

PEAT NEWS

No 1/2007



26 January 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY

The International Peat Society (IPS) is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization of scientific, industrial and regulatory stakeholders. It is dedicated to fostering the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

/// Five Years Peat News – Happy Birthday!

Already five years have passed since IPS launched its electronic newsletter Peat News. The first issue was distributed on **24 January 2002** to 311 IPS members and received very positive feedback. Since then, the distribution list has increased to 1,270 addresses, including about 300 important stakeholders who are not yet members of the IPS. As Peat News is sent out to almost all members directly from the IPS Secretariat, it is the fastest tool to inform you about developments in the world of peat and peatlands. Almost all old issues of Peat News can still be downloaded as PDF files on the IPS website. If you would like to announce an event, publication or have anything else exciting in mind, please contact Susann Warnecke around the 20th of each month to have your news included in Peat News. Thank you very much for your contributions within the previous years!

/// Join the Scientific Forum on the IPS Website!

On **11 January**, IPS launched its new discussion forum on the IPS website. All members are now invited to register as users and join the conversation on peat and peatlands in general, on wise use, peatlands and climate change and the new event guidelines, on our Commissions, national issues and everything else peat-related that you find interesting to talk about. Please note that only registered users who are IPS members can participate in the discussions. For guests, we are providing a limited choice of forums. We kindly ask all those who want to participate in the forum to **register with their real names**, for instance by using firstname.lastname as user name. All other nicknames will be refused by the administrator. Additionally, please add your name, title and the name of your institution to your signature when editing your own profile. IPS does not carry any responsibility for opinions or information given in the forum, neither for linked external websites. The administrators reserve the right to delete any insulting or non-topical postings without further notice. Please also remember that all participation in the forum is voluntarily - not all questions can be answered immediately. To join the forum, please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=211.

/// IPS Meetings in Tullamore in March

As announced earlier, IPS will hold a number of administrative meetings in Tullamore, Ireland in March. For **8 March**, we have scheduled a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG), for **9 March** meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the 2008 Congress organizers and for **10 March** a meeting of the Executive Board. All persons concerned will receive a registration form and detailed information on transportation in Ireland soon.

/// Welcome to the IPS Convention in Riga!

We warmly welcome all IPS members to attend this year's IPS Convention in Riga, Latvia. In case you would like to book your flights already now, here are the most important dates and times: The Convention starts on **24 May** with meetings of the Executive Board, the IPS Commissions and HOPE/ENPE WG 9:00 to 13:00, followed by a Commission II meeting at 14:00 and a walk to the old town. For **25 May**, we have scheduled an industrial field trip and a traditional dinner in a cosy restaurant. On **26 May**, the National Committee Round Table at 9:00 will be followed by the

presentation of the Wim Tonnis Peat Award 2007 and the Annual Assembly of National Representatives at 12:30; the duration will be approx. 3 hours. Please remember to submit all **official proposals for the Annual Assembly by 31 January** at the latest to the IPS Secretariat so that they can be dealt with at the next Executive Board meeting. More detailed information will be circulated soon. You can have a virtual stroll in the city already at www.rigatourism.com.

/// Last Call for Papers: Peatlands International 1/2007

There is still space for a number of articles in the first issue of Peatlands International for 2007. Please send your reports on research projects, past and forthcoming events or anything else related to peat and peatlands by **15 February 2007** (strict deadline) to the IPS Secretariat. Please also announce your topic and length of your article (about 2-4 pages, Arial pt 10 plus photos and captions) as soon as possible to susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org so that we can start planning the layout of the magazine. Peatlands International 1/2007 will be distributed in May/June. All corporate members of IPS are invited to place their advertisements (e.g. one colour page A4 for € 640; small black/white ad of 108 x 64 mm €165) in the magazine. More information on Peatlands International and the current Media Kit can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55.

/// European Chapter of SWS Meets in Czech Republic

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the European Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) will be held in Trebon, South Bohemia, Czech Republic on **30 May - 3 June 2007**. Aim of the conference entitled "Linking Wetland Science and Scientists from Eastern and Western Europe" is to promote better contacts among wetland scientists from different countries and to discuss the future development of the recently established European chapter of SWS. The program contains presentations and poster sessions, a field trip to natural and artificial wetlands as well as the SWS-Europe Board meeting. The scientific committee welcomes abstracts for the symposium until **15 March 2007**. Further information on the event can be obtained at www.enki.cz.

/// Fortum Builds Peat-Fired Heat and Power Plant in Estonia

Fortum Tartu AS, the subsidiary of Fortum in Estonia, is building a new combined heat and power plant in the city of Tartu. The station will be fired by peat and other local fuels and have a production capacity of 52 MW heat and 25 MW electricity. So far, the customers in Tartu were provided with gas-based heat. With this investment, Fortum will transfer its know-how on the use of biofuels to Estonia, keeping the local heat price at a competitive level and improving the reliability of energy deliveries. The new power station is planned to be completed by the end of 2008 and will cost about €60 million. For more information, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/3ybens>.

/// Peat Included in Resolution of European Parliament

At its meeting on **14 December 2006** in Strasbourg, the European Parliament adopted a new "Resolution on a strategy for biomass and biofuels (2006/2082(INI))". In item 78, it "calls on the Commission to include peat, with regard to the life-cycle aspect, as a long-term renewable energy source for biomass and Bioenergy production". This step strengthens the role of peat as biofuel with regard to its long-term characteristics, especially when it is harvested following the principles of Wise Use. The complete text of the resolution can be found at www.tinyurl.com/3aqw27.

/// Horticultural Symposium in Vienna, Austria

The "First Symposium on Horticulture in Europe" will be held by the International Society for Horticultural Science and different national associations in Vienna, Austria on **17 - 20 February 2008**. Objective of the meeting is to give researchers studying all aspects of horticulture the opportunity to exchange knowledge, information, ideas and techniques. Abstracts for the symposium can be submitted until **15 May 2007**. For more info, please visit www.she2008.eu.