group; there were also meetings of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board and the IPS Executive Board. The most important meeting from an Irish point of view took place on Friday 9th March. This was a joint meeting of the Irish Organising Committee with the IPS Executive Board and the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. The meeting reviewed a report prepared by the Organising Committee on the preparations so far, and there was a discussion regarding the proposals of the Organising Committee.

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Irish Peat Society was held in the Park Hotel Mullingar on Tuesday 16th October 2007. The large attendance adopted the minutes of the previous AGM and then heard a report on the Society’s activities during the year, including recruitment of new members and progress made on organising the International Peat Congress in Tullamore. The AGM was followed by a seminar on Climate Change and Peatlands – reflecting the growing awareness of the prospect of climate change. The event facilitated a

learning experience for all present and also some lively discussions as to the consequences at the local and global level as well.

The seminar was chaired by Mr. Charles Shier of Bord Na Mona. A discussion followed the presentations and allowed these attending to air some of their own concerns and queries in relation to carbon and climate change. This issue and other peatland management issues will be considered further at the International Peat Congress in June 2008.

The Organising Committee and its Sub Committees for Congress 2008 were busy in 2007 organising the field trips for Wednesday June 11th 2008 and also the post Congress tour. Committee meetings increased in frequency during the year as the work load increased. It is planned to have Committee meetings every 3 weeks during the early part of 2008 and then every 2 weeks as the Congress nears. Special meetings covering specific areas of the Congress will be held as required. Sponsorship was also sought to help cover some of the cost of organising the Congress.

Latvia

The Annual Meeting of the Latvian Peat Producers Association was for the first time arranged on a ship, the “Regina Baltica” (Riga-Stockholm-Riga), on 22 - 24 March. On the first day a general meeting was held, but on the next day the association members made an excursion through Stockholm.

One of the biggest events in 2007 was the Annual Assembly No.11 which was held in Reval Hotel Latvija in Riga on 24 - 26 May, 2007.

The Latvian Peat Producers Association held its 5th Sport Games in Liepaja district on 20 - 22 July, 2007. Sport Games were organized by “Pindstrup Latvia”, which were attended by more than 300 participants, among them participants of the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association team. Besides fishing,

streetball and volleyball there were several very interesting sports – tug-of-war in the water, chief contest, family relay, boot throwing, casting etc. The next Sport Games will be organized by “Līvānu Kūdras fabrika”.

Many members of the Latvian Peat Producers Association participated in the Baltic Peat Producers forum in Palanga, Lithuania on 23 - 25 August, 2007. The topic of this forum was “Exploitation of peat bogs, and nature and environment protection problems”.

One member (Service Company) has left the Latvian Peat Producers Association, but at the end of 2007 two new members joined to our association – “Compaqpeat” (associated member) and “Durpeta”.

Lithuania

The Lithuanian peat producers association „Lithuanian Peat” held a number of important events in 2007. In March 2007 the General meeting of the members of the association was held. In this meeting the president of the association, Mr. Albinas Černauskas, presented the Annual Report of activities of the association. The attendants also approved the budget, re-elected one member of the council and elected the controller. Two new members – JSC „Baloša” and G. Juozapavičius’ private company “Magma” – joined the association.

A number of important events were held in summer. On 23 – 25 August 2007 the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association organized the Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2007. The forum was held in Palanga, hotel “Gabija”. The theme of the forum was “Exploitation of peat bogs and nature and environment protection problems”. Some 110 participants took part in this forum: 25 from Latvia, 33 from Estonia, 36 from Lithuania, 3 from Germany, 2 from Canada, 2 from Netherlands, 3 from Belarus, 3 from Ukraine, 2 from Russia and 1 from Poland. Besides others, Dr. Norbert

Siebels, vice-chairman of the European Peat and Growing Media Association, participated in the forum as well as Mr. Valerijs Kozlovs, chairman of Latvian Peat Producers Association and member of the IPS Executive board, and other guests from Lithuanian authorities (from the Ministry of environment, from the Lithuanian geological survey and from the State service for protected areas). During the forum, 12 reports about environment protection and peat production were presented and, for the second time the Jurgis Vidmantas award, established in 2006, was presented. The award was conferred on the former employee of JSC "Šilutės durpės", Mr. Vladislovas Saunorius.

On the last day of the forum, an excursion in the JSC "Šilutės durpės" was held. The company possesses 2471 ha of the eastern area of Aukštumala bog (the total area of the bog covers 3018 ha). This bog is situated in the lower reaches of the Nemunas delta, in the territory of the Nemunas delta regional park. After restoration of Lithuania's independence, the Aukštumala Telmological Nature Reserve was established on the unexploited western part of bog. The area of this reserve is a part of NATURA 2000 net – significant for nature protection, public educational and scientific activity as well as tourism. A very complicated problem in this territory is that peat extraction in the eastern part of Aukštumala provokes draining of the neighbouring zone of the Aukštumala Telmological Nature Reserve and gives rise to negative changes in the hydrological regime and protected vegetation cover.

To deal with this problem, a barrier of one kilometre in length was established in 2006 to hold the water level. On the excursion Mr. Romas Pakalnis, head of the Laboratory of Landscape Ecology (Institute of Botany, Lithuania) described this project. The participants of Baltic Peat Producers forum inspected this barrier.

Also in summer 2007, a book

about the Lithuanian Peat Producers association was prepared. This book was published for the Baltic Peat Forum 2007. It also commemorates the 125-year anniversary when the first joint stock company of the Eastern Prussian litter peat factory was founded by Otto Hoffmann, a tradesman from Šilutė, and the beginning of industrial peat mining was mentioned for the first time in written sources. The book contains information about peat mining and environmental protection in Lithuania, Lithuanian peat resources, history of peat bogs exploration in Lithuania, development of the peat industry as well as information about the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association and its members.

In December the Association organized another meeting of its members. One new member – JSC „Poraistė“ – joined the association. So at the end of the year 2007 the Association had 18 members, who successfully work in peat and some other industries.

It also was a success that a member of the association – JSC "Durpeta" – won the competition "Lithuanian exporter of the year 2006". The Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists organizes the competition Best Lithuanian Exporters annually. All Lithuanian enterprises producing products of Lithuanian origin as well as exporting and providing services are invited to participate in the competition.

One of the main tasks is presenting the winners and the participants of the competition and their products to Lithuanian and foreign consumers and manufacturers as reliable partners, implementing innovative advanced technologies, improving management and production quality systems.

The Netherlands

The Dutch National Committee (Nederlands Veengenootschap) this year had, apart from four board meetings, two main activities for its

members. The first one was associated with the annual meeting where the board and members meet and discuss the past and future of the Veengenootschap, on June 8th. This year this meeting was abroad: on the location of Torfwerk Moorkultur Ramsloh, not far from the border. Policies and finances were found to be o.k. according to the members present. Afterwards they attended an interesting presentation on the activities of the Torfwerk, and the relation of the industry with landscape policy and ecology and then joined an excursion on the surrounding fields. The rewetting experiments were most interesting and evoked lively discussions. The surroundings presented a fascinating contrast between the tiny struggling Sphagnum plants and the very nearby huge low-frequency antennae for communication with submarines.

The autumn meeting (October 19th) was located on the experimental field of Alterra, Wageningen University, in Zegveld. These fields are located in the middle of agricultural peatlands, where among others the oxidation of the peat is studied in relation to water level options and land use. This research subject has yielded a rich scientific harvest that is not only interesting from the scientific point of view, but is also very relevant to water management policy in the Netherlands, and the (very) long term consequences thereof. The continued existence of the "typically Dutch landscape" depends to a large extent on this policy: at the moment annually 2% of the agricultural peatlands area loses its peat qualification. All this is obviously also connected to the CO₂-emission issue (3% of the Dutch emissions). Those present were suitably impressed.

Poland

The Polish National Committee of IPS held two meetings in 2007: on 12 February an annual meeting, and on 26 June a General Assembly of the

members. The attendants approved the report about activities during 2003-2007 and re-elected all members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board of the PNC-IPS in the period of 2007-2010 consists of chairman: Dr. hab. Andrzej Lachacz, Vice-chairmen: Prof. Dr. hab. Tomasz Brandyk and Dr. hab. Krzysztof Lipka, and Secretary Dr. Paweł Sowiński. The Polish National Committee has eight Commissions similar to those of IPS as a whole.

Commission I. Stratigraphy, Inventory and Conservation of Peatlands: chairman: Dr. hab. Klara Tomaszewska, Department of Botany and Plant Physiology, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences.

Commission III. Agricultural and Horticultural Use of Peat and Peatlands: chairman: Dr. Sławomir Chrzanowski, Research Station, Institute of Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming "Biebrza".

Commission IV. Chemical, Physical and Biological Properties of Peat: chairman: Dr. Jan Szatyłowicz, Department of Environmental Improvement, Warsaw Agricultural University (SGGW).

Commission V. Spatial Management of Peatlands: chairman: Prof. Dr. hab. Janusz Ostrowski, Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming in Falenty.

Commission VI. Use of Peat in Balneology and Medicine: chairman: Dr. Teresa Latour, Institution of Health Resort Materials, National Institute of Hygiene, Poznań.

Commission VII. Peat Use in Forestry: chairman: Dr. Jan Lukaszewicz, Forest Research Institute, Department of Silviculture, Warsaw.

Commission VIII. Cultural Aspects of Peat and Peatlands: chairman: Prof. Dr. hab. Kazimierz Tobolski, Poznań A. Mickiewicz University.

The Polish scientists are represented in IPS by twenty universities and research institutes. Currently, the National Committee comprises 77 members, of which 3 joined PNC-IPS

in 2007. The members are active in several research projects dealing with various aspects of peat properties and peatlands utilization and protection. During these two meetings some aspects of practical application of "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands" for the special areas of agriculture and forestry were discussed.

Russia

The Russian Peat Society "Rostorf" under Chairman Dmitry Gogin has been very active during the year 2007. It has arranged five meetings for its members: one annual spring meeting in Shatura, one annual autumn meeting in Moscow and three meetings of the Executive Board of NP Rostorf. At the annual meeting in Shatura, a new Executive Board of the Society was elected with a new Director - Nikolay Pentin. Also for the first time, the Society elected an Honourable member - Petr Gurko. In addition to these meetings, NP Rostorf arranged a meeting of the Science-Technical Board, where production methods and machinery acceptable for Russian regions were discussed.

In the activities of NP "Russian Peat Society", much work has been done in solving different problems within the peat industry. NP "Rostorf" is working together with the "Nature Resources and Nature Management Committee" and the "Committee of Energy, Transport and Communications" of the State Duma. Rostorf is a member of the Executive Board of the development programme "TORF" and actively takes part in the federal development programmes.

As a result of the work of the Russian Peat Society during the last years, plans are currently in hand to increase the annual use of fuel peat in large central heating systems and power plants to 12.5 million tons by the companies JSC "Rostopprom" and NP "Rostorf" with the assistance of the RAO UES of Russia.

NP "Russian Peat Society" considers

that one of the main directions of its activities is the publication of the results of scientific research on peat, production experiences, questions of the environmental protection and different points of view about the peat industry in the magazine "Peat and Business" which publish four times per year.

NP "Rostorf" and State Technical University of Tver have an agreement to educate engineering specialists and raising their level of skills for the peat industry.

On 13 June 2007, a cooperation agreement was signed by the NP "Rostorf" and the Belarusian concern "Beltopgaz" to develop cooperation in the area of production, processing and wise use peat, communications and new technology and machinery for peat production.

In 2007, four new corporate members joined NP "Rostorf" among them two universities and two new individual members.

Sweden

TorvForsk, the Swedish national committee of IPS, has had an eventful and successful year. A number of important research projects have been carried out in a number of fields, including biological diversity, co-combustion and particle emissions. The production of a book on cultivation substrates has begun, as well as further studies of the influence of peat litter on the health of domestic animals. A complete list of all projects can be seen at www.torvforsk.se.

Co-operation over borders

TorvForsk carried on its successful external activities during the year 2007, in which two much-appreciated excursions with foreign guests were arranged:

Excursion 1: IPS and IMCG – International Mire Conservation Group
This included visits to Swedish peatlands and discussions about

excavation, protection and biological diversity. An important joint statement from IMCG and IPS was the result of this international excursion, arranged in the end of June by TorvForsk, in co-operation with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Swedish Peat Producers Association. Besides telling our guests about Swedish peatlands, the goal of the excursion was to create a pleasant atmosphere for a platform of continued co-operation between IPS and IMCG. A significant part of the discussions came to concern issues of peat and the climate. By presenting the Swedish situation in as much detail and as frankly as possible, we hoped to bring about fruitful discussions between the organisations. Indeed, we received indications from both organisations that we had helped create a bridge between IPS and IMCG. Leading to the joint statement between the two organisations were numerous and extensive discussions.

Excursion 2: Finnish national committee of IPS on excursion to Swedish peatlands
In late September, TorvForsk and the Swedish Peat Producers Association invited the Finnish committee of IPS, Suoseura, to come to Sweden. The goal was to show them how mires in Sweden can vary and the different ways they can be used, and how the two can work together. Through lectures, different approaches to excavating peat and to Swedish legislation were presented. Topics surrounding the climate issue were also discussed. It is becoming increasingly important that we co-operate with our Nordic and Baltic neighbours. In the evening, the topic of peat and the climate was discussed, along with a discussion of the best method for draining peatlands and how Swedish and Finnish peatlands differ from each other. It is very clear that we have many matters in common. It should also be possible to carry out more joint research projects than we do today.

Congresses and seminars

TorvForsk works closely with Svebio, which participated in the Nordic Bioenergy Conference that took place in Stockholm from 12-13 June. TorvForsk was host to a side event about peat, with participation from several researchers from Nordic and Baltic countries. Lectures about the climate impact of peat usage, peat usage in Estonia and Finland, benefits from co-combustion of peat, biological diversity and ash return were some of the points on the programme. It was evident that there are many issues in the Nordic and Baltic countries that are similar. This led to plans for a Nordic-Baltic seminar about the renewable use of peat, which we hope to arrange during 2008. The World Bioenergy Conference, organised by Svebio, will take place in Jönköping in June. A side event about peat, aimed at discussing new after-treatment methods, among other things, is presently in the planning stage.

Working groups

TorvForsk has taken the initiative, in co-operation with the Swedish Peat Producers Association, to setting up working groups, with the objective of finding platforms where important issues can be discussed and investigated, and new research can be initiated. The groups will monitor research and development within each field. The user groups will consist of representatives from businesses in the peat sector, energy companies, the research community, public authorities and interest groups. The groups are essential to the long-term development of the peat sector. Two groups have been established:

Energy. This group will deal with topics surrounding, for example, corrosion problems, pellets and emissions.

Cultivation and litter. Topics will include a handbook for cultivation substrate, animal husbandry and peat litter. One meeting in each group took place near the end of 2007. The

intention is for the groups to meet twice a year. Conference calls may sometimes be necessary.

In close association with the TorvForsk user groups, the Swedish Peat Producers Association has formed a production group to work with legislation and issues of conditions, as well as with monitoring R&D in the field. The group will consist of representatives from businesses in the peat sector, the research community and public authorities.

TorvForsk's activities are partly financed by membership fees, but funding is limited. During the year a great deal of time and energy was spent looking for joint financing for TorvForsk projects. The campaign has been successful and several projects are now financed in co-operation with sector businesses and authorities. Co-operation with the Swedish Energy Agency has been especially successful during the year.

Peat Congress 2012

A congress committee has been formed and three meetings have been held. Co-operation with the congress agency MCI, formerly the Stockholm Convention Bureau, has advanced to a new stage. In addition to a time plan, there is now a proposal for sponsorship for the 2012 congress. Work on finding sponsors will begin in 2008. Plans are in the pipeline for an introduction, partly in the form of film and music, of the Swedish congress in connection with the Irish congress in Tullamore in June 2008.

Membership Recruitment

During the year efforts to recruit new members to TorvForsk were intensified. A letter was sent to all private members describing the advantages of membership in the Swedish national committee. Information about membership was added to the website. Information about TorvForsk will also be put on websites connected to student activity, such as SLU. A folder is also being compiled.

Members of the IPS

	Individual Members	Industrial Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Belarus	0	8	3	1	1	0	13
Canada	11	35	1	2	3	1	53
Czech Republic	15	1	0	0	0	0	16
Estonia	0	34	1	2	0	0	37
Finland	405	6	0	0	9	0	420
France	6	9	0	0	0	0	15
Germany	248	46	7	5	12	27	345
Hungary	15	1	1	1	2	0	20
Indonesia	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Ireland	7	6	2	0	2	0	17
Latvia	0	24	0	0	4	0	28
Lithuania	0	15	0	0	0	0	15
The Netherlands	55	14	2	3	3	0	77
Norway	4	5	1	0	0	0	10
Poland	0	4	25	0	1	0	30
Russia	7	19	4	0	2	0	32
Sweden	21	14	2	0	1	0	38
Ukrain	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
United Kingdom	33	10	1	2	1	0	47
USA	23	5	1	0	2	0	31
31-Dec-07	857	259	52	16	43	28	1255
31-Dec-06	829	264	45	11	40	32	1221
31-Dec-05	883	257	46	11	36	0	1234
31-Dec-04	911	281	52	7	31	0	1282
31-Dec-03	912	231	52	25	10	0	1230

Table 1: Members of IPS National Committees.

	Individual Member	Corporate Member	TOTAL
Australia	1	0	1
Belgium	2	1	3
Bolivia	1	0	1
Chile	0	1	1
China	0	1	1
Denmark	1	1	2
Italy	4	0	4
Japan	7	0	7
Malaysia	2	0	2
Philippines	1	0	1
Romania	1	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	1
Spain	3	0	3
Swaziland	1	0	1
Turkey	1	0	1
31-Dec-07	26	4	30
31-Dec-06	34	6	40
31-Dec-05	40	4	44
31-Dec-04	35	3	38
31-Dec-03	57	11	68

Table 2: IPS members in countries without National Committee.

	Dec-07	Dec-06	Dec-05	Dec-04	Dec-03	Balance 2007-06
NC members	1255	1221	1234	1282	1230	+ 34
NoNC members	30	40	44	38	68	- 10
	1285	1261	1278	1320	1298	+24

Table 3: Development of the IPS membership from 2003 to 2007.

IPS National Committees

As of 31 December 2007, the International Peat Society had National Committees in the following countries:

BELARUS

Chairperson: Mr. Anatoly Lis

CANADA

Chairperson: Dr. Jean-Yves Daigle

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chairperson: Mr. Karel Brezina

ESTONIA

Chairperson: Mr. Arvo Luberg

FINLAND

Chairperson: Mrs. Riitta Korhonen

FRANCE

Chairperson: Prof. Louis-Marie Riviere

GERMANY

Chairperson: Dr. Gerfried Caspers

HUNGARY

Chairperson: Mr. István Szábo

INDONESIA

Chairperson: Dr. Bambang Setiadi

IRELAND

Chairperson: Mr. Donal Clarke

LATVIA

Chairperson: Mr. Valerijs Kozlovs

LITHUANIA

Chairperson: Mr. Albinas Cernauskas

THE NETHERLANDS

Chairperson: Mr. Leo Schipper

NORWAY

Chairperson: Mr. Arne Nordviste

POLAND

Chairperson: Dr. Ing. Andrzej Lachacz

RUSSIA

Chairperson: Mr. Dmitriy Gogin

SWEDEN

Chairperson: Mr. Lennart Ryk

UKRAINE

Chairperson: Mr. Victor Yurchenko

UNITED KINGDOM

Chairperson: Mr. R. Allan Robertson

USA

Chairperson: Mr. Donald Grubich

IPS Commissions and Working Groups

As of 31 December 2007, the International Peat Society had the following Commissions and Working Groups (WG):

Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Change

Chairperson: Prof. Jukka Laine, Finland
Coordinator: Maria Strack, Canada

COMMISSION I

/survey, stratigraphy, classification and conservation of peatlands/

Chairperson: Dr. Lars Lundin, Sweden

Peatland Geology Working Group

Coordinators: Mrs. Mall Orru, Estonia
Mr. Kimmo Virtanen, Finland

Peatland Ecology Working Group

Coordinator: Mr. Mati Ilomets, Estonia

Peatland Hydrology Working Group

Coordinator: Mr. Elve Lode, Estonia/Sweden

COMMISSION II

/industrial utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy, environmental protection and other purposes/

Chairperson: Mr. Gerald Schmilewski, Germany

Energy Peat Working Group

Coordinator: Mr. Magnus Brandel, Sweden

Horticultural Peat Working Group

Coordinator: Mr. Bruno Berken, France

COMMISSION III

/utilisation of peat and peatlands in agriculture/

Chairperson: Dod. dr.hab. Lech Szajdak, Poland

COMMISSION IV

/chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat/

Chairperson: Dr. Nikolay Bambalov, Belarus

COMMISSION V

/after-use of cut-over and disturbed peatlands/

Chairperson: Dr. Line Rochefort, Canada

Forest Plantation on Cutover Peatlands

Coordinators: Lasse Aro, Finland; Florence Renou, Ireland

Cloudberry production in peatlands

Coordinators: Line Lapointe, Kristine Knaess, Canada; Heli Pirinen, Finland; Kaare Rapp, Norway

COMMISSION VI

/peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics/

Chairperson: Mrs. Riitta Korhonen, Finland

Peat Balneology Working Group

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Gerd Lüttig, Germany

Working Group on Peat Medicine and Peat Preparations

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Dr. H.-P. Klöcking, Germany

Working Group on Balneological Peat Classification

Coordinator: Prof. Kalevi Pihlaja, Finland

Working Group on Curative Peat Analysis

Coordinator: Prof. Julian Lukanov, Bulgaria

COMMISSION VII

/ecology and management on forested peatlands/

Chairperson: Mr. Hannu Hökkä, Finland

COMMISSION VIII

/cultural aspects of peat and peatlands/

Chairperson: Dr. Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands

Profit and Loss Account, EUR

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (SUMMARY)

	Budget 2,008	Realised 1.1.-31.12.07	%	Budget 2,007	Realised 2006	Realised 2005
ORDINARY OPERATIONS						
REVENUE						
Sales of books	2,000	1,399.00	59.5	2,350	1,992.65	1,699.14
Peatlands International	9,500	10,786.00	134.8	8,000	9,369.74	10,894.85
Project income	1,000	38,500.00	106.9	36,000	26,070.00	767.50
Membership fees	135,000	126,656.00	101.7	124,551	128,635.00	142,416.00
Congresses/Symposia	36,000 1)	0.00		0	0.00	255.75
Other income	800	6,368.19	205.6	3,097	4,586.68	1,460.76
INCOME TOTAL	184,300	183,709.19	105.6	173,998	170,654.07	157,494.00
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries/wages/fees	33,700	39,047.45	118.0	33,100	32,571.71	31,880.72
Social security costs	9,000	7,864.57	87.4	9,000	6,971.68	8,474.97
Services of the AFPI	27,700	27,625.00	99.7	27,700	27,624.00	27,933.65
Rent and rel. services	4,000	3,181.05	63.6	5,000	3,910.95	5,907.89
Office equipment	3,500	2,648.71	66.2	4,000	3,599.62	4,305.46
Communication costs	5,100	4,109.09	117.4	3,500	4,729.13	4,306.09
Meeting costs	6,000	4,667.02	116.7	4,000	5,445.03	5,359.64
Travelling costs	35,000	25,188.70	82.6	30,498	27,070.69	32,568.17
Other expenses	1,800	2,678.66	157.6	1,700	2,144.55	8,643.45
	125,800	117,010.25	98.7	118,498	114,067.36	129,380.04
IPS stand	1,900 2)					
Publishing expenses	19,000	16,235.07	90.2	18,000	15,427.32	14,958.29
Project expenses	10,000 5)	6,496.94	18.0	36,000	21,464.00	10,505.71
Seminars / Meetings	0	0.00		0	0.00	0.00
	30,900	22,732.01	42.1	54,000	36,891.32	25,464.00
Bad debts	500	336.00	67.2	500	8,061.32	12,753.20
Deprecation	600	409.00	68.2	600	545.64	625.00
Other income	0	0.00		400	0.00	0.00
	1,100	745.00	49.7	1,500	8,606.96	13,378.20
EXPENSES TOTAL	157,800	140,487.26	88.0	173,998	159,565.64	168,222
	26,500 3)	43,221.93		0	11,088.43 4)	-10,728

1) Commission 2008 Congress

Balance Sheet, EUR

	12/31/2007		12/31/2006	
ASSETS				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Tangible assets				
Machinery and equipment		1,227.92		1,636.92
Other shares and similar rights of ownership				
Participating interests		84.09		84.09
	TOTAL	1,312.01		1,721.01
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors				
Trade debtors		8,895.86		14,688.97
Prepayments and accrued income		745.92		419.93
Other debtors		24,771.00	34,412.78	15,295.00
				30,403.90
Cash in hand and at banks				
Bank accounts		96,991.79		16,524.36
Cash		28.12	97,019.91	37,590.44
				54,114.80
	TOTAL	131,432.69		84,518.70
ASSETS TOTAL		€ 132,744.70		€ 86,239.71
LIABILITES				
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Retained earnings/loss		68,544.27		57,455.84
Profit/loss for the financial year		43,221.93		11,088.43
	TOTAL	111,766.20		68,544.27
CREDITORS				
Advances received		0.00		0.00
Trade creditors		13,422.95		12,580.33
Accruals and deferred income		7,544.50		4,530.38
Other creditors		11.05		584.73
	TOTAL	20,978.50		17,695.44
LIABILITES TOTAL		€ 132,744.70		€ 86,239.71

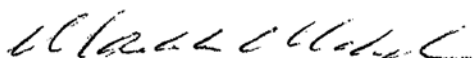
Notes to the Financial Statements

OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY	Eur	Eur
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENCES	2007	2006
Total income	183,725.19	170,654.07
Total expences	-140,094.26	-159,020.00
/. Depreciation	-409.00	-545.64
PROFIT(+)/ LOSS (-) OF THE PERIOD	43,221.93	11,088.43
STAFF EXPENSES	1 person	1 person
Salaries with holiday pay	22,178.21	27,703.63
Pension insurance (TEL)	3,333.59	5,335.20
Statutory social insurance contributions and other social security fees	<u>2,267.66</u>	<u>1,636.48</u>
	27,779.46	34,675.31
DEPRECIATION		
Equipment 1.1.	1,636.92	1,873.56
Acquisition 1.1.-31.12.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>309.00</u>
Subtotal	1,636.92	2,182.56
Depreciation 25%	<u>-409.00</u>	<u>-545.64</u>
VALUE OF THE EQUIPMENT AFTER DEPRECIATION	1,227.92	1,636.92
PROJECTS		
Climate Change Working Group		
Income	38,500.00	25,500.00
Expenses	<u>-6,496.94</u>	<u>-18,874.06</u>
	32,003.06	6,625.94
RESERVATIONS		
Holiday pay reserve and social contibutions 2006	3,729.50	3,729.50
Holiday pay reserve and social contibutions 2007	3,815.00	328.38
Credit IMCG	<u>0.00</u>	<u>472.50</u>
	7,544.50	4,530.38
LEASING EXPENSIS		
Paid leasing expensis in 2007	1,164.14	1,186.40
Later occurring leasing fees	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,305.04</u>
	1,164.14	2,491.44

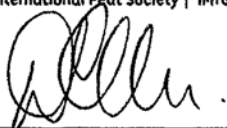
Date and Signatures

Date and Signatures

Brussels, 15th of March 2008



Markku Mäkelä
President



Donal Clarke
1st Vice-President

Tomas Brandyk
2nd Vice-President

Håkan Bjur
Member

Dmitry Gogin
Member

Gerry Hood
Member

Valerijs Kozlovs
Member

Jack Rieley
Member

Jutta Zeitz
Member

Jaakko Sipilä
Secretary General

Auditor's Notation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Finnish Accounting Act.
Our auditor's report has been issued today.

In Jyväskylä on 22.4.2008

Deloitte & Touche Oy
Authorised Public Accounting Firm



Arto Saarinen

Authorised Public Accountant

Auditor's Report

Deloitte.

Deloitte & Touche Oy
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AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation)

To the members of International Peat Society

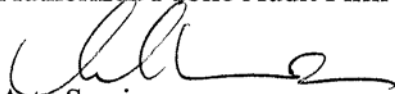
We have audited the accounting, the financial statements, administration and the report of the Executive Board International Peat Society of the period 1.1. – 31.12.2007. The report of the Executive Board and the financial statements, which include income statement, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, have been prepared by the Executive Board and the Secretary General. Based on our audit we express an opinion on the report of the Executive Board, administration and the financial statements.

We have conducted our audit in accordance with Finnish Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. These standards require that we perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the report of the Executive Board and the financial statements are free of misstatement and that the members of the Executive Board and the Secretary General have legally complied with the rules of the Associations Act.

In our opinion, the report of the Executive Board and the financial statements showing a surplus 43.221,93 €, have been prepared in accordance with the Finnish Accounting Act and the Generally Accepted Standards regarding the report of the Executive Board. The report of the Executive Board and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's result of operations as well as the financial positions. The report of the Executive Board is consistent with the financial statements. The financial statements can be adopted and the members of the Executive Board and the Secretary General can be discharged from liability for the period audited by us.

Jyväskylä, 22. April, 2008

Deloitte & Touche Oy
Authorized Public Audit Firm



Arto Saarinen
KHT

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

List of Accounting Books Used

The following accounting books have been used during the financial year:

Balance Sheet Book,
Nominal Ledger,
General Journal, and
Fixed Assets Book.