

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 as Observer at Ramsar COP10 in South Korea

The International Peat Society has received official observer status for the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands. The meeting will be held under the topic "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People" in Changwon, South Korea on **28 October - 4 November 2008** and Secretary General Jaakko Silpola will be representing IPS at the event. In cooperation with several organisations working in the same field, we are planning to organise a side event on "Implementing a Global Action Plan for Peatlands" on **31 October** at 13:15 hrs (room 606). In early October, all Contracting Parties will have received information on the publication of the book on "Peatlands and Climate Change" and on the Peatland Certification process IPS has initiated. The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 158 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1,771 wetland sites, totalling 161 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. More information on COP10 and Ramsar in general can be found at www.ramsar.org.

Commission II Meeting on Peatland Certification

IPS Commission II on the "Industrial Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands" will meet on **19 November** at Helsinki Airport to discuss the initial plan of creating a Certification Scheme for Sustainable Management of Peatlands. We hereby invite all corporate members of IPS to attend the workshop and thereby become involved in the certification process from its very beginning. The current plan, some background information and an introductory power point presentation can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=235. To register for the Helsinki meeting, please see all meeting details and download your registration form at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=239. The form should be filled in and sent by **20 October** to the IPS Secretariat. We also appreciate any other comments on the certification plan. Please contact jaakko.silpola@peatsociety.org, call +358 50 406 4836 or join the discussion online at www.peatsociety.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=65.

Preview of Peatlands International 2/2008

By the end of September, eleven articles had been submitted for inclusion in the next issue of Peatlands International. The magazine will, of course, feature a large review of the International Peat Congress in Tullamore and its Post-Congress Tour. In addition, we will introduce the peatlands of the Chinese Altay, of Lithuania and Azerbaijan to the readers, report about the 6th Scientific School for young scientists "Bogs and Biosphere", held in Tomsk last year, give a summary on the importance of the Tripa coastal peat swamp forest ecosystem in Aceh, Indonesia and a report on the excursion of the Finnish Peatland Society to the peatlands of Kymenlaakso. Last, but not least, we have listed articles about ants and fen soils, the use of peat at a Shakespeare play at the Deutsche Theater Berlin and on proficiency testing for chemical and physical analysis of soil improvers and

growing media. Sadly, a memoriam on former IPS President Jens-Dieter Becker-Platen will also be included. If you would like to submit any shorter news item or report, please send your material (Arial pt 10 without formatting, photos with captions and the photographer's names as separate files) as soon as possible to susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org. Peatlands International 2/2008 will be printed and sent out to all IPS members by post in mid December.

Buy the Finland – Fenland Book in English

The English edition of the brand new book “Finland – Fenland: Research and sustainable utilisation of mires and peat”, edited by Riitta Korhonen, Leila Korpela and Sakari Sarkkola can now also be purchased directly at the IPS webstore for EUR 59 including worldwide mailing costs. Please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?module=shop_view_product&id=99&product_id=79 to see the contents and place your order. The book was published in August by the Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry) and contains 288 pages with beautiful photos and a lot of valuable information on the research into and the uses of mires and peat. Forty-two authors explain how mires were initially formed, which variants exist, how they are researched, the biodiversity they provide and the different ways in which they can be used. A list of all papers and authors can be found when clicking on the link above. Just as a hint - the high quality book would also make a great gift!

IPS Secretariat in Autumn

Please note that Communications Manager Susann Warnecke has a new mobile phone number: +358 40 418 4075. The office phone remains +358 14 3385 440. Susann can be reached at the IPS Secretariat daily around 8:30 to 15:30 hrs. We would also like to inform you that the IPS Secretariat will be on holidays next week. Secretary General Jaakko Silpola will be out of the office on **13 - 18** and Susann Warnecke on **10 - 21 October**. In urgent matters you can reach us on our mobile phones. Naturally we will reply to all e-mails as soon as we are back in the office.

Meeting of Asian Wetland Scientists

The Asian Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) will have its first Wetland Convention and Workshop at the International Convention Center of National Taiwan University Hospital in Taipeh on **23 - 26 October 2008**. The organisation invites wetland scientists from the Asian region as well as from other countries to give oral and poster presentations and to participate in the workshop. The event is sponsored by the Construction and Planning Agency, Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan and the SWS Asia Chapter. For non-SWS member, the registration fee amounts to USD 265. More information and a registration form can be found at www.swsasiasia.org.

Annual Conferene on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation

On **6 - 8 November 2008**, the 35th Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation will be held in Plant City, Florida, USA. This year's topic is “Assessment of Wetland Mitigation and Mitigation Banks”. In addition to the exchange of results as oral or poster presentation, the Conference will feature nationally and internationally well-known guest speakers, panel discussions, and a tour of case studies. Pre-registrations for USD 180 will be accepted until **15 October**. Please visit www.hccfl.edu/departments/ifs.aspx/conference for more information.

Upcoming related events

An updated list of peat and peatland related events can be found at the IPS website. Please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=77. We also appreciate any announcements for other events.