

# PEAT NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the International Peat Society

No 2/2009, 24 February 2009

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.

## Register Now for the IPS Convention in Belfast!

We are glad to invite all IPS members and all others interested to the IPS Convention 2009 in Belfast on **24 - 26 April**. The event will comprise an excursion to peat and peatland sites, a one-day seminar on peatland restoration in the British Islands and Southeast Asia as well as a number of administrative meetings. All meetings will be held at the Hotel Holiday Inn Belfast.

### Friday, 24 April

- 9:00 - 16:30 Field Excursion to sites of peat industry, restoration and conservation interest, possible sites/facilities are Newferry, Bellaghy Bog, Sluggan Bog, Teal Lough, Ballynahone Bog
- 17:00 - 20:00 Meeting of Scientific Advisory Board (members only)

### Saturday, 25 April

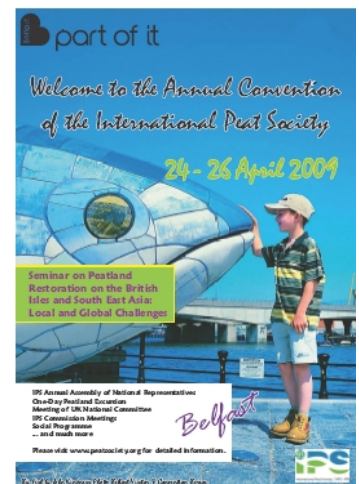
- 9:00 - 16:30 Seminar and Workshop: Peatland Restoration in the British Isles and Southeast Asia
- 10:00 - 18:00 IPS Executive Board Meeting (members only)
- 16:30 - 18:00 Meeting of the UK National Committee
- 19:00 - 22:00 Joint Dinner for all attendees

### Sunday, 26 April

- 08:00 - 10:00 Commission meetings (so far confirmed Commission 2 and 5; please follow the instructions of your Commission Chair)
- 10:00 - 12:00 National Committees Round Table (representatives and all interested)
- 13:00 - 13:15 IPS Award of Excellence
- 13:15 - 14:30 Annual Assembly of National Representatives (all attendees welcome as observers)

In addition, a meeting on the Global Strategy for Sustainable Peatland Management is scheduled for 27 April, 8-18 hrs and 28 April, 8-12 hrs. Please also see the next page for more information.

All additional information as well as links to our **online registration form** (this time you can register and pay directly on our website by credit card or bank transfer!) can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=241](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=241). Please also remember to book your flights and reserve your accommodation in Belfast at [www.ipshotelbelfast.notlong.com](http://www.ipshotelbelfast.notlong.com). Hotel bookings and registration should be carried out by **11 March**. After this date, the pre-booking for our hotel rooms will be released and registration rates rise by £10 a day – make sure to be an early bird!



Further information and agendas for the meetings, including the official invitation to the Annual Assembly, will be distributed to all IPS members and those who have registered in mid March.

### **Global Peatland Strategy under preparation: Next session 27 - 28 April in Belfast**

IPS and several of its stakeholders have started to prepare a Global Peatland Strategy the aim of which is to give strategic guidelines for peatland management from social, environmental and economical points of view. The Strategy can provide a platform and starting point for a peatland certification scheme if peat and peatland stakeholders decide to set up such a system. The joint document could also be used autonomically, showing decision makers what kind of actions should be taken, and why, in order to use and conserve peatlands in a wise way. Several existing similar documents will naturally be noted and referred to in this strategy work.

The first session to prepare such a Strategy was held in Amsterdam on **13 - 15 February 2009**, attended by 27 participants from eight countries and a number of different organizations. The meeting dealt with the following elements of the Strategy:

- 1) A review of the current global situation of peatlands and a forecast for 2020 was prepared;
- 2) A draft vision for peatland management was formulated;
- 3) Areas where change is needed, so called strategic themes, were selected; and
- 4) Objectives for each strategic theme were set.

The meeting was perceived as very effective and constructive. The draft Strategy collected in Amsterdam will be open for public consultation from **9 March to 12 April 2009**. During this time, the material will be available at the IPS website. It will also be widely distributed by e-mail within the IPS networks.

It was decided in Amsterdam that the next meeting session to prepare the Strategy will be held on **27 - 28 April** in Belfast immediately after the IPS Convention on 24 - 26 April (see first page for details). At the Belfast meeting, the material from Amsterdam as well as the comments received in the meantime will be analyzed and approved. Based on the Objectives agreed on, several working groups will formulate a set of Actions. All interested people, both individuals and representatives of different countries and organizations are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact Susann Warnecke at [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) to receive more information. The number of attendees will unfortunately be limited to 35-40 in order to make the main meetings and group working processes technically possible.

After the Belfast meeting, the Strategy document will again be distributed for your comments until the end of summer 2009. In early autumn, the final draft of the Strategy will be handed over to various organizations for approval. According to what has been said in Amsterdam, the different peatland organizations should then be able to handle the final draft Strategy within three months.

You are welcome to join the Global Peatland Strategy work!

### **IPS Executive Board Meeting in Stockholm**

The IPS Executive Board will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting in Stockholm, Sweden on **3 - 4 March 2009**. On the agenda are the approval of the Annual Report 2008 and budget, plan of activities and membership fees for 2009 and 2010 for submission to the Annual Assembly, the evaluation of the candidates for this year's IPS Award of Excellence as well as work on the IPS Strategy, the Practical Wise Use guidelines, the certification process and the International Peat Congress 2012, just to mention a few. We will inform you in the next issue of Peat News on all important decisions.

## Tullamore Proceedings Available for Download

The Proceedings of the 13th International Peat Congress "After Wise Use - the Future of Peatlands", held in Tullamore in June 2008, were distributed on memory sticks during the conference and can be downloaded now free of charge at the IPS online shop at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=82](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=82). To open the download page please click on the product name, not the order symbol. We will post single papers instead of the complete oral, poster and addendum files as soon as possible.

## IPS Commission Survey Completed

Many thanks to all who have participated in the IPS Commission Survey. Altogether 130 IPS members have expressed their interest in the work of one or more of our nine Commissions and we were able to supply each Commission Chair with a long list of contact persons as well as to update our own mailing lists here at the IPS Secretariat. We are especially delighted that many of you are ready to take an active role, for instance as secretary or organiser of events. Thank you very much!

## Peatlands International 2/2008 on its way

During this week, Peatlands International 2/2008 will be distributed to all IPS members either via your National Committee (Canada, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, United States) or directly from the IPS Secretariat (Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Indonesia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ukraine and non-National Committee countries). The 60-page magazine contains a review of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress in Tullamore, an extensive introduction into certification of sustainable peatland management, reports on the 6<sup>th</sup> scientific school "Bogs and Biosphere" in Tomsk, on peatlands in Azerbaijan and the Chinese Altai, palm-oil plantations in Aceh, Indonesia and many other topics. In addition, we introduce new IPS members and honorary members, the laureate of the 2008 IPS Award of Excellence, get to know Premier Tech's activities and learn about the use of environmental peat in Finland. Last, but not least the magazine features an amazing story about how peat can be used in theatre, a report about the role of peat in EU horticulture, invites to upcoming IPS events in Belfast and North Carolina and introduces a number of new publications related to peat and peatlands. Additional copies of Peatlands International 2/2008 and almost all older issues can be ordered at the IPS online store at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80).

## Call for Articles and Advertisements: Peatlands International 1/2009

Once Peatlands International 2/2009 is sent out, we start collecting articles and advertisements for the next issue of our member magazine. Please announce the topic you would like to write about now and submit your **reports** on conferences, research results and other material as soon as possible, at the latest by **30 March** to the IPS Secretariat, [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). Texts should be written in English, contain max. 2,000 Words and be formatted in MS Word, font Arial 10 pt, single line spacing, and without additional formatting like indents, caps, lines and graphics. Photos and all other illustrations should be sent separately as high resolution jpg, tif, eps, psd, or pdf files. Please also remember to submit captions for all illustrations as well as the names of their copyright holders (photographers). To speed up the editing process, we ask all authors to have their papers checked by a native English speaker before submission, wherever possible. The Editorial Board of Peatlands International reserves the right to select, edit and shorten papers, if necessary. Peatlands International 2/2009 will be published in early June 2009 and also contain the Annual Report 2008 of our Society. Also new and old **advertisements** are very welcome; their prices remain the same as in 2008 (e.g. €740 for a full-colour A4 page, €190 for a small ad). The latest Media Kit and more information can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55).

## Apply now to host the International Peat Congress 2016!

Please remember that all IPS National Committees are welcome to submit their invitations to host the 15<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress 2016. This is a great opportunity for your country to present your peatlands, peat research and the peat industry to a very large audience. Applications should be sent to the IPS Secretariat until **30 September 2009**, containing a presentation of the congress venue, ideas for the theme and content structure of the event as well as a draft budget and a proposal for the position of IPS First Vice President 2012 - 2016 and President 2016 - 2020. Please contact Susann Warnecke or Jaakko Silpola for further details before submitting your application.

## Catherine O'Connell New Chair of Irish National Committee

At the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Irish Peat Society, held in the Radisson Royal Hotel Dublin on 21 October 2008, a new Executive Committee was elected for a four-year term. New Chair of the National Committee is **Dr. Catherine O'Connell**; Catherine Farrell was elected Vice-Chair and Pat Fitzgerald Secretary Treasurer. The other members of the Committee are Caitrona Douglas, Roy Tomlinson and Donal Clarke. Catherine O'Connell can be contacted at Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, e-mail: bogs (at) ipcc.ie. In addition, Catherine Farrell would like to inform all IPS members that the **Restoration Network Ireland** is up and running now. Please visit [www.restorationnetworkireland.com](http://www.restorationnetworkireland.com).

## Progress on UNDP/GEF Project to Restore Belarusian Peatlands

The project "Renaturalization and Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Belarus to Combat Land Degradation, Ensure Conservation of Globally Valuable Biodiversity, and Mitigate Climate Change" of the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility has now started work to restore the Osvejskoye mire in the Verkhnedvinsk District, Vitebsk Region where peat has been harvested for more than 30 years. During the next three months, 11 dikes will be built to create a system of shallow-water ponds with regulated water levels. The 4519 ha of the Osvejskoye is the 7<sup>th</sup> mire, which will be renaturalised in the Project's framework. The complete press release and more information can be found at [www.undp.by/en/](http://www.undp.by/en/) and [www.peatlands.by](http://www.peatlands.by).

## Report on Berry Production on Peatlands Available

A new report on the Production of Berries in Peatlands has been published by the Peatland Ecology Research Group of Université Laval, Quebec, Canada. The 134-page coloured guide was produced under the supervision of Line Rochefort and Line Lapointe and contains information on different berries, their growing requirements, yields and other information. The report can be downloaded in English and French at [www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/en\\_publications.html](http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/en_publications.html).

*Have a nice spring and see you in Belfast!*

*\* remember: early registration deadline is 11 March! \**

[www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=241](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=241)