

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.

## Great Response to International Peat Congress 2008

The International Peat Congress, held in Tullamore, Ireland on 9 - 13 June, set new records: 550 delegates from almost 30 countries registered, about 200 presentations were delivered and 80 posters shown at the conference facilities of the Tullamore Court Hotel. In addition to the scientific sessions, the participants discussed current issues during field trips, numerous meetings and evening banquets. Also the post-congress tour received much attention. Most broadly discussed topics at the Tullamore Congress were the climate change impact of peat and peatlands as well as the status of tropical peatlands. International Peat Congresses are held every 4<sup>th</sup> year. The next Congress will be organized in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2012 and the competition to host the 2016 Congress will be opened among all National Committees later this year.



## Donal Clarke new President of IPS

At the Annual Assembly of the IPS on 13 June 2008, it was the task of the official National Representatives to elect members for six open positions on the IPS Executive Board. The new IPS Executive Board comprises:

- President: **Mr Donal Clarke**, Ireland
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Prof Björn Hånell**, Sweden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Prof Dr hab Tomasz Brandyk**, Poland
- Ordinary Board members: **Mr Dmitriy Gogin** from Russia, **Mrs Satu Helynen** from Finland and **Mr Paul Short** from Canada



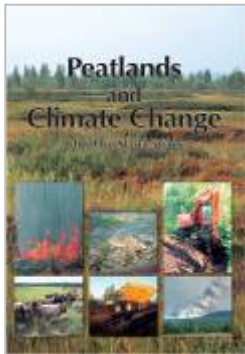
In addition, Mr **Håkan Bjur** (Sweden), Mr **Valerijs Kozlovs** (Latvia) and Dr **Jutta Zeitz** (Germany) will remain on the Executive Board until the end of their term in 2010. The Society submits its warmest wishes and expresses its gratitude to the past President Dr **Markku Mäkelä** from Finland and two former Board members Mr **Gerry Hood** from Canada and Dr **Jack Rieley** from the United Kingdom. We wish you all the best for the future. All details of the IPS Executive Board are posted at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=27](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=27).

## Wim Tonnis Peat Award Goes to Riitta Korhonen

The 2008 “Wim Tonnis Peat Award – The IPS Award for Excellence” was conferred on Lic Phil **Riitta Korhonen** during the IPS General Assembly of Members in Tullamore on 13 June 2008. Mrs. Korhonen was nominated by the Finnish National Committee and chosen by the IPS Executive Board because of her more than 25 years lasting devotion to peatlands, especially her activities regarding peat balneology, its therapeutic applications, after-use of peat production areas,

ecotourism, peat textiles, cultural and artistic projects and in many other fields. The Award was established by IPS in 2005 and comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of €1,000.

### IPS Book on Peatlands and Climate Change Launched



The Irish Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr **Eamon Ryan** T.D. launched the IPS book “Peatlands and Climate Change” on the first day of the Peat Congress. The book offers a summary of currently available scientific knowledge and helps to understand the role of peatlands and peat within the context of global climate change. An executive summary, which forms the introduction of the book, will be distributed to all IPS members and other important stakeholders soon. The 223-page printed publication can be purchased for **22 €** including mailing costs or downloaded as PDF file for free at the [IPS website](#). The book is the outcome of the Working Group on Peatlands and Climate Change which was established by IPS in

2005.

### Peatland Certification Plan Available for Discussion

At the International Peat Congress, IPS presented a plan for a Certification Scheme for Sustainable Management of Peatlands (SPM). The plan was developed by the certification company INDUFOR at the request of IPS in view of the increasing demand for information on the nature and origin of peat as well as the sustainable management of its original source: peatlands. This has been done in other areas, such as forestry, and would, in our view, greatly benefit authorities as well as all other bodies dealing with peatlands and peat. A special concern in this matter are tropical peatlands which annually release enormous amounts of greenhouse gases due to peat fires, but apparently also to removal of the original peat swamp forest and afforestation with biofuel crops. A certification scheme would set generally accepted criteria for ecological, social, economical, climate and other impacts on peatlands affected by human activities. The complete plan, an introducing power point presentation as well as all annexes can be downloaded at the [IPS website](#). **Comments** can be sent to Secretary General Jaakko Silpola at jaakko.silpola (at) peatsociety.org, phone +358 14 3385 440.

### Call for Ads and Articles: Peatlands International 2/2008

The IPS Secretariat is currently preparing the next issue of Peatlands International, the member magazine of IPS. We warmly welcome your research **reports**, reviews of conferences and similar events, announcements and in-depth stories about all issues related to peat and peatlands. Please announce the topic and length of your article now to Susann Warnecke, susann.warnecke (at) peatsociety.org and submit all material by **30 September** at the latest. Further instructions for authors can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55). In addition, we encourage all corporate members to place their **advertisements** in the magazine. The 2008 Media Kit can also be downloaded at the above address. There is still some space left – do not hesitate to contact us!

### New IPS Members and Honorary Members

We are glad to announce that IPS appointed three new honorary members this spring: **Gerry Hood** from Canada, **Dusty Miller** from Ireland and **Markku Mäkelä** from Finland. The Society greatly appreciates the work these gentlemen have done for IPS and their beloved peatlands for many years. Additionally, IPS welcomes four new members: **Hans Gammelgaard** from Denmark and **Vo Quang** from Vietnam as individual members as well as **Peltracom NV** from Belgium and the **National Office of Peat** (Onatour) from Burundi as corporate members.

## Michiel Gerding and Catherine Farrell new IPS Commission Chairs

During their meetings in Tullamore, two IPS Commissions elected new Chairs who were later approved by the IPS Executive Board. Dr **Catherine Farrell** from Ireland will chair Commission V on “After-use of Cut-over and Disturbed Peatlands”, while Dr **Michiel Gerding** from the Netherlands will coordinate the activities of Commission VIII on “Cultural Aspects of Peat and Peatlands”. Their contact details as well as more information can be found on the [IPS website](#). We warmly thank the former Commission Chairs **Line Rochefort** and **Anne-Jelle Schilstra** for their engagement and the work done during many years and wish them all the best for future projects. In addition, the first steps are being taken to form a Commission dealing with **Tropical Peatlands**.

## New Book on Finnish Mires

The Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry) has published a new book on “Finland – Fenland”. The beautifully illustrated 288-pages publication can be ordered now for a special price of **38 €**. All orders received before **10 July** will be sent without additional mailing costs. Please note that the book is also available in Finnish as “Suomi – Suomaa”. Orders can be sent to [birgit.hyyrylainen \(at\) turveteollisuusliitto.fi](mailto:birgit.hyyrylainen@turveteollisuusliitto.fi). For more information, please visit [www.suoseura.fi](http://www.suoseura.fi).



## Excursion to Peatlands of South-Eastern Finland

The traditional autumn excursion of the Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry) this year will be to the mires of the South-Eastern part of Finland. On **16 - 17 September 2008**, the group will visit, among others, the raised bog of Valkmusa at Pyhtää and the concentric raised bog Haukkasuo at Anjalakoski with its greenhouse gas emission measuring stations. In addition, Northern Europe's most significant forest park Mustilan Arboretum at Elimäki and at least one peatland forest will be on the agenda. Last but not least, the participants will see different peat production stages and get to know the history and geology of the area. As well as Finnish mire experts, Estonian and Swedish guests will join the excursion. For more information, please contact [leila.korpela \(at\) metla.fi](mailto:leila.korpela@metla.fi), phone +358 10 211 2629. Registrations can be sent to [birgit.hyyrylainen \(at\) turveteollisuusliitto.fi](mailto:birgit.hyyrylainen@turveteollisuusliitto.fi) until **5 August**.

## Summer Schedule of the Secretariat

As many of you have noticed, Communications Manager **Susann Warnecke** has returned from maternity leave and is available at the IPS Secretariat daily from 8 to 14 hrs until 11 July, when her four-week holidays starts. Secretary General **Jaakko Silpola** is out of the office until 11 August, but can be reached on his mobile phone if necessary. IPS warmly thanks its interns **Katharina Neff** and **Carolyn Winter** for their support during many months and wishes all its members, partners and other comrades a relaxing summer with a lot of peat-friendly sunshine.

## Upcoming IPS events

- **DGMT-Seminar and Excursion: Mires and Peat** Zeven, Germany, 19 - 20 September 2008, More info in German: [www.dgmtev.de/veranstaltungen.html](http://www.dgmtev.de/veranstaltungen.html)
- **Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board Meetings** Jyväskylä, 20 - 21 November 2008
- **14th International Peat Congress “Peatlands in Balance”** Stockholm, 3 - 8 June 2012

Peat-related events of other organizations can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=77](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=77).