

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.

Responsible Peatland Management Strategy Ready for Approval

The final version of the Global Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management, after the third consultation draft, was sent to different stakeholder bodies dealing with peat and peatlands and published on the IPS website on **1 July 2009**. All decision makers were asked to study the document and deal with its contents within their own organizations and to inform the IPS Secretariat of their approval by **30 September 2009**. If agreed, it is aimed to sign the Strategy during a one-day seminar in Central Europe at the end of October. The complete document can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org. We believe that this is a tremendous step forward for all peatlands – a strategy approved by different organizations from all over the world which outlines objectives and actions for responsible management of these important ecosystems and of peat as a valuable resource, thereby providing guidelines for our everyday work, as scientists, policy makers, journalists, peat producers or end users. On this occasion, IPS would like to thank all colleagues for their valuable and effective mutual cooperation. The strategy at hand would not have been possible without the views and opinions all of you have given during this process.

Peatlands International 1/2009 in your Mailbox

Peatlands International, the global magazine of IPS, was sent out to all members of our Society and a number of additional subscribers last week. Members in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Ukraine and from countries without a National Committee receive their magazine directly from the IPS Secretariat in Finland. The National Committees of Canada, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and USA organize the distribution in their own countries. Peatlands International 1/2009 deals almost exclusively with peatland restoration. A detailed table of contents and a PDF version will be made available in mid August at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55.

Québec 2011: Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production

The Organizing Committee of the international symposium on “Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production” has launched the first circular for this event. The conference is planned to be held in Québec City, Canada on **13 - 17 June 2011** under the auspices of IPS Commissions II (Industrial utilization of peat and peatlands) and V (After-use of cut-over peatlands) together with the International Society for Horticultural Science.

The scope of the event is to address the increasing pressures of productivity, efficiency and responsibility that peat producers and government agencies are embracing and to investigate business models to achieve long-term viability and sustainability of the resources and their products. This includes responsible peatland management for environmental, social and economic values, peat usage and growing media practices.

The symposium aims to address public, grower and retail demands for objective science-based information on reduced peat use, alternative products and compost. It is intended to provide a forum for presentation of state-of-the-art results of experiments on growing performances of various media in greenhouse and nursery studies. Additionally, it aims to provide information on the life-cycle of peat, reduced peat and peat free products.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

13-14 June 2011	Canadian National Workshop; workshop on peatlands and the challenges to their sustainable management (Chairs: M. Garneau and L. Rochefort)
14 June 2011	Business meetings of participating societies
15-16 June 2011	International symposium
17 June 2011	Field excursions

Also, at the same venue, the IPS Annual Assembly and its associated administrative meetings, such as of the Executive Board, Scientific Advisory Board and the nine Commissions, will be organized. The Organizing Committee encourages you to submit further ideas on the above topics to make this an outstanding symposium. Field trips to peat producers, restoration sites and newly protected peatlands are planned. Industry members and suppliers to the industry are invited to participate in a commercial exhibition hosted during the symposium. Additional exhibition space at Laval University's Van den Hende Gardens will be available to display specific equipment during a very special BBQ evening hosted at the Gardens.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

15 November 2009	First call for abstracts
15 October 2010	Last call for abstracts
31 January 2011	Abstracts due (200 words)
10 April 2011	Early registration deadline

LANGUAGE

The official language of the symposium is English.

TOURIST INFORMATION

About Québec city: www.quebecregion.com

About the province of Québec: www.bonjourquebec.com and www.quebecweb.com/tourisme

FURTHER INFORMATION

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The complete First Announcement can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org.

Call for Articles Peatlands International 2/2009

We look forward to receiving your contributions for the second issue of Peatlands International for 2009. Any reports in relation to peat and peatlands, especially summaries of research findings, book reviews, reports on conferences or news items can be sent to Susann Warnecke at [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) until **30 September 2009**. We kindly ask you not to exceed 2,000 words, have your text checked by a native speaker whenever possible and submit all photos and illustrations as separate files. The text should also list all captions and the names of the copyright holders as well as the full contact details of the author. The magazine will be printed in 2,000 copies and distributed to all IPS members and a number of other persons and organizations in December. More information, detailed instructions for authors and the Media Kit 2009 for advertisers are posted at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55. The Editorial Board reserves its right to choose, shorten and edit submissions if necessary. Please contact the IPS Secretariat in case you have any questions.

Guus van Berckel New Chairman of Dutch National Committee

The Annual Meeting of the National Committee of the Netherlands elected Mr. Guus van Berckel as its new Chair when Leo Schipper stepped down from his post on 11 June. His contact details are: Dr. A.H.P. van Berckel, Nederlands Veengenootschap, Intervema BV, Burg. J.G. Legroweg 86, 9761 TD Eelde, The Netherlands, phone: +31 50 309 5950, fax: +31 50 309 5604, e-mail: [guusvanberckel \(at\) intervema.nl](mailto:guusvanberckel@intervema.nl). The main contact person remains, however, Secretary Dr. A.J. Schilstra, Nederlands Veengenootschap, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies IVEM, University of Groningen, Nijenborgh 4, 9747 AG Groningen, The Netherlands, phone: +31 594 513 701, fax: +31 50 363 7168, e-mail: [a.j.schilstra \(at\) rug.nl](mailto:a.j.schilstra@rug.nl). More information on the National Committee is available at www.veengenootschap.nl. We warmly thank Mr. Schipper for his work and welcome Dr. van Berckel.

New Contact Details for UK National Committee and Commission IX

Prof. Jack Rieley has informed us that he has now retired fully from the University of Nottingham. In matters dealing with tropical peatlands or the National Committee of the United Kingdom, please contact him from now on at: Professor Jack Rieley, The Pingle, 1 Closes Side Lane, East Bridgford, Nottingham NG13 8NA, United Kingdom, e-mail: [jack.rieley \(at\) btinternet.com](mailto:jack.rieley@btinternet.com).

Welcome to Bioenergy 2009 in Finland

The 4th International Bioenergy 2009 Conference will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on **31 August to 4 September 2009**. By the end of July, more than 300 participants had registered for the symposium. The event comprises plenary sessions, oral presentations and poster viewing on different aspects of renewable energy, including peat and biofuels as well as technical tours, business-to-business appointments and visits to practical bioenergy destinations. It also features an international exhibition, a social and cultural programme and pre- and post conference excursions. The language of the conference is English. For more information and to register, please visit www.bioenergy2009.finbioenergy.fi or contact [bioenergy \(at\) finbio.fi](mailto:bioenergy@finbio.fi).

Peatland and Mire Session in Southern Africa

The International Mire Conservation Group is hosting, in collaboration with the Harry Openheimer Okavango Research Centre, a peatland and mire session at the Flood Pulse Symposium in Maun, Botswana from **31 January to 6 February 2010**. The purpose of this special session is to create peatland and mire awareness in the region and also to establish networks with participating

organisations and delegates. All interested are encouraged to visit the congress website at www.orc.ub.bw/floodpulse or to contact Piet-Louis Grundling at peatland (at) mweb.co.za. Please note that the deadline for submissions is already **15 September 2009**.

Petition for Tripa Peat Forest in Aceh, Indonesia

Wetlands International and a coalition of NGOs have joined forces to demand palm oil company Astra Agro Lestari to halt the conversion of the Tripa peat forest in Aceh province, Indonesia into a palm oil plantation. To achieve this, a letter is addressed to its UK-based mother company, supported by a group of 15 NGOs and a large number of individuals. IPS members interested can obtain more information on the campaign at the Wetlands International website, www.tiny.cc/pAJ82. IPS reported on the Tripa conflict in Peatlands International 2/2008. The area is a priority site of the Great Apes Survival Partnership of UNEP/UNESCO and considered an essential green buffer to protect communities from the effects of storms and tsunamis. For more information, please contact Alex Kaat at alex.kaat (at) wetlands.org or visit www.wetlands.org.

PhD Studentship: Restoration / Recovery of Sphagnum on Degraded Blanket Bog

The Dalton Research Institute at Manchester Metropolitan University and the Moors for the Future Partnership are jointly funding one research studentship to start in October 2009. Holders will register for a PhD or MPhil leading to PhD degree and are asked to investigate restoration and recovery of Sphagnum moss on degraded blanket bog in the Peak District National Park in the south Pennine hills. The PhD project will: (1) Investigate all potential and existing techniques for the preparation and application of Sphagnum on to degraded blanket bog surfaces and (2) Develop monitoring methods, at a range of spatial scales, in order to assess success of establishment in terms of growth and functioning of the Sphagnum as part of the blanket bog ecosystem. Applicants should have at least a good (2.i or above) BSc (Hons) degree (or equivalent) in environmental or biological sciences or a related relevant academic field, and preferably a relevant Masters level qualification. The studentship is full time and only available to UK and EU candidates. For more details, please contact Dr. Simon Caporn at s.j.m.caporn (at) mmu.ac.uk or Matt Buckler, matt.buckler (at) peakdistrict.gov.uk. The application deadline is Friday, **21 August 2009**.

Order IPS Peat and Peatland Publications Now!

Late summer is a good time for ordering IPS publications: orders will be sent immediately when paid by credit card. We especially recommend the new "Peatlands and Climate Change" book for €24.00, the new, comprehensive and beautifully illustrated work "Finland-Fenland" by the Finnish Peatland Society for €58.00 and the "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands" for €24.00. In addition, proceedings of almost all IPS Congresses and symposia and the Wise Use DVD are still available from our online store. Worldwide mailing costs are included in the price of all products. Please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80 for a detailed overview and to order.