

PEAT NEWS



No 9/2006

30 September 2006

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.

/// SAB and Commission II Meetings in Amsterdam

On **29 October 2006**, the IPS Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), IPS Commission II on the Industrial Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands as well as the Energy and Horticultural Peat Working Groups will hold their meetings at hotel De Herbergh in Badhoevedorp near Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands. In addition, we invite you to attend the 5th International Symposium on "Peat in Horticulture – Peat in the Stranglehold of Interest Groups" to be held on **30 October 2006** at Hotel Novotel in Amsterdam. The latest version of the programme and the registration forms can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47.

/// IPS Executive Board Meets in Deerfield Beach

The IPS Executive Board will hold its next meeting on invitation of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Association in Deerfield Beach, Florida, USA on **8 November 2006**. In addition to this important meeting, the Board members will attend meetings, education sessions and incentive events of the North American peat industry and thereby help to exchange information on a worldwide basis. Any addition to the agenda of the meeting should be submitted to the IPS Secretariat by **11 October** at the latest. We will inform you of the outcomings of this meeting in our November issue.

/// Peat and Peatland Seminar in Ireland

The Irish National Committee of the International Peat Society will hold a Seminar on "Mire, Peatland, and Peat Research and Activity on the Island of Ireland" at the Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport on Tuesday, **10 October 2006**. The aim of the seminar, chaired by Dr. John Feehan, is to bring together the latest available information on peat and peatland research and activity on the island of Ireland. At the same time, it is hoped that the event will help stimulate a major Irish contribution to the 13th International Peat Congress which will take place in Tullamore in June 2008. For more information, please visit <http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47>.

/// Peatland Events at UNFCCC COP12 in Nairobi

The 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on **6 - 17 November 2006**. At the same venue, the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol will hold their second meeting. As peatlands play an important role in climate change, different side events and exhibitions on peat and peatlands are scheduled. The Global Environment Centre (GEC) offers a side event on "Assessment of Peatland, Biodiversity and Climate Change" on **6 November**, highlighting the value of peatlands for carbon storage, GHG emissions and climate. Additionally, the organization will set up an exhibition documenting emissions from deforestation and peatland degradation, restoration and adaptation options. Wetlands International (WI) will be present with a side event on "Combating CO₂ Emissions through Peatland Restoration" on **7 November** and an exhibition for a "Multi-Convention Global Peatlands Policy" to address climate, biodiversity, land degradation and poverty issues. On **11 - 12 November**, both GEC and WI will hold a workshop on "Reducing GHG Emissions from Peatlands", featuring outputs of the project on Integrated Management of Peatland for Biodiversity and Climate Change. More info: www.unfccc.int.

/// Call for Papers: Peatlands and Carbon in Wageningen

The Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Group of Wageningen University and PeatNet will hold a Symposium on "Carbon in Peatlands" in Wageningen, the Netherlands on **15 - 18 April 2007**. The symposium will gather leading scientists to summarize the state-of-the-art in research related to carbon cycling in peatlands, to define directions of future research, and to facilitate transfer of knowledge between disciplines. The three-day scientific programme will cover a wide range of topics including contributions to biogeochemistry, microbiology, paleoecology, soil ecology, ecosystem ecology and hydrology. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations can be submitted until **1 December 2006**. More information can be found at www.peatnet.siu.edu.

/// New Nature Protection Area at Leivonmäki

Vapo Oy and the Regional Environment Centre of Central Finland have signed a contract which designates the area of Haapasuo RNo 45:0 at Leivonmäki as a nature protection area. The 4.7 ha area owned by Vapo is situated near the peat production area of Haapasuo and also contains a small lake. The area belongs to the Natura 2000 network as well as to the protected area reservations of Central Finland. To preserve the peatland in its natural state, it is forbidden to fell trees, to take measures influencing the hydrological system, to remove the soil and to destroy or change the landscape. The area can not be used for growing crops, feeding cattle or for building houses, streets and paths. It is also forbidden to enter the area on motor vehicles. It is, however, allowed to move around in the area and to pick berries and mushrooms. The decision to protect the area is one step in the after-use plan for Leivonmäki's peat production area. More info: www.vapo.fi.

/// Råsjö Torv and Såbi Become Neova

The companies Råsjö Torv AB in Hudiksvall and SÅBI AB in Jönköping, Sweden, who merged in January 2004, are now operating under the new business name of Neova. The common brand was launched in August 2006. By producing pellets, briquettes, unrefined wood fuels and peat, Neova meets the bioenergy needs of the Swedish market for big heating plants, municipal properties, industries and private homes. Neova belongs to the Finnish Vapo group which is the biggest peat producer and the leader within bioenergy in the Baltic region. Mr. Håkan Bjur, who is also member of the IPS Executive Board, works as the Managing Director of Neova. Mrs. Iwana Abrahamsson is responsible for the business area Peat and Mr. Peter Persson for the production. Neova's head office is situated at Bjälkgatan 1 in 824 43 Hudiksvall, Sweden, phone: +46 650 547 400, e-mail: info@neova.se. More information can be obtained from www.neova.se.

/// Russian President Encourages Use of Peat as Local Fuel

Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, has encouraged all regions of his country to follow the national energy balance. During a meeting with Victor Ishayev, Governor of the Chabarovsk region, he pointed out that Russia should not be dependent on natural gas only, among others for security reasons. He encouraged the regions to use different energy sources, for instance the primary sources of peat and coal, where these are locally available. The whole article can be read at www.tinyurl.com/j45ns (in German) and www.tinyurl.com/ndgm5 (in Russian).

/// Bruno Berken Heading for New Challenges

Bruno Berken, Executive Director of CAS, the French Association for Organic Soil Improvers and Growing Media (Chambre Syndicale des Améliorants Organiques et Supports de Culture), will leave his tasks due to personal circumstances and in agreement with the Board of Directors, by **5 December 2006**. Despite this change, the involvement of CAS and the work of the French National Committee of IPS will be continued. Mr. Berken will also chair the meeting of the HOPE WG in Amsterdam. He would like to thank all IPS members, who are not able to come to the meeting, for the nice collaboration and the work that was shared during these past 6 years.