

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.

/// **IPS Meeting Registration for Angers**

As the “International Symposium on Growing Media” in Angers, France on **4 – 10 September 2005** is coming closer, we encourage you to sign up for the IPS meetings taking place at the same venue. You can find the schedule and a registration form at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=45>. To register for the conference itself and for the final program, see <http://ishs-angers.agrena.org/>.

/// **Three Applicants as Host for the 14th International Peat Congress**

The IPS Secretariat has received applications to host the 14th International Peat Congress in 2012 from its National Committees in Estonia, Latvia (Riga) and Sweden (Stockholm). As the deadline for proposals by **31 July 2005** has passed, it is now the task of the IPS Secretariat and the Executive Board to evaluate all applications, visit the venues, get to know all key persons and finally to prepare reports for the Annual Assembly that will make the final decision, at the latest in 2008.

/// **Trainee at the IPS Secretariat**

Since **15 August 2005**, Carolin Winter from Germany has been supporting the IPS Secretariat as a trainee. Ms. Winter is studying Communication and Cultural Management at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen in her first year. She is especially interested in the work of IPS as a global and intercultural organisation but is also keen to learn more about peat and peatlands and their role in climate change, as habitats and in the economy. At IPS, she will help to edit Peatlands International 2/2005, conduct member and reader surveys, prepare for the IPS meetings in Angers and offer general support in daily administrative tasks until **23 September**. You can contact her by e-mail at ext-carolin.winter@peatsociety.org and by phone +358 40 814 8088.

/// **LIFE Coop Workshop in Latvia**

On **22 - 29 August 2005**, the second workshop of the LIFE Nature Co-op project "Dissemination of ecological knowledge and practical experiences for sound planning and management in raised bogs and sea dunes" will be held in Jurmala, Latvia. During the workshop, the participants will discuss the planning and performance of conservation and restoration measures, the practical use of scientific knowledge, and the use of the decision support systems. Special field trips to coastal dune and raised bog ecosystems, including Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, where conservation and restoration measures are carried out or planned, are also offered. More info: www.barger.science.ru.nl/life/.

/// **Call for Papers: World Congress on Soil Science**

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) invites all IPS members to submit abstracts to its “18th World Congress on Soil Science”. The Congress, entitled “Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age”, will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA on **9 - 15**

July 2006. The event will feature plenary sessions, symposia, poster sessions, scientific and technical exhibitions as well as working sessions of IUSS, scientific and accompanying tours. Abstracts can be submitted until **15 September 2005**, the early registration deadline is **1 February 2006**. All further information is available at www.18wcss.org and www.iuss.org.

/// Organic Waste in Horticulture Symposium

An international symposium on “Use of Composted Organic Wastes in Horticulture” will be held in Wageningen, the Netherlands on **18 November 2005**. Organizer of the event is Applied Plant Research Wageningen UR, Glasshouse Culture. The purpose of the symposium is to provide the industry with the results of two EU-funded research projects on the use of composted organic wastes as a tool for suppressing plant diseases. The registration fee amounts to €50.00. For more information, please visit www.ppo.dlo.nl/compost or contact mary.warmenhoven@wur.nl.

/// Mysterious Bog People Exhibition in the USA

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is the first museum in the USA to show the international touring exhibition on “The Mysterious Bog People”. The exhibit features several bog mummies, including “Yde Girl”, the “Weerdinge couple” and the famous “Red Franz”, but also more than 330 up to 10,000 year old artefacts found at peatlands in Europe. As a special highlight, visitors can also get to know the tools of the forensic scientists used in the investigation of the findings. The exhibition will be on display until **22 January 2006**. More information can be obtained from www.carnegiemnh.org and www.bogpeople.org.

/// Siberian Peatlands Thawing

The New Scientist reports that the world’s largest frozen peatland, an area stretching for a million square kilometers across the permafrost of Western Siberia, has started to melt and turn into a lake landscape. Sergei Kirpotin from Tomsk State University and Judith Marquand from the University of Oxford present their findings in the magazine and note that this dramatic transformation could unleash billions of tons of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which would speed up global warming even more. See <http://tinylink.com/?0hQC2ne1eY> for the full article.

/// Again Peat Haze in Southeast Asia

As in previous years, South-East Asia is suffering from haze resulting from peatland fires in Malaysia and Indonesia. The disaster creates health problems, threatens tourism and businesses and releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases. Peat fires occur in areas that have been cleared from the tropical peat swamp forest and drained, mostly for agricultural purposes. The current blaze is believed to be the worst in about eight years. Help has been offered by ASEAN countries, other governments and NGO’s. Further information can be found at <http://tinylink.com/?atM8tlFkMW>.

/// GPI Receives Funding for Tropical Peat Swamp Forest Project

The Global Peatland Initiative (GPI) has received an official invitation from the Dutch GIS/Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lead the development of a proposal for the implementation of the “Central Kalimantan Peat Swamp Rehabilitation and Management Programme”. The total available budget for the Central Kalimantan project is 5 million euros for a period of two years. Within the next few weeks, GPI together with local stakeholder organizations and the government will work on the proposal, focusing on the programme’s implementation and identifying roles, mechanisms and options for its rapid and smooth mobilization. More information on the project and on the GPI can be obtained from www.peatlands.org.