

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.

/// Thanks to all Hanover Convention Participants

We wish to thank all those who attended the IPS Convention in Hanover. The meetings in warm and sunny Lower Saxony were attended by about 80 IPS members, besides Germany from Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom and the USA. The Convention included meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Executive Board on **4 May**, an excursion to conservation and peat production sites on **5 May** as well as meetings of Commissions II and VIII, a Round Table Discussion, the Annual Assembly of National Representatives and the Wim Tonnis Peat Award Ceremony on Saturday, **6 May**. A report on what happened in Hanover will be published in Peatlands International. The next Annual Assembly will be held in Riga, Latvia in May 2007.

/// Wim Tonnis Peat Award 2006 to Hans Joosten and Donal Clarke

The first Wim Tonnis Peat Awards of IPS were conferred on **6 May 2006** in Hanover on Dr. Hans Joosten and Mr. Donal Clarke. The Executive Board had decided to confer two awards instead of one as these gentlemen together were the driving force behind the most extensive exercise of IPS which involved compiling, editing and publishing the Wise Use Book in well regarded cooperation between IMCG and IPS. In their acceptance speeches, the recipients emphasized particularly the need for further cooperation between the two organizations and their members. The Wim Tonnis Peat Award, comprising a framed scroll and a cash prize of 1,000 € is conferred annually on an IPS member who has made a distinguished contribution to peat and peatland science and industry. All nominations submitted will remain in force until 2008. We warmly congratulate the laureates.

/// International Peat Congress 2012 in Stockholm

At the Annual Assembly in Hanover, the National Representatives decided that the 14th International Peat Congress will be hosted by the Swedish National Committee in Stockholm on **3 - 8 June 2012**. International Peat Congresses are held every four years in a country with an IPS National Committee, which has also the right to appoint the Vice President / President of IPS in the four years before and after a Congress. The next International Peat Congress will be held in Tullamore, Ireland on **9 - 15 June 2008**; a first circular will be distributed soon.

/// New IPS Executive Board Members Elected

As Gerfried Caspers, Bernt Hedlund and Matti Hilli retired from their positions on the Executive Board, it was the tasks of the Annual Assembly to elect three new Board Members. Out of six candidates, the National Representatives elected Håkan Bjur of Råsjö Torv from Sweden, Valerijs Kozlovs of the Latvian Peat Producers Association and Jutta Zeitz of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture of Humboldt University Berlin in Germany to the Board. You can find their contact details at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=27. We warmly welcome the new Board members, hope for good cooperation and wish farewell to Gerfried, Bernt and Matti, who helped significantly in bringing IPS forward within the last years. The next IPS Executive Meeting will be held in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association in

Deerfield Beach, Florida, USA in early November. All IPS Members will receive a summary of the decisions made by the Executive Board in Hanover by e-mail within the next few days.

/// **Susann Warnecke Appointed Communications Manager**

Diplom-Kauffrau (FH) Susann Warnecke, who has been working for IPS since 2002, has been appointed Communications Manager at the Executive Board meeting in Hanover. This title better reflects her tasks at the IPS Secretariat, such as planning of IPS meetings, designing content and layout of IPS publications, keeping in touch with our members, updating the IPS website, coordinating projects and other communications and marketing tasks.

/// **New Leaders for Commission II and HOPE WG**

Commission II on the Industrial Utilization of Peatlands has, in agreement with the IPS Executive Board, appointed Gerald Schmilewski from Germany as its new Chair after the retirement of Donal Clarke this month. Mr. Schmilewski, who is working for Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH, has a long experience in horticultural peat and within Commission II. The task of Coordinator of the Horticultural Peat Working Group (HOPE WG) will be taken over by Bruno Berken from France. Their contact details can be obtained from www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=84.

/// **IPS Climate Change Working Group Meets in Frankfurt**

The Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG) of IPS continues to work on its assessment report on the impact of peatland management on climate. It is planned to launch a book on the findings of their research at the International Peat Congress in Tullamore in 2008. The WG will hold its next meeting on **2 June 2006** in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Please contact the IPS Secretariat if you can provide further scientific input into their work or financial support.

/// **Summer Meetings of Ramsar CC-GAP, IPS and IMCG**

On the occasion of the IMCG Congress in Finland, there will be a meeting of interested members of IPS and IMCG at Hotel Meripuisto in Espoo, Finland on **28 July 2006**. A joint agenda will be prepared within the next few days. One day later, on **29 July**, the Ramsar Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (CC-GAP) will meet at the same venue to discuss further activities. We will keep you informed on the outcomes of these meetings.

/// **Welcome to New IPS Members**

The Executive Board has accepted Zukufli Zakaria from Malaysia and Yahaya Ahmed Tijan from Ghana as individual members, and Find Sources International Ltd. from China as a corporate member. We warmly welcome you to the "peat family" and hope for good cooperation in the future.

/// **Last Call for Papers for Boreal Forests Conference**

The deadline for paper submission for the 13th Conference of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) on "New Challenges in Management of Boreal Forests" has been extended to **15 May 2006**. The conference will be held in Umeå, Sweden on **28 - 30 August 2006**, IPS being one of the organizing partners. More information, including the 2nd Announcement, a detailed programme and abstract instructions can be downloaded at www.sfak.slu.se/ibfra_2006.

/// **Open Positions in France and Malaysia**

Wetlands International is looking for a Director for their Malaysia Office. More information can be found at www.wetlands.org/malaysia/en/jobs.aspx or by contacting malaysia@wetlands.org.my. In France, the Research Unit SAGAH in Angers offers a PhD position for "Water repellency of organic growing media", and a post-doctoral position on a "3D-Model of water and air flows in growing media". Please send your application by **13 May 2006** to jean-charles.michel@inh.fr.