

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.

/// Decisions of the Annual Assembly 2005

This year's Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held in Warsaw on **9 May 2005**. In the morning, a very fruitful Round Table Discussion was held with representatives from 12 countries who introduced their National Committees and afterwards had a lively exchange of ideas on how better to organize cooperation within IPS. During the formal Annual Assembly, the Representatives studied the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and the Auditor's Report for 2004, confirmed the Balance Sheet, granted discharge to the Executive Board and the Secretary General and approved the plan of activities, budget, affiliation and membership fees for 2005. They also elected Mr. Dmitriy Gogin as new ordinary Board member, and the auditors for IPS for 2005 and noted that, starting from 2006, the Annual Assembly will confirm the budget, plan of activities, membership fees and affiliation fees for the forthcoming year. The Annual Assembly 2006 was invited to northern Germany. IPS warmly thanks the Polish organizers, especially Tomasz Brandyk, Edyta Waniek and Jerzy Puchalski, Director of the Botanical Garden, for their hospitality.

/// Decisions of Executive Board Meeting No. 29

The IPS Executive Board met in Warsaw on **8 May 2005**. Among many administrative issues, the Board accepted a reorganisation of the French and Swedish National Committees, agreed to assist a number of National Committees in developing a more balanced membership structure taking into account both science and industry, launched a new tool to monitor the progress of the IPS Strategic Plan, accepted the terms of reference for the new peat award and welcomed a proposal by the Swedish National Committee to hold the 14th International Peat Congress. Furthermore, the Board agreed to continue its support for the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), to pursue a proposal for "Guidelines for the practical application of Wise Use", to support the preparation of a new "peat brochure" for the Ramsar Coordination Committee on Global Action on Peatlands (CC-GAP) and to organise a small side event as part of the CC-GAP activities at the Ramsar Convention in Kampala, Uganda on **8 - 15 November 2005**. The Board also made progress in the preparation of the IPS-IMCG Scientific Journal and decided to create a digital Peat Dictionary, which will be available for IPS members at www.peatsociety.org and possibly as CD-ROM. A document containing the decisions of the Executive Board "in a nutshell" will be sent to all members soon.

/// New Website and Contact Details for IPS

The International Peat Society has launched its new website at www.peatsociety.org. With this step, IPS and its members benefit from a clearer layout, more content, broader technical possibilities and a more transparent website structure. The new top-level domain .org gives the IPS a more international appearance and reflects the global importance of the organization. An online shop to

buy IPS publications and an intranet for members to access special information, pay membership fees and update their contact details will be realized in June. Consequently, the staff of the IPS Secretariat has received new e-mail addresses. Secretary General Jaakko Silpola can be reached now at jaakko.silpola@peatsociety.org and Communications Assistant Susann Warnecke at susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org. All old addresses continue to work for the time being.

/// Peatland Restoration Tour to Canada

The Peatland Ecology Research Group of Université Laval in Canada will hold the first IPS Peatland Restoration Workshop on **3 - 7 October 2005**. The tour is aimed especially at visitors from Europe who are keen to get to know the “Canadian way” of peatland restoration. The program consists of four days of visits to restoration sites and peat companies in Québec, including accommodation, catering, transport and the restoration guidelines book. The instruction language is English. So far, these very successful workshops were held every year basically for North Americans and in French. The draft programme can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/7h3ol>.

/// Wim Tonnis Peat Award Launched

The Executive Board has established the “Wim Tonnis Peat Award” at its meeting in Warsaw. The award will be conferred at IPS Annual Assemblies on a member of the International Peat Society for a distinguished contribution to the peat and peatland science or industry, especially in the promotion of Wise Use. Applications can be submitted by every IPS member to the IPS Secretariat by **1 March** each year. Wim Tonnis, who died at Easter this year, was Chairman of the Dutch National Committee and has made a great impact on IPS and Nederlands Veengenootschap for many years. The terms of reference are posted at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103.

/// Peatland Archaeology Exhibition in Germany

On **9 June - 24 September 2005**, a special exhibition on peatland archaeology will be shown at the Museum of Archaeology in Meppen in northern Germany. This exhibition is organized by the State Department for Cultural Heritage of Lower Saxony in cooperation with the German section of IPS Commission VIII and the Emsland Council. It shows aspects of the work of peatland archaeologists, presents findings connected with peatlands of the area, and gives insights into techniques from nature sciences correlated to archaeological work and wood conservation. Other aspects are the history of German peatland archaeology and an interdisciplinary research project on the landscape history of the Dümmer basin. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/e22ac>.

/// Dmitriy Gogin New Board Member and National Committee Chairman

At the Annual Assembly 2005, the representatives of the present National Committees elected Mr. Dmitriy Gogin, General Director of the Russian company Rostopprom as Executive Board member for 2005 - 2008. His contact details are: Dimitriy Gogin, Russian Fuel JS Company Rostopprom, Sadovaya Chernogryazkaya ul. 8, Moscow 107996, Tel.: +7 095 2072332, Fax: +7 095 2072350, E-mail: puls43@rambler.ru. Mr. Gogin also acts as Chairman of the IPS Russian National Committee.

/// New Chairman for Lithuanian National Committee

The Lithuanian National Committee has informed the IPS Secretariat that its Chairman is now Mr. Albinas Cernauskas, President of the Lithuanian Peat Producer’s Association “Lietuviskos durpes”. His contact details are: Albinas Cernauskas, Lietuviskos durpes, J.S.C. Laukesa - WTL, Eiciu, Taurages Raj, LT-73145 Taurage, Tel.: +370 446 41424, Fax: +370 446 41441, Mobile: +370 698 75096, E-mail: albinas.cernauskas@btg-laukesa.lt.