

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.

## IPS November Meetings in Helsinki and Jyväskylä

As announced earlier, the next IPS **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)** meeting will be held on **20 November** and the **Executive Board (EB)** meeting on **21 November** in Jyväskylä, Finland, where also the IPS Secretariat is located. We have now added a **Commission II** meeting, dealing with certification and industrial matters, to the schedule of these meetings. To ease travelling, the Commission II meeting will take place in Helsinki in the immediate vicinity of the airport already on **19 November**. After the Commission II meeting, the members of the EB and SAB will travel by shuttle bus to Jyväskylä for their own meetings. We will send out invitations and more details on the meeting schedule and accommodation shortly.

## Tropical Peatland Symposium Held in Kuching, Malaysia

An International Symposium on Tropical Peatland took place in the city of Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on **19 - 21 August**, accompanied by a Workshop on **22 August**. Both events followed on from the Special Session on Tropical Peatlands which took place in Tullamore, Ireland in June 2008 and the International Symposium and Workshop on Tropical Peatland held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in August 2007. All three events were linked to the Carbopeat project.



The Kuching Symposium was opened by Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management and Minister of Public Utilities of Sarawak. Plenary Papers on the opening day were given by Professor Jack Rieley of the University of Nottingham, Y.B. Dato Dr James Sawos Mamit, Adviser to the Sarawak Government, Professor Ed Maltby of the University of Liverpool, Dr Susan Page, Leader of the Carbopeat Project, Dr Gurmit Singh of United Plantations Bhd, and Mr Donal Clarke, President of the International Peat Society. The theme of the Symposium was Peatland Development: Wise Use and Impact Management.



The Symposium Technical Tour was to a palm oil and grapefruit farm. Altogether, some 150 delegates attended the event. The participants enjoyed a lively exchange of information, excellent presentations and the warm hospitality of their Malaysian hosts, particularly the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

At the Symposium, a special meeting was held to form a **Malaysian Peat Society** which would be a candidate National Committee of the IPS. An interim Committee was elected and it was agreed to process the registration of the Society. In addition, further steps were taken to form a new IPS Commission dealing with tropical peatlands. Further information on the Symposium and the Carbopeat project can be found at [www.frst.unimas.my/iswtp\\_kch08](http://www.frst.unimas.my/iswtp_kch08) and [www.carbopeat.org](http://www.carbopeat.org).

## IPS Annual Assembly and Other Events 2009

As the new year is approaching slowly but steadily, we kindly ask you to submit all information on your upcoming meetings for this and next year, especially symposia and other peat-related events so that we can consider them in our plan of activities. Please send all information as soon as possible to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). We also would like to remind you that there is still the option to organize the **Annual Assembly 2009** in your country. All National Committees are invited to submit their invitations by **15 October** so that the issue can be handled at the November Executive Board meeting in Jyväskylä. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Peatland Certification Plan Moving On

The plan for an International Certification Scheme for Sustainable Peatland Management (SPM) presented at the Tullamore Congress, is currently being discussed among peatland experts in IPS and elsewhere. Based on member and stakeholder comments, the original proposal will be moved ahead during the course of this autumn. 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. As happened in other fields, such as forestry, it is felt that such schemes would benefit authorities as well as all other bodies dealing with peatlands and peat, especially in the tropics, as it would set generally accepted criteria for ecological, social, economical, climatic and other impacts on peatlands affected by human activities. Please download the plan, an introducing power point presentation as well as all annexes at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=235](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=235) and send your comments to the IPS Secretary General Jaakko Silpola at [jaakko.silpola \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:jaakko.silpola@peatsociety.org), phone +358 14 3385 440.

## Volume 3 and 4 of Mires and Peat Published



We are glad to announce that Mires and Peat, the online journal of IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group, has launched two new volumes during the course of the summer. The topics covered in Volume 3 are 1) Geomorphological controls on the re-vegetation of erosion gullies in blanket peat: implications for bog restoration, 2) The role of peat in assuring the quality of growing media, 3) Ditch network maintenance in peatland forest as a private investment: short- and long-term effects on financial performance at stand level, 4) Long-term carbon accumulation in two tropical mountain peatlands, Andes Mountains, Ecuador, and 5) Transient peat properties in two pond-peatland complexes in the sub-humid Western Boreal Plain, Canada. In addition, the volume contains two book reviews. Volume 4 is featuring wind farms on peatland and contains currently 5 articles. For more information and to download the papers please visit [www.mires-and-peat.net](http://www.mires-and-peat.net).

## Last 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](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) and submit all material by **30 September** at the latest, preferably even earlier. 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 be downloaded at the above address. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

## Great interest in IPS Book on Peatlands and Climate Change

The IPS book “Peatlands and Climate Change” launched at the International Peat Congress in Tullamore, Ireland in June is currently being widely distributed among IPS members and other persons and organisations interested in the issue. So far, almost 400 copies have found new owners. The 223-page book costs **22 €** including worldwide mailing costs. Make sure to order your own copy now at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=236](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=236). An executive summary, a downloadable version and more information on the subject can also be found at the above website.

## Peat Press Reviews at IPS Forum

As a special service for members, IPS has started collecting peat and peatland related articles that appeared in the international press at the IPS forum. At [www.peatsociety.org/forum](http://www.peatsociety.org/forum) under “peat press” you can browse all headlines, read a few lines of the contents and then go to the original source which is linked at the bottom of the text. The forum also opens the opportunity to discuss each article immediately using the same thread. Please note that you have to be a registered user to open all contents. We hope that this feature will be actively used and look forward to reading your comments.



## Upcoming related events

- 6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration: Towards a sustainable future for European Ecosystems, Gent, **Belgium**, 8 - 12 September 2008, more info: [www.ser2008.be](http://www.ser2008.be)
- Int. Interdisciplinary Conference on Predictions for Hydrology, Ecology and Water Resources Management, Prague, **Czech Republic**, 15 - 18 September 2008, info: [www.natur.cuni.cz](http://www.natur.cuni.cz)
- International Symposium on Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Development, Lin'an City, **China**, 15 - 18 September 2008, more info: [www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org)
- Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change, Portland, **USA**, 15 - 19 September 2008, more info: [www.aswm.org](http://www.aswm.org)
- International Conference on Landscape Ecology and Forest Management - Challenges and Solutions, Chengdu, Sichuan, **China**, 16 - 18 September 2008, more info: [www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org)
- 5th International Conference on Land Degradation, Valenzano, Bari, Italy, 18 - 22 September 2008, more info: [www.iamb.it](http://www.iamb.it)
- Sustainable Forest Management in the Context of Kyoto Protocol Implementation in the Region of Central and Eastern Europe, Kiev, **Ukraine**, 24 - 27 September 2008, <http://eng.nauu.kiev.ua>
- International Scientific Conference on Tropical Rainforests and Agroforests under Global Change, Bali, **Indonesia**, 5 - 9 October 2008, more info: [www.globalchange-2008.org](http://www.globalchange-2008.org)
- The 2008 Joint Meeting of the Geological Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, Gulf Coast Association of Geological Society, Houston, Texas, **USA**, 5 - 9 October 2008, more info: [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)
- World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, **Spain**, 5 - 14 October 2008, info: [www.cms.iucn.org](http://www.cms.iucn.org)
- International Horti Fair, Amsterdam, **the Netherlands**, 14 - 17 October 2008, [www.hortifair.nl](http://www.hortifair.nl)
- Peat Production and Env. Protection, Helsinki, **Finland**, 15 October 2008, [www.ymparisto.fi](http://www.ymparisto.fi)
- 24th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water, Amherst, Massachusetts, **USA**, 20 - 23 October 2008, more info: [www.umasssoils.com](http://www.umasssoils.com)
- 1st SWS Asia Chapter's 2008 Asian Wetland Convention and Workshop, Taipei, **Taiwan**, 23 - 26 October 2008, more info: [www.sws.org](http://www.sws.org)

More peat-related events of other organizations: [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=77](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=77).