

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

Peatlands International Call for Articles: 3.2014

We kindly ask all IPS members to consider writing an article about their work, recent conferences, upcoming events or policy matters for the September issue of Peatlands International (3.2014). For the full writer's instructions see www.peatociety.org/publications/peatlands-international. The submission deadline has been extended to **1 September 2014**. We recommend to have your papers checked by a native English speaker before submission, e.g. www.englishproofread.com). The Editorial Board of Peatlands International reserves the right to select, edit and shorten papers, if necessary. Also a few more advertisements of our corporate and institute members are very welcome. For the latest issue of Peatlands International see www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com or download the magazine from the member intranet www.peatociety.org/publications/documentbank.

IPS & International Conventions, Agencies and Programmes

IPS has had a long Association with the Ramsar Convention through its observer status on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) that it held from 1999 until 2008. IPS was also a partner in the Ramsar Co-ordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands. Over the last 20 years there has been a large increase in the number of international conventions and other bodies whose remit has included peatlands and peat. IPS is currently preparing a report on these bodies and their implications for peatlands, peat and their users and as a result will decide which ones it should form closer relationships with. Apart from Ramsar, the international organisations that consider aspects of peatlands and peat include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD and UN-REDD+) and the FAO Programme for Mitigating Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA). Please inform Professor Jack Rieley, [jack.rieley \(at\) btinternet.com](mailto:jack.rieley@btinternet.com) if you are involved in any of these bodies or if you would like to be. (Source: UK Peat News)

Next Week: SER Ecological Restoration Conference in Oulu

The 9th European Conference on Ecological Restoration will be held during **3 - 8 August 2014** at the University of Oulu, Finland; mainly organised by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla). The event will have almost 400 participants from 35 countries, including representatives of environmental organisations, government bodies and enterprises. They will discuss rehabilitation of nature, ecosystem services and land use, including also matters concerning quality of life, biodiversity and climate change, and generally fostering information exchange between researchers and practitioners. Also the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and similar policy papers will be on the agenda. Invited speakers at the conference are: Aulikki Alanen (Finnish Ministry of the Environment), Patrick Murphy (European Commission), Margaret Palmer (USA), Ilkka Hanski (University of Helsinki), Ása Aradóttir (Iceland), Rudolf De Groot (The Netherlands) and Anne Tolvanen (Forest Research Institute, Oulu). Altogether over 200 oral presentations and almost 100 posters will be on display at around 40 sessions.

Because of Oulu's location in the peatland-richest region in Finland there will naturally be a special focus on peatlands during the symposium (in addition to forests, grasslands, lakes etc.), with a high amount of peatland-related presentations and several of the mid-conference that will highlight peatland sights around the city. The pre-conference field trip starts on **31 July** and shows Western Lapland's nature and economy to the interested guests. After the event, another group will head to Kuusamo and Oulanka National Park in the East to see restoration efforts

in practice. IPS is one of the partners of the conference and we warmly welcome all IPS members to participate. For more information see www.ser2014.org. (Source: Metla)

International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis - SusGro2015 in Vienna

IPS Commission II (Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes) and the Commission of Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture of the International Society for Horticultural Science - ISHS (Growing Media, Composting for Horticultural Applications, Substrate Analysis) are pleased to announce a joint Symposium in the historic city of Vienna from **7 - 11 September 2015**.

In modern horticulture, sustainability should be achieved along the whole production cycle. The acquisition and processing of growing media constituents, preparation of substrates as well as their final use should take into account the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and societal. Sustainable production should be acceptable, feasible and appropriate for all three sectors. In this symposium, world-wide scientific and technical advances in approaches towards these aims will be presented and discussed between researchers, industry and end-users. The Symposium will be organised under the auspices of the ISHS, the IPS, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Austrian Horticultural Society and the City of Vienna and by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety. Main topics will be:

- Worldwide developments in the sustainable production of growing media
- Sustainability in horticultural production systems
- Advances in production of high quality compost for horticultural purposes
- Compost as substrate constituent
- Physical and chemical substrate properties
- Microbial diversity, resilience and disease suppression
- New analytical methods for composts and growing media
- Specification, development and use of Urban substrates (e.g. for roof gardens, trees, green walls)
- Water and nutrient management
- New regulations on growing media and compost

The First Announcement is available for download from the symposium website: www.ishs.org/symposium/423. Please mark the date in your calendar and invite your colleagues as well. (submitted by Gerald Schmilewski)

NRG BESS Early Career Researcher Conference in the UK

The NRG BESS Conference 2014 is a conference for early career researchers working in the fields of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability, and will take place on **8 - 9 September 2014** at the University of Southampton. The conference will focus on biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem service delivery across four main themes: Coastal Landscapes, Upland Rivers, Urban Ecosystems and Lowland Multifunctional Landscapes. It is open to all postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants and research technicians and to both NRG BESS-members and non-members. Note that the final deadline for abstract submission is **1 August**, and the final registration deadline **15 August 2014**. For more information see www.nrgbess.net/conference2014. (Sarah Pogue & Md Sarwar Hossain)

Pineapples Against Fires and Haze in Riau

A new task force has been established to prevent peatland fires from spreading in the Riau Province, Sumatra, Indonesia. In early spring Riau with its 4 million ha of peatlands experienced heavy wildfires on 21,000 ha, with 1,234 hot spots on a single day. Drainage is mainly done by digging canals, e.g. for palm oil plantations, and as a result fires can spread quickly and under the surface, releasing great amounts of CO₂ and causing haze. In early March, Riau University (Unri) set up its Total Solution on the Haze Hazard Task Force (STBA), which seeks to apply academic approaches to prevent wildfires from recurring. One approach in haze mitigation is to restore the functions of the peat, for instance by encouraging residents to plant pineapples. According to the report, the fruits are marketable, easy to grow and can be harvested frequently. At the same time the thick leaves of the crops can resist fires. However, pineapples should be replaced by forest plants on long term. For more info: <http://bit.ly/1rXf7sb>. (sent by Jack Rieley)