

# 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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### /// Peatlands and Climate Change Working Group Meets in Helsinki

The newly established joint Working Group of all IPS Commissions on “Peatlands and Climate Change” will hold its first meeting in Helsinki in the beginning of 2006. Aim of the meeting is to refine the mission, tasks and objectives of the group and to coordinate their first research and communication efforts. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Advisory Board meeting in Copenhagen, most Commission Chairs have nominated an experienced professional from their areas of expertise to participate in the Working Group. We will keep you informed on the progress of their work. More information on this topic can be found at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=179>.

### /// Call for Articles for Peatlands International 1/2006

Peatlands International 1/2006 will be published in 3,000 copies in April 2006. We now give you the opportunity to become one of the authors of the magazine. The Editorial Board welcomes all conference reports, in-depth reviews, project summaries and announcements for future events, but also short news items dealing with peat and peatlands. Articles should be written in Word, Arial 10, max. 2,000 words, no formatting. We particularly welcome all illustrations and photos (separate submission as jpg, psd, pdf files) that make the magazine more lively and informative. You can send your contributions until **28 February 2006** to [susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). The Editors reserve their right to decide on the final content. More information on Peatlands International can be found at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55>. Please also remember to participate in the Peatlands International online reader survey at <http://peatlandsinternational.notlong.com> at the latest by **31 December 2005**, if you have not done so yet. The prizes will be sent out in January.

### /// First Circular for International Peat Conference in Belarus

The Organizing Committee of the International Conference on “Peat in Solution of Energy, Agriculture and Ecology Problems” has published the First Circular of the event. The conference will be held in Minsk, Belarus on **29 May - 2 June 2006**, organised by the Institute for Problems of Natural Resources Use and Ecology at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The conference programme includes plenary and sectional presentations, a poster exhibition and discussion panels on an extensive range of different peat and peatland topics. The participants also have the opportunity to attend a scientific excursion and to visit a nature reserve. The conference languages are English and Russian. Speakers and poster presenters are now invited to submit their abstracts of approximately five pages to [peatland@ns.ecology.ac.by](mailto:peatland@ns.ecology.ac.by) until **28 February 2006**. The complete Circular can be downloaded at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47>.

### /// International Boreal Forests Conference in Sweden

IPS will cooperate with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) in organizing a conference on “New Challenges in Management of Boreal Forests”. The conference will be held in Umeå in Sweden on **28 - 30 August 2006**. All IPS members are invited to attend particularly the sessions on Peatlands and Permafrost, Climate Change and the Carbon Accounting Balance. As forests and peatlands are

closely related to each other, the conference will give IPS members an excellent opportunity to study new features of these ecosystems, exchange ideas with foresters and to broaden their views. The conference will be followed by a number of excursions to protected as well as intensively managed Swedish forest areas on **31 August - 2 September 2006**. Those who are interested in presenting a paper or poster at the conference are welcome to submit their abstracts of up to 300 words to Dr. Erik Sundström at [erik.sundstrom@adm.slu.se](mailto:erik.sundstrom@adm.slu.se) by **31 March 2006**. More information on the conference and on the organizing bodies can be found at [www.ibfra.org](http://www.ibfra.org) and [www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org).

#### /// **Workshop on Carbon Pools of Tropical Peatlands in Indonesia**

A workshop on the “Vulnerability of Carbon Pools of Tropical Peatlands in Asia” will be held in Pekanbaru, Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia on **24 - 26 January 2006**. The workshop is jointly organised by the Global Environment Centre, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Global Carbon Project. The event aims to compile and synthesize existing datasets on carbon content of tropical peatlands in Southeast Asia, to assess the processes affecting the uptake and release of carbon, including the identification of potential “thresholds” beyond which rapid releases of carbon emissions occur, to test model algorithms for integrating the carbon dynamics of peatland pools in terrestrial C models, to document the main human impacts on peatland carbon stores, to design a protocol for modelling experiments using available data, scenarios of future climate and land use change, and to develop first-order analyses of the possible net C emissions from tropical peatlands and the magnitude of their feedback to global warming. More info: [www.peat-portal.net](http://www.peat-portal.net).

#### /// **14th World Fertilizer Congress in Thailand**

The International Scientific Center of Fertilizers (CIEC), the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand (SWCST) and the Land Development Department in Bangkok (LDD) will hold the 14<sup>th</sup> World Fertilizer Congress in Chiang Mai, Thailand on **22 - 27 January 2006**. The Congress focuses on “Fertilizers and Fertilization: Stewardship for Food Security, Food Quality, Environment and Nature Conservation”. It will provide a forum to exchange information and achievements on fertilizer research, development, production and application since the previous Congress in Beijing in 2001 and to discuss future developments. Besides oral and poster sessions, a commercial exhibition as well as three scientific excursions are part of the programme. Most important for IPS members are probably the sessions on improvement and maintenance of soil fertility, fertilizer use and its impacts on the environment, efficiency and development of fertilizers, fertilization of tropical crops and grasslands, as well as with the production, markets and economics of fertilizers. All further details on the Congress can be found at [www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th](http://www.ddd.go.th/wfc14th).

#### /// **IPS Secretariat Ready for Skype Calls**

The IPS Secretariat can now also be called online from every computer with a broadband internet connection. Please download Skype, a free internet telephony programme, from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com), add peatsociety.org as a contact and you can call IPS Communications Assistant Susann Warnecke for free. Skype allows also low rate calls to landline phones as well as conference and video calls.

#### /// **Dr. Roy Ingram Passed Away**

The IPS Secretariat announces with sadness the passing of the long term IPS member Dr. Roy L. Ingram. Dr. Ingram was Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina, USA. A summary of his achievements will be published in Peatlands International 1/2006.

#### /// **New E-mail Address for Hungarian National Committee**

The Chairman of the Hungarian National Committee, Dr. András Tóth, can now be reached at [balaton@t-online.hu](mailto:balaton@t-online.hu). You can find the latest contact details of all IPS National Committees, the Executive Board members and IPS Commission Chairs at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=5>.