

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.

Submit your Nomination for the Wim Tonnis Award 2007!

The IPS Secretariat now invites all IPS members to submit their proposals for the Wim Tonnis Peat Award 2007. Your nomination should be sent to the IPS Secretariat by **31 January 2007** (strict deadline) and include: a) three letters of reference, b) a curriculum vitae of the nominee and c) a letter detailing the accomplishments of the nominee. All proposals will be reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Board and the IPS Secretariat, each of whom will nominate three candidates. The final decision on the Award winner will be made by the IPS Executive Board by simple majority decision. All nominations will remain in force for three years. Nominations and/or references received after the submission deadline can NOT be considered. The International Peat Society confers the Wim Tonnis Peat Award annually on IPS members who have made a distinguished contribution to peat and peatland science or industry, especially in the promotion of Wise Use. The Wim Tonnis Peat Award was launched in 2005 in honour of the late Wim Tonnis (1933-2005), a very committed and active IPS member. It comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of € 1,000. In 2006, the award was conferred jointly on Donal Clarke and Hans Joosten, authors of the "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands". The Wim Tonnis Peat Award 2007 will be conferred during the IPS Annual Assembly of National Representatives in Riga, Latvia in May 2007. For more information, please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103.

Is there an Artist slumbering in you? Join the IPS Logo Competition!

As the IPS logo, a globe with the abbreviations of "International Peat Society" in English, German and Russian, does not fulfil today's requirements of a corporate design, the Executive Board has started a logo competition. All IPS members, but also other people interested, are encouraged to design a new logo for our Society, taking into consideration the mission and goals IPS is pursuing (see www.peatsociety.org for reference). We ask you to submit your draft logo – electronically created or drawn on paper – by **31 January 2007** to the IPS Secretariat. Your idea can follow the old logo and modify it slightly, or it can be a completely new logo, possibly including the name of our organisation next to the graphics. Also suggestions for the use of colours, fonts and other written communication can be submitted together with the logo draft. The winner of the competition will be awarded with a cash prize of €500. The final decision on the new IPS logo will be made by the IPS Executive Board after a first evaluation by the IPS Secretariat. IPS reserves all rights to the winning logo, including its use and modification as well as the right to decide if the winning logo should be used as the official IPS logo in future.

IPS Executive Board at the Annual Assembly of CSPMA

The Executive Board of IPS attended the annual meetings of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) in Deerfield Beach, Florida, USA on **8 - 11 November 2006**. On the agenda were the IPS Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, a number of interesting presentations on different peat and peatland issues on Thursday, a peat producer's meeting and a fire prevention workshop on Friday and the Annual Assembly of CSPMA on Saturday. Besides being a great opportunity to get to know the Canadian and European members, it was a very successful meeting

for all participants and both organisations. A summary of the decisions made at the Executive Board meeting “in a nutshell” is sent out together with this issue of Peat News. Further information on the CSPMA can be found at www.peatmoss.com. IPS warmly thanks the Canadian hosts for their hospitality. An extensive report of the meetings will be published in Peatlands International.

/// Scientific Advisory Board and Commission II met in Amsterdam

On **29 October 2006**, the Scientific Advisory Board held its 5th meeting in Badhoevedorp near Amsterdam. At the meeting, the Board approved, among others, the new guidelines for organizing IPS events as an open document, proposals for membership of the Editorial Board of the journal Mires and Peat and a number of future symposia to be organized under the auspices of IPS. The Board also dealt with peatland terminology, the IMCG resolution on Finland and the preparations for the 13th International Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland in 2008. Finally, it was agreed that SAB would meet the organizers of the 2008 Congress in Tullamore in March 2007 to get to know the location and to fine-tune the cooperation between Irish and international members of the Scientific Committee. In the afternoon of the same day, Commission II on the industrial use of peat and peatlands and its Working Groups on Energy and Horticultural Peat held their meetings.

/// Successful Symposium on Peat in Horticulture

The International Symposium on “Peat in Horticulture – Peat in the Stranglehold of Interest Groups” at Novotel Amsterdam on **30 October 2006** was attended by about 100 participants from a broad range of IPS member countries. Presentations were given on the influence of solar activity on climate change, the activities of the IPS Climate Change Working Group and on legal requirements for peat production in Germany, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Baltic States and Canada. Other topics dealt with were the objectives for and achievements of the restoration of peatlands, the question as to whether or not the horticultural use of peat is Wise Use, the EU-Ecolabel for Growing Media and the “peaterring out” campaign in the UK. The proceedings of the conference can be obtained from the Dutch National Committee, e-mail: leo.schipper@nevema.nl.

/// Bog Body Exhibition in Brandenburg, Germany

Until the end of the year, several bog bodies, photos and related artefacts can be seen at the Naturparkverwaltung Schlaubetal in Neuzelle, Eastern Brandenburg, Germany. The exhibition was originally compiled by the nature park center of the German-Belgian Nature Park Hohes Venn-Eifel and comprises, among other bog bodies, a copy of the famous “Red Franz”, a ten-year old boy and several animals. The characteristics of peatlands enable the mummification of bodies once they are buried in the peat. Additionally, visitors can bike or hike in the beautiful Schlaubetal nature park which includes several small peatlands. More info: www.schlaubetal-online.de.

/// Bord na Móna acquires Edenderry Power Plant

Bord na Móna has purchased the Edenderry peat-fired power station from E.ON UK for € 80 million. The 120 megawatt station was commissioned in 2000 and has a remaining operational life of at least 25 years. Edenderry Power, for which Bord na Móna is the sole peat supplier, is one of the most efficient power plants in the country. In future, co-fuelling with bio-mass will be introduced. With the investment, Bord na Móna aims at expanding its role in the Irish power generation industry and to take a further step in diversifying its business. More info: www.bnm.ie.

/// New IPS Members

We warmly welcome the Sociedad Minera Patagonia Peat Ltda., Chile and the Uganda Environmental Education Foundation, Uganda as new corporate members of IPS; and Amado Tolentino, Philippines and Mandhla Mehlo, Swaziland as new individual members as of 1 July 2006. The IPS Executive Board accepted their applications at its meeting in Florida.