

Annual Report 2009



International Peat Society | IMTG MTO

International Peat Society
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Annual Report 2009
Photos: Susann Warnecke if no others mentioned
Editing and layout: Susann Warnecke, IPS Communications Manager
Contributions by IPS National Committees and Commissions

Secretary General's Review

Jaakko Siipola. Photo: Reijo Vesterinen



National Committees have been and are the basic building block of the IPS. They provide a local platform for the exchange of information between peat and peatland professionals and organisations in a country. Through the National Committees, individuals, institutes and corporations can learn from each other and benefit from the membership services IPS provides, such as special events, excursions, seminars, magazines, journals and newsletters. National Committees offer the structure, funding and experience required that neither the IPS Secretariat alone nor individuals can provide with such quality and consistency.

At the moment it seems, unfortunately, that several National Committees have become less active than in the past. This has happened partly because of the current worldwide economic crisis. Clearly, though, this is not the only reason. Some Committees have new leaders who may not yet be familiar with the networking opportunities offered through the IPS family. A generation change is challenging old structures and bringing different forms of commitment and new ideas.

Even though new communication methods and new internet solutions are needed within the IPS, there is also a constant need for building real

relationships and obtaining reliable knowledge. Therefore our organisation faces a demand for strong and active national organisations, which can act at a local level and in their own language with regard to today's important and burning questions. These can be for instance, peatlands and climate change, the after-use of harvested areas, national peatland strategies and certification schemes or special technology programmes within the peat industry. In addition to their daily work, individuals need the opportunity to meet their colleagues face-to-face to build trust and exchange information through IPS National Committees and Commissions.

At the end of 2008, the IPS decided to start the first phase of a certification process, namely the preparation of a Responsible Peatland Management Strategy. For this purpose, three workshops and two email meetings were arranged in the course of 2009, actively attended by the members of the Society and a large number of various interest groups in peat and peatland matters. The work on the Strategy was successfully brought forward during the year and it is planned that the document will be finalised by the end of spring 2010. At that stage, the different peat and peatland stakeholders involved will decide if they want to proceed with peatland management certification and detailed certification standards.

The competition to host the 2016 International Peat Congress was opened in late 2008. By 30 September 2009, the end of the application deadline, the IPS Secretariat had received two applications, coming from the National Committees of Latvia and of Malaysia. After thorough discussion and hearing presentations of the two candidates, the Executive Board recommended holding the Congress in Malaysia in Kuching, the capital of the state Sarawak on the island of Borneo. This was also the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Board. The final decision will, however, be made at the Annual Assembly 2010 in Finland. This decision will be important for the direction of the IPS for the coming 8 years, as the choice of venue also determines the future positions of First Vice President and President.

The Congress venue recommendation by the IPS Executive Board took account of the strategic opportunity of holding an International Peat Congress in the southern hemisphere; other items considered for both applications were the venue, organisational capabilities, funding resources, the status of peatland research and peat-based industries and the proposals for the position of President. It was also recommended that the applicant in second place will be invited to organise a large symposium in 2014.

The next International Peat Congress will be organised in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2012. According to information provided by the organisers, excellent progress is being made in preparing for the Congress, and we are looking forward to a splendid event in two years time.

The Scientific Advisory Board of the IPS, which is comprised of the Chairpersons of the IPS Commissions, has carried on its activities successfully. The SAB's principal task is to act as a pool of scientific knowledge for the 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.

As of 31 December 2009, there were 1,412 (2008: 1,272) members of the IPS in 29 (33) countries. The IPS is represented by 19 (20) National Committees. In 2009, we were very happy to welcome the Malaysian Peat Society as a new National Committee of the IPS. The membership of Belarus and Ukraine was temporarily suspended due to

unpaid membership fees arising from local financial and exchange control problems. As of 31 December 2009, the IPS had 23 individual and 5 corporate members in 10 countries without National Committees.

It was with great sadness that we learned that Second Vice President Professor Tomasz Brandyk from Poland had passed away on 16 May 2009. We all respect his memory and thank him for his long service on behalf of the IPS.

The IPS Award of Excellence 2009 was conferred on Dr. Timo Nyrönen from Finland for his outstanding engagement in peat and peatland activities, especially with regard to research and development matters.

In broad terms, the Income Statement of the IPS shows a surplus of EUR 13,600 (2008: EUR 26,200) for the financial year 2009. This surplus will be used to finance special projects. The income from the International Peat Congress in Tullamore 2008 will be used during the years until the next Congress. The total income of the IPS was EUR 207,400 (EUR 202,600), with expenditure amounting to EUR 193,800 (EUR 176,400). Bad debts amounted to EUR 31,400 (EUR 10,700) and the depreciation to EUR 580 (EUR 330). Assets and liabilities increased to EUR 165,800 (EUR 150,700).

I want to convey my warmest thanks to all IPS members and to all of you who have contributed to the IPS. Your input is mostly given on a voluntary basis and is therefore highly respected. Once again I want to thank the members of our

Executive Board for their cooperation which was replicated in the Scientific Advisory Board, the National Committees, Commissions and Working Groups.

My final thanks go to the staff of the IPS and the associated organisations at the IPS office. You all have done very important work for the IPS and for peat and peatlands. Thank you very much.

Jaakko Silpola
Secretary General of the IPS



Secretary General Jaakko Silpola and Michiel Gerding, Chairman of Commission VIII, during the field trip in Northern Ireland in April.

Report of the Executive Board

Administration

Annual Assembly of National Representatives

The 13th Annual Assembly of National Representatives of the International Peat Society was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom on 26 April 2009. The Assembly was attended by ten representatives of the National Committees of Canada, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Additionally, twelve observers were present.



The Annual Assembly 2009 was held in Belfast under the auspices of the UK and Irish National Committees.

The Assembly adopted the balance sheet, the annual report and the auditor's report for 2008, and approved the plan of activities, budget, affiliation and membership fees for 2009 as well as the interim budget and membership fees 2010. Arto Saarinen from Deloitte & Touche Oy was elected as auditor and that firm was authorised to nominate a substitute auditor

for IPS. The Assembly noted that the Finnish National Committee had proposed to organise the Annual Assembly 2010 and authorised the Executive Board to decide on the venue at its next meeting. The tradition of holding a Round Table Discussion for National Committee Representatives was successfully continued. The next election of Executive Board members is scheduled for 2010.

Meetings of the Executive Board

The IPS Executive Board held five meetings in 2009: in Stockholm, Sweden on 4 March, by email on 16 - 31 March, in Belfast, United Kingdom on 25 April, by email on 7 - 17 August and finally in Brussels, Belgium on 27 and 29 October. The decisions of these meetings were communicated in Peat News, Peatlands International and by email shortly after the meetings as "decision summaries in a nutshell".



National Representatives Leo Schipper from the Netherlands, Lars Lundin from Sweden, Lulie Melling from Malaysia and IPS Honorary President Allan Robertson at the Annual Assembly.



The first Executive Board meeting of the year was held in Stockholm. Paul Short from Canada attended via video conference which turned out to be a very good arrangement. Left to right: Secretary General Jaakko Silpola, President Donal Clarke, 1st Vice President Björn Hånell and EB members Satu Helynen and Jutta Zeitz.

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 members of the Executive Board during 2009 and their terms of office were:

President:
 Donal Clarke, Ireland 2008 - 2012
 1st Vice President:
 Björn Hånell, Sweden 2008 - 2012
 2nd Vice President:
 Tomasz Brandyk, Poland 2008 - 2012

Ordinary members:
 Håkan Bjur, Sweden 2006 - 2010
 Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia 2006 - 2010
 Jutta Zeitz, Germany 2006 - 2010
 Dmitriy Gogin, Russia 2008 - 2012
 Satu Helynen, Finland 2008 - 2012
 Paul Short, Canada 2008 - 2012

With great sadness we noted that 2nd Vice President Tomasz Brandyk had passed away on 16 May 2009. In November 2009, Dmitriy Gogin informed the IPS Secretariat of his resignation from the Executive Board due to organisational reasons.

Meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) consists of the IPS Commission Chairs and the 2nd Vice President of IPS. It provides the Society with advice and information on matters of

scientific, technical and cultural importance, drawing upon the pool of knowledge available in the Commissions and elsewhere and promoting and disseminating research results. The SAB operates between Congresses but elects its Chair and Secretary each year by secret ballot; it meets normally twice a year in association with other IPS meetings.

The Scientific Advisory Board met twice in 2009, in April in Belfast, UK and in November in Brussels, Belgium. Recommendations made by the SAB were regularly communicated to and considered by the Executive Board.

The November meeting of the SAB elected Prof. Jack Rieley from the United Kingdom as Chair and Dr. Catherine Farrell from Ireland as Secretary. Jürgen Schoenherr was elected Chair of IPS Commission IV by the Executive Board and thereby became a new member of the SAB in August 2009.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board

Chairman:
 Tomasz Brandyk, Poland until May 2009
 Jack Rieley, United Kingdom from November 2009

Secretary:
 Catherine Farrell, Ireland



Once in a while in a different environment: Members of the Executive Board and their Swedish hosts at the Icebar in Stockholm city centre.

Members: Chairs of Commissions I - IX:

- I Lars Lundin, Sweden
- II Gerald Schmilewski, Germany
- III Lech Szajdak, Poland
- IV Jürgen Schoenherr, Germany
- V Catherine Farrell, Ireland
- VI Riitta Korhonen, Finland
- VII Hannu Hökkä, Finland
- VIII Michiel Gerding, the Netherlands
- IX Jack Rieley, United Kingdom

Members of the IPS

As of 31 December 2009, the IPS membership comprised a total of 1,412 (2008: 1,272) members in 29 (33) countries. The membership database is updated continuously through information from the National Committees and by direct contacts.



The Scientific Advisory Board at its meeting in Belfast - for the last time chaired by Prof. Tomasz Brandyk.

National Committees

The IPS is represented by 19 (2008: 20) National Committees with a total of 1,384 (1,238) members, of which 15 operate in Europe, two in North America, and two in Southeast Asia. A complete list can be found in the appendices. In 2009, the Malaysian Peat Society joined the IPS, the membership of Belarus and Ukraine was suspended until membership fees are paid.

Members in Countries Without a National Committee

As of 31 December 2009, the IPS had 23 (2008: 28) individual and 5 (6) corporate members in 10 (13) countries without National Committees.

These comprise 7 European countries, one in Asia, one in South America and one in Africa. The complete list is contained in the appendices.

IPS Award of Excellence

The IPS Award of Excellence 2009 was conferred on Dr. Timo Nyrönen from Finland for his outstanding engagement in peat and peatland activities, especially in research and development. The Award was announced at the Annual Assembly in Belfast and presented in early June in

Jyväskylä, Finland by the Chair of the IPS Finnish National Committee and the IPS Secretary General. The Scientific Advisory Board and Executive Board of IPS reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Award at their November meetings to broaden the range of nominations for the Award and to make the application and evaluation process easier.

The IPS Award of Excellence was launched in 2005 and is annually conferred on a member of the International Peat Society for a distinguished contribution in any sector of peatland activities. The Award comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of EUR 1,000.



Dr. Timo Nyrönen received the IPS Award of Excellence at his home from Riitta Korhonen, Chair of the Finnish National Committee.

Honorary Members

Honorary membership is conferred by the Executive Board on persons nominated by National Committees who have made outstanding contributions to the IPS and to international cooperation on peatlands and peat. In 2009, the IPS had the following Honorary Members:

Honorary President:
Mr. R. Allan Robertson, UK

Honorary Members:
Mr. F. Baranyai, Hungary
Dr. A.K. Dergunov, Russia
Dr. R.S. Farnham, USA
Mr. Henk van de Griendt, the Netherlands
Mr. Don N. Grubich, USA
Mr. Gerry Hood, Canada
Mr. Paddy Hughes, Ireland
Prof. Dr. hab. Piotr Ilnicki, Poland
Acad. Ivan I. Lishtvan, Belarus
Prof. Dr. Gerd Lüttig, Germany
Prof. Markku Mäkelä, Finland
Dr. Thomas Malterer, USA
Mr. P. McEville, Ireland
Mr. H.M.S. Miller, Ireland
Dr. Yrjö Pessi, Finland
Mr. Reidar Pettersson, Sweden
Mr. B.N. Sokolov, Russia
Mr. Raimo Sopo, Finland
Mr. Ted E. Tibbetts, Canada
Dr. András Tóth, Hungary

We congratulate Dr. Thomas Malterer from the United States



Stockholm in winter - surely this will look much better in summer 2012!



Besides meetings, the attendees of the Annual Assembly also knew how to enjoy each other's company.

on becoming a new IPS Honorary Member in 2009.

The IPS Secretariat

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

The Secretariat is managed by Mr. Jaakko Silpola, M. Sc. (Agriculture and Forestry), MBA, who has held the post of IPS Secretary General since November 2004. Communications Manager Ms. Susann Warnecke (Diplom-Kauffrau FH), has been working for the IPS since January 2002. 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), the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA), the Ramsar Convention and the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI).

Economic Survey

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a surplus of EUR 13,600 (2008: 26,200) for the financial year 2009. This is mainly due to the income of the project to create a Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management. The results of the International Peat Congress in Tullamore 2008 will be used during the years until the next Congress. The total income of the IPS was EUR 207,400 (EUR 202,600), with expenditure amounting to EUR 193,800 (EUR 176,400). Bad debts amounted to EUR 31,400 (EUR 10,700) and the depreciation to EUR 580 (EUR 330). Assets and liabilities increased to EUR 165,800 (EUR 150,700).

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

A variety of meetings, symposia and field trips was organised by the National Committees of IPS in their own countries. The next International Peat Congress will be held in 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden. Further information can be obtained from the national reports in the appendices.

Workshops and meetings

Workshops for the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management were held in Amsterdam during 13 - 15 February 2009, in Belfast on 27 - 28 April 2009 and in Brussels on 28 October 2009. Meetings of the IPS Commissions took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland in April 2009.



The Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management was edited at workshops in Amsterdam, Belfast and Brussels and further developed through email comments from numerous stakeholder organisations and individuals.

Other activities of the IPS Secretariat

A principal activity of the IPS in 2009 was to draft a Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management together with the members of the Society and a large number of other stakeholders involved in peat and peatland matters. For this purpose, three workshops and two email consultations were held. The Strategy is the first part of a possible peatland certification scheme and will be further developed in 2010.

The book "Peatlands and Climate Change" was one of the most significant products of the IPS in 2008 and 2009. By December 2009, 407 copies of the book were sold, most of them via the IPS online shop. Climate change and greenhouse gas



The most important project for IPS in 2009 was the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management. A group of peat and peatland experts interested in this work met for the first time in Amsterdam in February 2009 to draft the Strategy. Photo: Lulie Melling

emissions, especially in the Tropics, remain one of the most burning issues with respect to peatland management in the public view.

Publications

Scientific Journal

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



The study tour of the Belfast Convention was a great opportunity to get to know IPS members from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

In 2009, Volume 5 of Mires and Peat was published with seven articles. The special issue on Windfarms on Peatlands (Volume 4 2008/2009) was finalised, containing eight papers. The Journal can be accessed at 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 16 including mailing costs.

Peatlands International

Peatlands International is the half-yearly magazine for members of the IPS. Secretary General Jaakko Silpola is editor-in-chief, supported by Communications Manager Susann Warnecke.



Peatlands International 1/2009 dealt with Peatland Restoration and Rehabilitation and was published and distributed to all IPS members in July 2009, together with the Annual Report 2008. Peatlands International 2/2009 was published at the end of January 2010.

Peatlands International is supported by an Editorial Board the members of which are:

Paul Short, Canada
 Juhani Päivänen, Finland
 Michael Trepel, Germany
 Catherine Farrell, Ireland
 Lech Szajdak, Poland
 Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands



In 2009, the Malaysian Peat Society was established as a new National Committee of IPS. Secretary Lulie Melling (right) talking with Catherine Farrell (left) in Northern Ireland.



The IPS Seminar in Belfast covered the large topic of peatland restoration and rehabilitation in Britain and Southeast Asia.

Marie-Kofod Hansen, Sweden
 Allan Robertson, United Kingdom
 Tom Malterer, USA

Special attention will be paid in the coming years to the quality and language of articles submitted, to the editing timetable and the decreasing number of advertisements. All previous issues of Peatlands International since 2004, further information on the magazine and a media kit are available at the IPS website.

Peat News

Peat News, the electronic newsletter of the IPS, is sent out monthly by email to all members of the Society. The latest issue as well as a list of topics covered during 2002 - 2009 can also be read at the IPS website.

In 2009, 12 issues were distributed, each to approximately 1,300 members. Orders for

Peat News can be directed to susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org. All IPS members are authorised to receive Peat News by email. 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.

IPS Online Shop

The IPS online shop, opened in 2005, remains a very popular tool for scientists, students, developers, booksellers and other persons ordering books from the IPS. Buyers can browse all publications online, fill their shopping basket and pay immediately by credit card or later on by bank transfer. This has made orders much quicker and easier to handle for the IPS Secretariat. Due to high service fees we accept cheque payments only in exceptional cases to be agreed beforehand with the IPS staff.

Commissions

In August 2009, Prof. Jürgen Schoenherr was elected Chair of IPS Commission IV on Chemical, Physical and Biological Characteristics of Peat. Further information on the work of the Commission can be found in the appendices.



The pouring rain did not harm the enthusiasm of our members.

Members of the IPS

Table 1: Members of IPS National Committees.

	Individual members	Industrial Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Government al Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Canada	10	45	1	2	4	3	65
Czech Republic	15	1	0	0	0	0	16
Estonia	0	33	1	2	0	0	36
Finland	388	4	1	1	9	0	403
France	6	10	0	0	0	0	16
Germany	249	52	4	3	12	26	346
Hungary	15	1	1	1	2	0	20
Indonesia	101	0	0	0	0	0	101
Ireland	27	3	0	1	3	0	34
Latvia	2	24	0	0	4	0	30
Lithuania	1	13	0	0	0	0	14
Malaysia	52	0	1	0	0	0	53
The Netherlands	56	13	2	3	3	0	77
Norway	4	4	1	0	0	0	9
Poland	0	3	24	0	1	0	28
Russia	7	19	4	0	2	0	32
Sweden	20	22	0	0	1	0	43
United Kingdom	24	2	1	2	1	0	30
USA	21	5	2	0	3	0	31
31 December 2009	998	254	43	15	45	29	1384
31 December 2008	832	269	50	12	45	30	1238
31 December 2007	857	259	52	16	43	28	1255
31 December 2006	829	264	45	11	40	32	1221
31 December 2005	883	257	46	11	36	0	1234

Table 2: IPS members in countries without National Committees.

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	TOTAL
Belarus	1	0	1
Belgium	2	2	4
Burundi	0	1	1
Chile	0	1	1
Denmark	2	1	3
Italy	4	0	4
Japan	7	0	7
Romania	2	0	2
Slovenia	1	0	1
Spain	4	0	4
31 December 2009	23	5	28
31 December 2008	28	6	34
31 December 2007	26	4	30
31 December 2006	34	6	40
31 December 2005	40	4	44



Table 3: Development of the IPS membership from 2005 to 2009.

	December 2009	December 2008	December 2007	December 2006	December 2005	Balance
NC members	1384	1238	1255	1221	1234	146
NoNC members	28	34	30	40	44	-6
	1412	1272	1285	1261	1278	140

IPS National Committees

As of 31 December 2009, the International Peat Society had National Committees in the following countries:

CANADA

Chairperson: Jean-Yves Daigle
Secretary: Paul Short

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chairperson: Karel Brezina

ESTONIA

Chairperson: Erki Niitlaan

FINLAND

Chairperson: Riitta Korhonen
Secretary: Leila Korpela

FRANCE

Chairperson: Michel Ecobichon
Secretary: Laurent Largent

GERMANY

Chairperson: Gerfried Caspers
Secretary: Jörn Kasch

HUNGARY

Chairperson: István Szábo
Secretary: Julianna Balász

INDONESIA

Chairperson: Bambang Setiadi

IRELAND

Chairperson: Catherine O'Connell
Secretary: Pat Fitzgerald

LATVIA

Chairperson: Valerijs Kozlovs
Secretary: Ilze Ozola

LITHUANIA

Chairperson: Albinas Cernauskas
Secretary: Giedrius Kavaliauskas

MALAYSIA

Chairperson: James Mamit
Secretary: Lulie Melling

THE NETHERLANDS

Chairperson: Guus van Berckel
Secretary: Anne Jelle Schilstra

NORWAY

Chairperson: Lars Ole Storihle
Secretary: Trond Haraldsen

POLAND

Chairperson: Andrzej Lachacz
Secretary: Pawel Sowinski

RUSSIA

Chairperson: Nikolay Brykin
Secretary: Alexander Ivanov

SWEDEN

Chairperson: Lena Dahlman
Secretary: Marie Kofod-Hansen

UNITED KINGDOM

Chairperson: Allan Robertson
Secretary: Jack Rieley

USA

Chairperson: Don Grubich

IPS Commissions and Working Groups

As of 31 December 2009, the International Peat Society had the following Commissions and Working Groups (WG):

COMMISSION I

Survey, stratigraphy, classification and conservation of peatlands

Chair: Lars Lundin, Sweden

Vice Chair: Maria Strack, Canada

Peatland Geology Working Group

Coordinators: Mall Orru, Estonia

Kimmo Virtanen, Finland

Peatland Ecology Working Group

Coordinator: Mati Ilomets, Estonia

Peatland Hydrology Working Group

Coordinator: Elve Lode, Estonia/Sweden

COMMISSION II

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

Chair: Gerald Schmilewski, Germany

Secretary: Pat Fitzgerald, Ireland

Energy Peat Working Group

Coordinator: Magnus Brandel, Sweden

Horticultural Peat Working Group

COMMISSION III

Utilisation of peat and peatlands in agriculture

Chair: Lech Szajdak, Poland

COMMISSION IV

Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

Chair: Jürgen Schoenherr, Germany

COMMISSION V

After-use of cut-over and disturbed peatlands

Chair: Catherine Farrell, Ireland

Sphagnum Biomass Cultivation

Forest Plantation on Cutover Peatlands

Coordinators: Lasse Aro, Finland; Florence Renou-Wilson, Ireland

Cloudberry production in peatlands

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

COMMISSION VI

Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics

Chair: Riitta Korhonen, Finland

COMMISSION VII

Ecology and management of forested peatlands

Chair: Hannu Hökkä, Finland

COMMISSION VIII

Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands

Chair: Michiel Gerding, the Netherlands

COMMISSION IX

Tropical peatlands

Chair: Jack Rieley, United Kingdom

Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Change

Chair: Prof. Jukka Laine, Finland

Coordinator: Maria Strack, Canada

Reports of Commissions

Commission I: Stratigraphy, Inventory and Conservation Chair: Lars Lundin

Scope

The 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.



The Scientific Advisory Board of IPS, consisting of the Commission Chairs and the 2nd Vice President, met twice in 2009 - here together with the Executive Board in Brussels.

State

The Commission addresses all IPS members interested in Commission I activities. So far there are members from 13 countries; Belarus, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Ireland, Russia, Sweden, UK and the USA. An invitation has been sent out from the IPS Secretariat for all IPS members to sign up to Commissions. For Commission I, 69 persons from 17 countries showed interest. There has also been a start of Working groups (WG); Geology, Ecology and Hydrology. However, activities in the groups have been small during 2009.

At the quadrennial meeting 2008 in Tullamore, a Vice Chairman was elected and this is Ass. Professor Maria Strack, Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Canada, email: mstrack@ucalgary.ca. More information can be found at www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=people&style=2&this=332.

Activities and Plans

The priorities of the Commission I remain with Inventory, Stratigraphy and Conservation of mires and peatlands with special relation to the working groups.

Two Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meetings have been held; in Belfast, Ireland on 24 April and in Brussels, Belgium on 27 October 2009. Items on the Agenda were especially the IPS Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management, the International Peat Congresses (IPC) 2016 and 2012, the Practical Application of Wise Use and Best Practice Guidelines for After-Use of Cut-away Peatlands, the Mires and Peat Journal and the Terminology WG. These activities are considered in the future work plan. In the beginning of 2010, the IPS Award of Excellence should be decided and applicants evaluated.

As current activities, the Commission I participates in the initiative on Wise After-Use of Peatlands; Rehabilitation and Restoration. In connection to this there are planned restoration excursions in Finland 2010 and in Sweden 2011. Commission I is also active in the planning of IPC 2012.

Further, it follows current issues in relation to an increasing need of biofuels and consequences of peat use for climate change with reporting to IPCC and preservation of biodiversity with connections to e.g. Network of Excellence A Long-term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research

Network (NoE ALTER-Net). There are connections also to the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG). In relation to hydrology, intentions are on ongoing initiatives for reference sites in an international network.

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

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

As in the past, peat production and use for horticultural and energy purposes comprise the main subjects of activity of Commission II. During discussions at and between Commission II meetings, peat production, environmental issues, peat replacement, Life Cycle Analysis (LCAs), organization of symposia and the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM) have been some of the main topics. The work conducted by the Commission and other achievements made during 2009 are summarised below.

Commission II meeting in Belfast, 26 April

- Commission II initiated a workshop on Certification in Helsinki on 19 Nov 2008 as basis for two Strategy seminars in Amsterdam



Secretary General Jaakko Silpola giving a presentation at the Commission II meeting in Belfast, April 2009.

- in February and Belfast in April 2009 at which a number of Commission II delegates participated
- LCAs for peat and other materials used in horticulture
- LCAs for energy peat
- Representation at the International Peat Congress 2012 and other events

Commission II meeting in Brussels, 27 October

- SRPM and possible Certification scheme
- Increase general awareness for the use of horticultural peat and other growing media constituents
- Presentations of LCA in horticulture and energy sectors at the meeting
- Looking towards Stockholm 2012: Discussion on innovations and technical developments

EU Regulation on Growing Media

Commission II wrote a letter to the European Commission supporting the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) initiative to harmonise legislation on Growing Media to facilitate trade in the EU and improving transparency for consumers. Meanwhile, an industry WG has been set up to draft a first regulation.

Turkish legislation asking for fumigation or heat-treatment of growing media

Commission II initiated and signed a letter to Turkish regulators explaining the practical restraints of such an imposition. Meanwhile, the requirement has been changed.

EPAGMA

The Chair participated at the April EPAGMA Growing Media Forum in Brussels.

Symposium on Peat in Horticulture – Life in Growing Media

Acknowledged by the International Society for Horticultural Science, Commission II and the Dutch National Committee of IPS have started to organise this event. For further information see Peatlands International and the IPS website.

International Symposium on Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production, June 2011, Quebec

Commission II is engaged in the preparations of this event organised by Commissions II and V.

International Plant Propagators Conference in Kilkenny, September

The Chair gave an oral presentation on peat and growing media.

International Symposium on Growing Media organised by ISHS/IPS in Charlotte, USA

There was a representation of a large number of Commission II delegates showing strong cooperation between the two societies, also highly supported by the two organizations.

Commission III: Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands in Agriculture Chair: Lech Szajdak

The commission members dealt with the problems of agricultural use of peat and peatlands and published their results in numerous presentations and publications.

Session on "Organic soils: impact of land-use change on peatlands degradation"

Commission III organised a session on "Organic soils: impact of land-use change on peatlands degradation" during the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2009 in Vienna, Austria, on 19 - 24 April 2009. Lech Szajdak and Teodoro Miano were conveners of this meeting.

The session focused on biological, chemical, biochemical aspects and physical aspects of peatlands degradation caused by land use change. The participants pointed out that long-term cultivation and agricultural use of peatlands and their exploitation has revealed a number of effects including lowering of the water table, increase of aeration, changes in plant communities, and the release of carbon gases. These processes show the disturbance of the thermodynamic balance in peat. In addition, the decline in peat soil moisture content resulting from drainage leads to shrinkage of the peat is observed.

The participants concluded that volume change due to shrinkage is the result of several forces acting



Pat Fitzgerald presented the EPAGMA Code of Conduct to the attendees of the Commission II meeting in Brussels in October.

at micro-scale, and its mechanism and magnitude differ from those in mineral (clay) soils. Drainage in particular results in a sharp change of biotic and abiotic conversions and consequent degradation of peat organic matter. As results of drainage and due to a number of factors including oscillation of ground water level, changes of aerobic conditions, different plant communities, root exudates and products of degradation of plant remains, peat-muck soils may undergo a process of secondary transformation. The session included 10 oral and 14 poster presentations. The participants came from Belarus, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

The EGU General Assembly was a great success. 9,088 scientists from all over the world were brought into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Up to 26% of the participants were students. The programme included 12,977 oral and poster presentations during the week and was completed by an interesting exhibition from industry and publishing as well as a high number of side meetings.

Publishing activity

In 2009, a number of members of Commission III carried out investigations, which results were published in the following scientific journals:



It was with great sadness that the members of Commission III and IPS noted the death of former Chair of the Commission and 2nd Vice President Prof. Tomasz Brandyk in May 2009, shortly after the Belfast Convention.

Agronomy Research, Agrophysics International, Allelopathy Journal, Biology and Fertility of Soils, Geoderma, Soil Biology and Biochemistry and Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science and others.

Plans for the Future

Commission III of the International Peat Society has been involved in planning a scientific session on "Dehydrated and rewetted peatlands: hydrological, physical and chemical changes" (Division Soil System Sciences, Session SSS17) during EGU, General Assembly, which is going to take place in Vienna, Austria on 2 - 7 May 2010. The organisers of the session are: Lech Szajdak (convener), and co-conveners Teodoro Miano and Claudia Zaccone.

The authors/contributors of 29 abstracts submitted to the Organizing Committee represent the following countries: Belarus, Finland, Greece, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom. The abstracts include wide aspects of dehydrated and rewetted organic soils: peat, moorshes and sapropels. Selected papers will

be published in a scientific international journal. The description of the session is available at <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2010/sessionprogramme/SSS>, while information about the EGU itself can be found at www.egu.eu.

Commission III is also involved in the All Russian 7th Scientific School of Young Scientists with International Participation on Bogs and Biosphere to be held on 13 - 19 September 2010 in Tomsk, Russia. The school will be hosted by the Tomsk State Pedagogical University. The following topics are proposed: modern paludification landscape and the role of mires in biosphere, biogeochemical processes of organic matter transformation in mire ecosystems, physico-chemical and biological properties of mires and directions of the utilization of mire resources. An excursion to Vasyugan Mire and a post-school tour to Gornyi Altai are proposed. Contact person is Professor Lidia Inisheva, Street Kievskaya, 60, Phone: +7(3822) 52-00-99; 8-909-539-76-39, Fax: +7(3822) 52-00-99, email: inisheva@mail.ru.

We were very grieved to receive the sad news that Professor Tomasz Brandyk passed away in 2009. He played an invaluable role in the activities of the Commission III. It should be pointed out that Professor Brandyk was the Chair of our Commission in the years 2000 to 2004. During this period, he was also a member of the Executive Board of IPS. From 2004 until his death, he was the second Vice President of IPS and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of IPS. Professor Brandyk was Editorial Board member of several Polish and international scientific journals including Peatlands International.

I would like to thank once again the participants and voluntary workers of the Commission III.

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

Chair: Catherine Farrell

Mission

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

Goals

1. To promote the best restoration and rehabilitation 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.

Business Meetings

The Chair attended meetings of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management in Amsterdam and Belfast and the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meeting in Belfast in April and participated in the discussions on the Strategy document.



Peatland restoration was one of the major topics of IPS in 2009. Here Catherine Farrell, Chair of Commission IV (on the right), together with Caitriona Douglas (left) and Catherine O'Connell (middle) during the field trip in Northern Ireland.

Peatland Restoration Seminar and Workshop in Belfast, 24 - 25 April 2009

The workshop and meeting was organised through our Northern Ireland colleagues and the IPS UK National Committee, with support from the Irish National Committee, Commission V and the newly formed Commission X on Tropical Peatlands of IPS. It was organised to coincide with the Annual Assembly, Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board meetings of the IPS and focus on the role of restoration in conservation management of peatlands. The topics included management and restoration of peatlands in the UK, Republic of Ireland and Indonesia with a field trip to peatland sites in Northern Ireland.

One of the outcomes was a proposal for the development of Wise After-Use Guidelines and Management Handbooks for restoration and/or rehabilitation of degraded peatlands. Also, an article on Peatland Restoration in Ireland was published in Peatlands International 1/2009, a special edition on restoration.

Other meetings

Attendance of Carbon and Peatlands Meeting in Prague, September 2009

Organisation of Abbeyleix Bog Conservation and Restoration seminar and workshop, Ireland 20 October 2009

Future Events

At this point in time, there are a number of events for your diaries and these will be added to over the coming year.

Quebec 2011

There is intent to organise an IPS symposium between Commission V on After-use and Commission II on Industrial Utilisation of Peatlands, Horticulture WG, for 2011 in Quebec, Canada on "Sustainable peatland management". More details will follow; preparations have begun.

Commission VI: Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics Chair: Riitta Korhonen

Commission VI has not had any special activities in 2009. There was a plan to organise a balneological-historical symposium in Greece, but that was cancelled because of an illness of the Greek organiser. Instead we have plans to organise the "18th Neydharting Round Table Conference" in Finland on 2 - 4 September 2010.

Chairperson Riitta Korhonen has participated in the meetings of SAB in Belfast and Brussels. She also has advised new persons on balneological problems in the United Kingdom and Ireland. She was guiding



A peat balneology round table meeting will be held in September 2010 at Reino's Cottage in Kurikka, Finland.
Photo: Riitta Korhonen

also members of the Finnish Peatland Society during the 60th Anniversary Excursion to balneological sites in Western Finland during 14 - 16 September 2009.

Commission VII: Ecology and Management on Forested Peatlands Chair: Hannu Hökkä

During 2009, the Commission members received one information letter from the Chairperson by email.

An application has been submitted to the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS) to fund a joint Nordic meeting on peatland forest management in Norway in September 2010. In December 2009, SNS has made a decision to fund this meeting.

Commission VII has been planning its own Internet page which is linked under the IPS web pages. It includes a brief description of what is peatland forestry, what are the key research issues, and how research is supporting sustainable use of peatland forest resources.

Several Commission VII members from Finland have been involved in activities of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) action FP601 "Forest management and the water cycle".

A book on peatland forest management in English has been under preparation by Juhani Päivänen and Björn Hånell.

Commission VII member Prof. Björn Klöve of the University of Oulu has started as the coordinator of VALUE Doctoral School in Integrated Catchment and Water Resources Management, funded by the Academy of Finland.

Commission VII: Cultural Aspects of Peat and Peatlands Chair: Michiel Gerding

On an international level so far there has been not much activity. Things are still mostly in a state of development. Within the context of the Netherlands there are some promising activities which may have their effects on the IPS:

World Canals Conference 2011

In the North of the Netherlands and the adjoining German areas there are canal systems which are closely linked to peat extraction in the past. They were built from the 17th century onwards to dehydrate the bogs and to transport the peat. During the last 60 years, these canals have lost their function as a means of transport. Part of the canal system has been filled in and bridges and locks have been removed. In the last decade the remaining waterways have been revitalised for touristic and economic purposes. Derelict stretches of canals are under reconstruction to create an interlinked canal network again. Large investments are being made. To show what's happening to an international forum of people who are interested in the technical and historical side of canals etc. and who work together in the World Canals Conference, the 2011

conference will be held in Groningen on 19 - 25 September. The Chair is directly involved in organising this conference and aims to involve the IPS by organising an international session on the relation between peat and water(ways), transport etc.

Peat and tourism

There are a lot of initiatives from Dutch local and regional governments to promote tourism in the former peat areas by way of museums, routes, arrangements etc. There is also a lot of cooperation in this regard with the German neighbours. The Chair is trying to interest these governments in developments abroad, in our fellow IPS countries. For this funds should be collected for a so-called Peat Academy (Veenacademie), an (international) network of peat specialists in all kinds of fields who might be called upon to give advice when needed. Of course the IPS should play a prominent role in this (without having to pay for it). For instance parties could be interested in something like peat sauna.

Geo Park Hondsrug

The Dutch province Drenthe is trying to establish the Hondsrug-area, which has a very specific geological origin, as a Geo-Park, and part of the European network of Geo-Parks. East of this ridge the peat bogs of the Bourtangter Moor developed in the Holocene era. The Dutch peat reservation Bargerveen is situated on the tail end of this ridge. So peat has a story to tell in this respect as well.

Naturpark Moor. A German-Dutch initiative

In the future, Bargerveen and the adjoining peatlands in the German Emsland will be linked together and, once the German peat extraction activities are over, be transformed into one large nature reserve. Large scale rewetting will be one of the main features. Touristic and recreational goals go hand in hand with this development. The Veenacademie and the IPS can play a part in this process.

Commission IX: Tropical Peatlands Chair: Jack Rieley

This was another eventful year with many members of Commission IX involved in research and/or advice on tropical peat and peatlands. Fire was once again a major hazard in Kalimantan and Sumatra with large areas of peatland damaged. The EU funded research projects carried out under the auspices of EUTROP, STRAPEAT, RESTORPEAT and CARBOPEAT that spanned 11 years from 1998 to 2009 have all been completed. Information on the large range of outputs can be found on the RESTORPEAT and CARBOPEAT websites.

IPS Convention 2010

At the IPS Annual Convention 2010 that will be held in Jyväskylä, Finland from 14 - 18 June there will be opportunity for meetings of IPS



Chairs of Commissions VI, VII and II: Riitta Korhonen, Hannu Hökkä and Gerald Schmilewski (left to right) at the Scientific Advisory Board meeting in Belfast.



Prof. Jack Rieley (middle), here together with Herbert Diemont (left) and Valerijs Kozlovs (right), was elected Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board 2009-2010.

Commissions. If sufficient members attend there will be a short meeting of Commission IX to discuss current and future activities.

International meeting on tropical biodiversity and conservation

An important meeting on tropical biodiversity will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 19 - 23 July 2010. This is being organised by the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) and will be hosted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences Research Centre for Biology and the University of Indonesia Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Further information can be found at http://atbc2010.org/doc/atbc2010_brochure.pdf.

14th International Peat Congress

We are anticipating a session on tropical peatlands will be held at the 14th International Peat Congress that will be held on 3 - 8 June 2012 in Stockholm. The Congress theme is "Peatlands in Balance". At this time we are inviting expressions of interest in presenting at and attending the Congress. Suggestions for sub-sessions would be helpful.

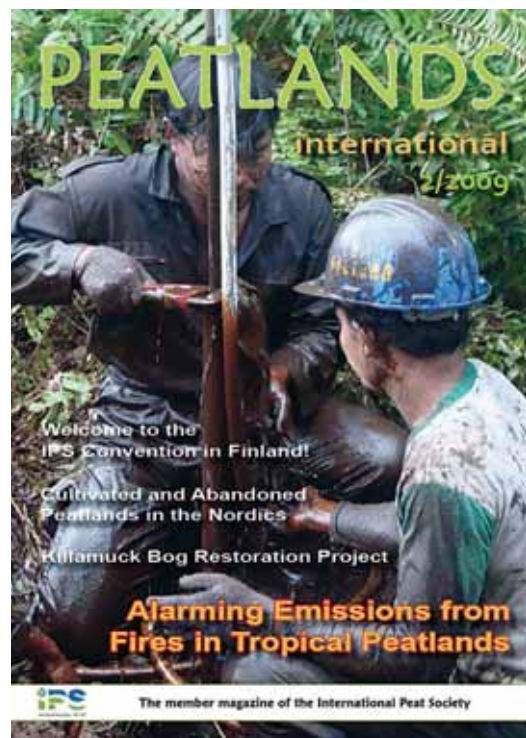
15th International Peat Congress 2016

The IPS Secretariat received two applications to host the 15th International Peat Congress from the National Committees of Latvia and Malaysia. After

thorough discussion, the Executive Board recommended to organise this Congress in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. This was also the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Board. The final decision will, however, be made at the Annual Assembly 2010 in Jyväskylä, Finland on 16 June 2010. If this important meeting is held in Malaysia it will be a tremendous boost for Commission IX, which will have a key role to play in its organisation.

Promotion for Bambang Setiadi

Dr. Bambang Setiadi, a long time member of the IPS and Chairman of the Indonesian Peat Society was promoted last year by the President of Indonesia to become Chairman of the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN). As a non-departmental government agency BSN's main responsibility is to develop and conduct standardization activities in Indonesia. The main objective of standardization is to protect producers, consumers, labour and the public in relation to security, safety, health and environment conservation. Bambang represents Indonesia on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and was recently elected as chairman of DEVCO, a policy committee of ISO that specifically addresses the needs of developing countries. We wish him well in this important position.



Emissions from fires in tropical peatlands were one of the cover topics of Peatlands International 2/2009.

Reports of National Committees

Germany

All activities of the German Peat Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde e.V., DGMT) can be found at www.dgmtv.de. The website is also available in an English version.

Meetings and seminars of the DGMT

The „DGMT Seminar and excursion on peatlands and peat“ was held in Zeven, Lower Saxony on 17 - 18 April and 18 - 19 September 2009. This yearly offered seminar has the character of a training course where laypersons and students get introduced to peat and peatland science.

The “4th Annual Meeting of the European Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)” was held in Erkner near Berlin on “Progress and problems in wetland science – with a particular focus upon wetland restoration in Europe” on 20 - 24 May 2009. The meeting, visited by 75 researchers from 21 countries, was organized by the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in cooperation with the Environmental and Geological Survey (LUNG) of Mecklenburg-Pommern and the German Peat Society. Within several sessions,

the meeting’s main focus dealt with rewetting of degraded fens and their hurdles concerning nutrient and greenhouse gas release. A guided field trip to the EU Life project area “Lake Galenbecker See” and “Anklamer Stadtbruch” in north-eastern Germany was organized.

The 3rd Symposium “Peat and Humic Substance Preparations in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Body Care” took place in Bad Langensalza, Thuringia on 26 - 28 May 2009. Within a national scope, the symposium gave room to 30 participants coming from research and practice to present findings and to inform about current tendencies in the field of peat and humic substance preparations. The topics were diversified, from process engineering of peat conditioning, bio-compatibility assessment of isolated humic substance fractions and the development of a peat mash bandage in the 19th century, up to the vision of a photo-protective lipstick based on peat. Manufacturers of peat and humic substance preparations presented their products, but a further important task was to intensify networks between industry and science in the field of peat and humic substances and to find suggestions for co-operation. Two peatlands being in revitalization have been the object of a guided



The German National Committee is the second largest of the IPS. Photo: Griener



Prof. Jutta Zeitz from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (on the right) is representing the German National Committee on the IPS Executive Board, here with Donal Clarke, Björn Hånell and Satu Helynen (left to right).

excursion to the biosphere reserve Vessertal in the Thuringian Forest.

On 25 - 28 June 2009, a "Workshop on Mire Conservation in Germany and Poland" was held in Kostrzyn, Poland. The workshop was organized by the German Peat Society Section V on Nature Conservation and Spatial Planning in cooperation with Warsaw Agricultural University.

Aim of this workshop was to bring together peatland experts from Germany and Poland for discussing strategies for peatland conservation and restoration as well as developing better co-operation between partners in both countries. A guided one day excursion to the Wartha National Park was included. More information can be found at www.pnujsciewarty.gov.pl.

The Annual Assembly of the German Peat Society was organised in Karlsruhe, Baden-Wuerttemberg on 23 - 26 September 2009. 80 members took part and listened to 25 oral and poster presentations running different topics like nature conservation, restoration projects, greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands and physicochemical aspects, pollen analytics and landscape history, reconstruction of a peatland landscape from the iron age, climate change and climate protection, the use of peat in culture substrates, investigations on plants chlorosis in peat substrates, decision support systems and advisory tools for the use and protection of peatlands. For all presentations, please go to www.dgmtev.de. The two excursions (one half-day) were highlighted by interesting stops at the Rhine lowland and the Hornisgrinde in the northern

Black Forest where different types of peatlands were presented. The report on the Annual Assembly can be read in TELMA 39, 2009.

Organisation

Within the National Committee a new section on applied geography and environmental education has been established.

Publications

Flyer "Was haben Moore mit dem Klima zu tun?" (Peatlands and climate - any interactions?), see www.dgmtev.de/downloads/DGMT_Flyer_2009_Web.pdf;
Telma 39 - Articles and reports of the German Peat Society

Ireland

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Peat Society and the annual conference were held in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel in Abbeyleix, Co. Laois on Tuesday, 20 October 2009. The theme of the conference was Abbeyleix Bog Restoration and Conservation. The very good attendance of over 50 people was given a report on the Society's activities during the year, in particular in relation to the work of the Executive Committee in developing a Business Plan and in participating in the IPS project to write a Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM).

Following the AGM in the morning, the first part of the day was given over to a walk on Killamuck (Abbeyleix) Bog which is a partially drained raised bog undergoing rehabilitation. The focus of the field walk was on the peat forming habitats present and the effects of drain-blocking using peat dams on the hydrology of the raised bog.

Following the walk, a number of presentations were given providing background information on Abbeyleix Bog including an outline of vegetation surveys and management work undertaken to date, the role of the local community and the opinion of independent ecologists on the project. Mr. Jim Ryan of the National Parks and Wildlife Service also provided an update on the status of Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Ireland. The presentations and the field visit led to lively discussions on future management issues and the potential to enhance the value of the site to the local community in terms of education and nature awareness. The session was chaired by Chairperson of the Irish Peat Society, Dr. Catherine

O'Connell and there were members of a number of relevant agencies present including Coillte (national forestry company), National Parks and Wildlife Service, BirdWatch Ireland, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, ecological consultants and local community representatives.

Despite a promise of rain, the day was mostly sunny and the good turnout of Irish bog men and women led to a thoroughly enjoyable event. The Irish Peat Society would like to thank everyone involved for their support and contributions.



Valerijs Kozlovs speaking at the Latvian Peat Producers Association's Annual Meeting onboard the cruise ship Regina Baltica. Photo: Renars Skudra

Latvia

Currently the Latvian Peat Producers Association has 24 members, two of which are associated members, one individual member and five honorary members.

The Annual Meeting of Latvian Peat Producers Association was held on 19 March, 2009 on the cruise ship "Regina Baltica" from Riga to Stockholm. The general meeting discussed the report of the Board, the Revision Commission, welcomed new members and approved the income and

expenditure estimate of 2009. The participants enjoyed also an excursion through Stockholm.

Association members had a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Environment, State limited liability company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre" JSC Latvijas valsts meži (State forests of Latvia) in February 2009. During this meeting our members were instructed in the latest changes in the legislation.

JSC "Latvijas valsts meži" developed together with the Association auction rules for one of their supervised territories for peat extraction.

The Association held its 7th Sport Games in July 2009 in Rojas district, organized by "Pindstrup Latvia Ltd". In the team ranking, the first place was taken also by the host company. The next Sport Games will be organized by JSC "Seda".

Many Association members participated in the 9th Baltic Peat Producers Forum that was held in Tartu. Our members found it very interesting. Warmest thanks go to the organizers – the Estonian Peat Association!

Finally, the Latvian society knows a little bit more about peat production because of several broadcasts in National TV about some of our corporate members.

IPS Latvian National Committee applied to organize the 15th International Peat Congress in 2016 in Riga, Latvia. The final decision will be made at the Annual Assembly 2010 in Finland by the IPS National Committees present.



The fun part of association life: Renars and Laura Skudra at the boss-assistant competition in Latvia. Photo: A. Tomasevics



The Swedish National Committee, here Marie Kofod-Hansen and Björn Hånell, is well prepared to host the International Peat Congress 2012.

The Association also restored the "Kudras zinas" informative issue for our members and started to update and improve our webpage at www.peat.lv.

Poland

Members of the Polish National Committee of IPS met twice this year. An Annual Assembly was held on 11 February 2009. During this meeting, the Commission chairpersons presented reports on activities during the previous year. After short discussion, the action plan for 2009 was accepted.

The second meeting was held on 7 December. One of the reasons for this extraordinary meeting was to discuss the present situation of our Committee after the unexpected death of Prof. Tomasz Brandyk, the Vice Chairman of the Polish National Committee. After heated discussion, some changes were approved. Professor Lech Szajdak was elected Vice Chairman of the Polish National Committee, Professor Adam Bogacz as Chairman of Commission III – utilization of peat and peatlands in agriculture and Doctor Barbara Kalisz as a member of the Executive Board responsible for organisational affairs. Additionally, it was decided that during the next Annual Assembly, to be held in February 2010, Vice Chairmen of each Commissions will be elected. We hope that all the changes introduced would activate our work. A workshop on properties of peat and taxonomy of organic soils is also planned for 2010.

As the Polish National Committee assembles mainly scientists from 24 universities and research institutes, the activities are focused on research. The members are active in many fields related to peat properties and the utilisation and protection of peatlands. During the last year, many important

research projects were carried out by the Polish IPS members. The members of the Executive Board of the Polish National Committee participated in many meetings and scientific events where various aspects of peat and peatlands were raised.

In 2009, differing lectures open to the general public were delivered at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The following lectures were focused on peat and peatlands: Prof. Lech Szajdak: Western Siberia – Tomsk, nature, culture, people; The importance of midfield afforested places in reduction of pollutants in the agricultural landscape; Prof. Kazimierz Tobolski: Cultural

aspects of peats and peatlands; Protection of peatlands in Europe in the light of the Natura 2000 programme; Prof. Waldemar Mioduszewski: Water for agriculture and nature protection; and Dr. Ryszard Oleszczuk: Emission of greenhouse gases from cultivated peat soils used for agriculture. This activity will continue in 2010.

Sweden

International Peat Congress 2012

Work on the 2012 International Peat Congress "Peatlands in Balance" in Sweden continues. The organisation is running smoothly and we are receiving excellent support from the Irish team that was in charge of the previous Congress, for which we are very grateful. Our website is up and running and several applicants have already shown interest in coming. On 4 February 2010 we will have a kickoff activity for our Swedish sponsors, with a similar programme for our foreign sponsors later on. We have decided to invite our sponsors to several seminars on topics like climate policy, general acceptance of peat production and issues related to horticultural peat. These seminars will take place in Sweden, Ireland, Brussels and Germany before the Congress. The work of setting up a scientific committee is due to begin in the spring.

Other activities at TorvForsk

A number of important research projects are in progress in several fields, such as biological diversity, co-combustion and climate issues. The foundation also has a very active group that works with topics surrounding peat litter, with several projects on horses and peat litter already under way.

Contacts have been made in this connection with Finland to increase the organisation's level of international cooperation.

The Foundation also plans to carry out a number of projects aimed at production improvement and environmental stewardship of peat production. For example one project is involved in finding a method to determine reasonable benchmarks and limit values for drainage water from peat sites. What impact might an increased extraction of peat from ditched peatlands have on biological diversity? The first part of the project, which is a literature study, was completed last autumn. One of the conclusions is that there is a significant lack of knowledge about the conservation values of ditched peatlands, as the area has seldom been studied from such a point of view.

Restoration is a key to evaluating the effects of conservation management on biological diversity, but knowledge of restoration methods in relation to particular environmental goals needs to be strengthened. A website about restoration methods will therefore be launched this spring. Designed to appeal to decision-makers, students, researchers and an interested general public, it will describe how restoration is carried out and what areas/peat sites in Sweden have already been restored. The website will also contain practical advice to the peat production sector, pertinent legislation and a discussion forum. Scientific reports related to restoration will also be available at the website. The Irish website about this topic has been the project's source of inspiration.

A further identified important area is to develop methods for evaluating peatlands from the point of view of their significance to nature and cultural tradition. During the spring, we hope to initiate projects devoted to this subject. Another research project, aimed at identifying

the importance of peat in the production of whisky, has been started and will be presented at the congress. TorvForsk has closely followed the work of the IPS Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management. We have great hopes that this work will be completed during the year 2010.

Working groups

The working groups set up by TorvForsk in cooperation with the Swedish Peat Producers Association (SPPA) are running very smoothly. The objective of the groups is to find platforms for discussion and exploration of important issues and for initiation of new research. The groups will monitor research and development in each field. The user groups 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. The production group works with legislation and issues of decision-making processes, as well as monitoring R&D in the field. Together with our energy user group, and with the SPPA, the group has helped establish criteria

and set up a research programme linked to the work of the peat sector in promoting sustainable peat production. In cooperation with the Swedish Energy Agency, TorvForsk hopes to get this research programme underway during the spring.

TorvForsk is also presently campaigning to recruit new members. It's important to have a broad membership base before the Congress in 2012!

United Kingdom

Most of this year's activities have been focussed on consolidating the UK Peat Society that was formed at the IPS Convention in Belfast last April. Membership has now risen back near to what it was at the peak of five years ago. We now have a good mix of individual and corporate members. Since the successful IPS Convention and Seminar at Belfast a year ago activity has been low. If sufficient UK members attend the 2010 Convention in Jyväskylä, Finland in June we shall hold a meeting of the UK Peat Society. In the meantime we are looking to other opportunities in the UK to meet and discuss future activities.



Looking back to a successful IPS year 2009: Secretary General Jaakko Silpola (2nd from left), Communications Manager Susann Warnecke (3rd from left) together with Hannu Salo from the Association of Finnish Peat Industries (left) and Office Manager Birgit Hyyryläinen (right).

Expenses and revenue

INCOME STATEMENT, EURO

	Total 1.1.-31.12.2009		Budget 2009		Total 1.1.-31.12.2008	
ORDINARY OPERATIONS,						
PUBLICATIONS						
Income	13 220,50		12 000		6 440,00	
Expenses						
Staff expenses	0,00		0		-300,00	
Other expenses	<u>-24 537,50</u>	-11 317,00	<u>-30 050</u>	-18 050	<u>-11 062,95</u>	-4 922,95
CONFERENCE						
Income	300,00		0		32 831,65	
Expenses						
Staff expenses	0,00		0		0,00	
Other expenses	<u>0,00</u>	300,00	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0,00</u>	32 831,65
PROJECTS						
Income	46 096,16		0		18 196,00	
Expenses						
Staff expenses	0,00		0		0,00	
Other expenses	<u>-33 522,71</u>	12 573,45	<u>-1 000</u>	-1 000	<u>-45 280,90</u>	-27 084,90
OTHER OPERATIONS						
Income	5 040,91		1 500		1 301,00	
Expenses						
Staff expenses	-33 932,86		-36 200		-31 689,42	
Depreciation equipment	-583,26		-600		-329,23	
Other Expenses	<u>-71 432,21</u>	-100 907,42	<u>-81 400</u>	-116 700	<u>-76 234,92</u>	-106 952,57
SURPLUS / DEFICIT		-99 350,97		-135 750		-106 128,77
FUND RAISING						
Income	143 670,00		143 500		142 267,00	
Expenses	<u>-31 401,00</u>	112 269,00	<u>-22 000</u>	121 500	<u>-10 743,19</u>	131 523,81
SURPLUS / DEFICIT		12 918,03		-14 250		25 395,04
INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL						
Income	732,44		500		815,47	
Expenses	<u>0,00</u>	732,44	<u>0</u>	500	<u>0,00</u>	815,47
RESULT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		13 650,47		-13 750		26 210,51
OTHER INCOME						
Income	0,00	0,00	0	0	0,00	0,00
Provisions and reserves		<u>0,00</u>		<u>13 750</u>		<u>0,00</u>
SURPLUS OF THE PERIOD	EUR	13 650,47	EUR	0	EUR	26 210,51

Notes to the accounts

OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY	Eur	Eur
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	2009	2008
Total income	207 410,63	202 603,12
Total expenses	-193 176,90	-176 063,38
./. Depreciation	<u>-583,26</u>	<u>-329,23</u>
PROFIT(+) / LOSS (-) OF THE PERIOD	13 650,47	26 210,51
 STAFF EXPENSES	 1 person	 1 person
Salaries with holiday pay	27 302,82	19 569,29
Pension insurance (TyeL)	4 639,68	3 242,22
Statutory social insurance contributions and other social security fees	<u>1 990,36</u>	<u>1 552,27</u>
	33 932,86	24 363,78
 DEPRECIATION		
Equipment 1.1.	987,69	1 227,92
Acquisition 1.1.-31.12.	<u>1 345,36</u>	<u>89,00</u>
Subtotal	2 333,05	1 316,92
Depreciation 25%	<u>-583,26</u>	<u>-329,23</u>
VALUE OF THE EQUIPMENT AFTER DEPRECIATION	1 749,79	987,69
 ACCRUED INCOME		
Health; government subsidy	70,00	159,74
IPS Congress 2008 income	0,00	32 831,65
Eläke-Fennia TyeL 2009	64,75	0,00
Sampo bank investment funds	<u>266,53</u>	<u>0,00</u>
	401,28	32 991,39
 PROJECTS		
CCWG 2009 Book		
Income	150,00	3 030,00
Expenses	<u>-75,00</u>	<u>-14 187,90</u>
	75,00	-11 157,90
 CERTIFICATION		
Income	0,00	15 000,00
Expenses	<u>0,00</u>	<u>-30 988,00</u>
	0,00	-15 988,00
 Global Peatland strategy		
Income	46 096,16	
Expenses	<u>-33 522,71</u>	
	12 573,45	
 RESERVATIONS		
Holiday pay reserve and social contributions	3 712,85	3 549,65
Net journal	0,00	500,00
Wump books	0,00	105,00
Tyel 2008	0,00	284,19
Paid twice NHBS	<u>23,75</u>	<u>0,00</u>
	3 736,60	4 438,84

Balance sheet

	31.12.2009		31.12.2008	
ASSETS				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Tangible assets				
Machinery and equipment		1 749,79		987,69
Other shares and similar rights of ownership				
Participating interests		<u>84,09</u>		<u>84,09</u>
	TOTAL	1 833,88		1 071,78
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors				
Trade debtors		5 898,69		675,20
Prepayments and accrued income		401,28		32 991,39
Other debtors		<u>35 091,40</u>	41 391,37	<u>32 514,00</u>
Cash in hand and at banks				
Bank accounts		122 533,14		83 320,96
Cash		0,00	122 533,14	134,80
	TOTAL	<u>163 924,51</u>		<u>149 636,35</u>
ASSETS TOTAL		<u>€ 165 758,39</u>		<u>€ 150 708,13</u>
LIABILITES				
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Retained earnings/loss				
Profit/loss for the financial year		137 976,71		111 766,20
		<u>13 650,47</u>		<u>26 210,51</u>
	TOTAL	151 627,18		137 976,71
CREDITORS				
Advances received		58,50		809,00
Trade creditors		9 908,58		6 901,63
Accruals and deferred income		3 736,60		4 438,84
Other creditors		<u>427,53</u>		<u>581,95</u>
	TOTAL	<u>14 131,21</u>		<u>12 731,42</u>
LIABILITIES TOTAL		<u>€ 165 758,39</u>		<u>€ 150 708,13</u>

List of Accounting Books Used

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

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

Date and signatures



Date and Signatures

Jyväskylä, 25 February 2010

Donal Clarke
President

Björn Hånell
1st Vice-President

Tomasz Brandyk
2nd Vice-President

Håkan Bjur
Member

Dmitriy Gogin
Member

Paul Short
Member

Valerijs Kozlovs
Member

Satu Helynen
Member

Jutta Zeitz
Member

Jaakko Sipilä
Secretary General

Auditor's Notation

Our auditor's report has been issued today.

In Jyväskylä on 27.4.2010

Deloitte & Touche Oy
Authorised Public Accounting Firm

Arto Saarinen
KHT

Auditor's statement



Deloitte & Touche Oy
Puistokatu 2 B
40100 Jyväskylä

Puh: 020 755 5200
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Y-tunnus: 0989771-5
Kotipaikka: Helsinki
www.deloitte.fi

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Translated from Finnish original

To the members of Kansainvälinen Turveyhdistys ry

We have audited the accounting records, the financial statements and the administration of Kansainvälinen Turveyhdistys ry for the period 1.1.-31.12.2009. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, the income statement and notes to the financial statements.

The responsibility of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of the financial statements in Finland. The Board of Directors is responsible for the appropriate arrangement of the control of the association's accounts and finances, and shall see to it that the accounts of the association are in compliance with the law and that its financial affairs have been arranged in a reliable manner.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to perform the audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland and to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. Good auditing practise requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements is free from material misstatements and whether the members of the Board of Directors have complied with the Association Act.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

The audit was performed in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of the association in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of the financial statements in Finland.

Jyväskylä, 27. April 2010

Deloitte & Touche Oy
Authorized Public Audit Firm

Arto Saarinen
APA