

# PEAT NEWS



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## 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.

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### /// IPS Meetings in Copenhagen

The IPS Executive Board will hold its next meeting on **18 November 2005** at Hotel Savoy in Copenhagen, Denmark. Besides deciding on current administrative issues, the Board will give a recommendation on the venue of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress and develop further action plans within the Strategic Plan 2004 - 2008 of IPS. The Scientific Advisory Board, consisting of the eight Commission Chairs and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of IPS, will meet on **17 November 2005**.

### /// Win a Prize at the Peatlands International Reader Survey

Peatlands International, the member magazine of IPS, wants to be a unique magazine which contains really significant information for all those who deal with peat and peatlands, either professionally or out of pure interest. Therefore, within the next few days, we will ask all IPS members for their opinion on Peatlands International, mainly its layout and contents. You will also have the opportunity to evaluate the previous issue and to suggest improvements. Among all participants, we will raffle 10 valuable prizes: books, DVD's, Finnish handicraft and three peat masks. You are welcome to participate in the survey at <http://peatlandsinternational.notlong.com>.

### /// DVD "Wise Use of Peatlands" Online

The DVD "Wise Use of Peatlands" can now be watched at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=104>. You will need the Windows Media Player and a broadband connection to display the films. Currently all documentaries on the website are in English. However, the German, French, Swedish, Finnish and Dutch versions will be launched soon. The Wise Use DVD visualizes the development of peatlands, their natural functions and their global status. Additionally, it introduces different uses of peat and peatlands as well as principles of their wise use, based on the book "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands". The DVD can also be purchased at the IPS online shop at [www.peatsociety.org](http://www.peatsociety.org).

### /// IPS at Ramsar COP9 in Uganda

The 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP9) will be held in Kampala, Uganda on **8 - 15 November 2005** under the topic "Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods". Representatives from the 146 Ramsar member countries (contracting parties) and a number of observers will assess the progress of the Convention and wetland conservation, share knowledge and experience on technical issues and plan their own and the Ramsar Secretariat's work for the next triennium. The implementation of the Ramsar Convention is a partnership among the Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee and the Convention Secretariat, advised by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and four International Non-Government Organizations. IPS Secretary General Jaakko Silpola will participate in COP9 to underline the importance of peatlands as wetlands and to further strengthen and implement the concept of their Wise Use. IPS is particularly active within the Coordinating Committee on Global Action on Peatlands (CC-GAP), which was established in 2003 by the Ramsar Secretariat to prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands. CC-GAP consists of peatland experts of IPS, IMCG, interested Contracting Parties, Ramsar's STRP and

International Organisation Partners, the Convention on Biodiversity, the UN Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change and other bodies. It is planned to hold a special Peatland Side Event at the venue as well as to distribute a brochure entitled "Peatlands. Do you care?" to promote interest and awareness among policy makers and other stakeholders on the importance of peatlands and the threats they are faced with. More info: [www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.peatlands\\_cc-gap\\_2004.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.peatlands_cc-gap_2004.htm).

### /// Successful Peatland Restoration Tour in Québec

The international workshop on "After-use of Canadian Peatlands" turned out to be a great success. Altogether 43 persons, of whom eleven were from Europe, visited a number of restored peatlands, peatland vegetation donor sites and two industrial companies during a tour on **3 - 7 October 2005**. The participants heard very interesting presentations on the different after-use alternatives from a Canadian, but also international perspective. Among others, the restoration of peatlands and creation of pools but also afforestation with different tree species and berry growing projects were described. The Canadian approach to peatland restoration seems promising, the technique involving the spreading of shredded mosses from natural donor sites on abandoned peatlands and covering them by straw mulch. Many trials have expanded to large scale projects. During the field trips, it was amazing to see how the restored sites have developed in the meantime, especially at Bois-de-Bel that was restored at the end of 1999. Photos of the workshop can be downloaded at [www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr\\_colloques.html](http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr_colloques.html) and the restoration guide at [www.peatmoss.com/pm-restguide.php](http://www.peatmoss.com/pm-restguide.php).

### /// Irish Peat Society and Peat Congress 2008

On **27 September 2005**, a meeting was held in Dublin to establish an Irish Peat Society, which will assume from Bord na Móna the status of Irish National Committee of IPS. Mr. Donal Clarke was elected Chairman of the Society, to be supported by Secretary Pat Fitzgerald. Dr. John Feehan of University College Dublin and Dr. Roy Tomlinson of Queens University Belfast were among those elected to the Society's Executive Board. The some 30 participants accepted the interim statutes as presented. So far, the tasks of IPS in Ireland were mainly carried out by Bord na Móna. It is hoped that the new organisation will attract a wide variety of people interested in peat and peatlands. Furthermore, it was announced that Abbey Conference Services has started working on the preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress, which was confirmed to be held in Tullamore on **9 - 15 June 2008**. Communications Assistant Susann Warnecke participated in the meeting as representative of the IPS Secretariat. Please contact [donalcke@indigo.ie](mailto:donalcke@indigo.ie) for further information.

### /// Swedish Torvforsk New National Committee

The former National Committee of IPS in Sweden (SNIPS) and the Swedish Peat Research Foundation (Torvforsk) have merged. The new Torvforsk was provisionally accepted by the IPS Executive Board as Swedish National Committee in May 2005. The National Committee is chaired by Lennart Ryk of Söderenergi AB, Box 7074, S-152 07 Södertälje, Sweden, phone: +46 8 553 05 500, e-mail: [lennart.ryk@soderenergi.se](mailto:lennart.ryk@soderenergi.se). Its Secretariat is run by Marie Kofod-Hansen, Torvforsk, Torsgatan 12, 111 23 Stockholm, Sweden, phone: +46 8441 7070, fax: +46 8441 7089, mobile: +46 708 931 861, e-mail: [marie.kofodhansen@torvforsk.se](mailto:marie.kofodhansen@torvforsk.se).

### /// Arne Nordviste New Chairman of Norwegian National Committee

Arne Nordviste was recently elected new Chairman of the Norwegian National Committee. Mr. Nordviste acts also as chair of the Norwegian Association of Peat Producers (Norske torv- og jordprodusenters bransjeforbund). He can be contacted at Arne Nordviste, Grei Vegar Fabrikker A/S, Vibesgt. 24, N-0356 Oslo, Norway, phone: + 47 2259 8100, fax: + 47 2246 6109, mobile: + 47 91560525, e-mail: [post@grei-vegar.no](mailto:post@grei-vegar.no). However, the main contact person of the National Committee remains Secretary Alf Reidar Selmer-Olsen, Liavn.4a, N-1430 Ås, Norway, phone: + 47 64942931, fax: +47 6494 8120, mobile: +47 9137 4396, e-mail: [alf.selmer-olsen@jordforsk.no](mailto:alf.selmer-olsen@jordforsk.no).