

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of individual and corporate members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. Our mission is to serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration. Currently the IPS has 1495 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 42 countries.

## Thank you, Aberdeen!

The five-day IPS Convention and international symposium on “Responsible Management of Peatlands” was a great success. With more than 150 participants from 17 countries, including China, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia, we attracted a truly international mixture of peatland experts to Scotland. Special attention was given to the group of Indonesian senators, led by Nazir Foad, Head of the Indonesian Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG), who gave one of the keynote speeches during the conference. In addition, the participants heard presentations on social, economic and environmental aspects of peatlands, discussed future plans of the three new IPS Commissions, visited the interesting poster exhibition and exchanged experiences and ideas during the sessions and breaks. Our Scottish hosts had also prepared stunning excursions to Netherley Red Moss, Fyvie Castle and several other restoration, peat extraction, forestry and other sites of interest. As promised, the Gala dinner did not disappoint anyone, and the ice-breaking party has set new standards. We warmly thank the organizing committee for this splendid event and warmly invite all members already now to the IPS Conventions 2018 and 2019. Abstracts and presentations will be made available on the IPS intranet as soon as authors have given their agreement. For photos (by S. Warnecke) see <http://ow.ly/L00G30cy9ry>.

## IPS at GPI and GLF Events in Jakarta in May

The IPS is a Partner of the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) and was invited to the 2nd GPI Partners meeting in Jakarta from **15 - 17 May 2017**. IPS President Gerald Schmilewski represented the IPS at the meeting. The GPI is a time-bound targeted effort by leading experts and institutions to protect peatlands, being the most space-effective carbon store on the planet. GPI aims to reduce global GHG emissions by increasing knowledge of peatlands and their use (extent, changes, peat layer thickness, etc.) in order to influence policy makers and decision takers regarding peatland use, conservation, restoration and management of peatlands.

Following the 2nd GPI meeting the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) organized an event on “Peatlands Matter” which also took place in Jakarta. The GLF describes itself as the world’s largest platform on integrated land use (incl. peatland use) and contributes to the achievement of the Paris Climate Agreement. Founded by CIFOR, the World Bank and UN Environment, the GLF convenes stakeholders from all sectors to identify priority areas and best practices. Gerald was given the opportunity to join the plenary session “Peatlands around the world – challenges and opportunities”. The full video of the session can be viewed at <http://ow.ly/ZyJf30cxO1B> (Gerald’s statements can be viewed at minutes 0:41 to 0:50 and 1:18 to 1:21). Gerald was also invited to an interview on the event itself and IPS matters. This interview can be viewed at <http://ow.ly/uaxT30cxO55>. More info on these events will be given in Peatlands International.

## IPS Commission and Expert Group Staffing (almost) Completed

The following persons were officially introduced as new IPS Commission Vice Chairs and Expert Group Coordinators at the IPS Convention in Aberdeen. We wish you luck in completing your teams and ask all IPS members to actively contribute to these groups. For more information and to join, contact the Chairs:

### Commission 1 Peatlands and Economy:

Chair:

Dr [Guus van Berckel](#), Netherlands/Germany

1st vice-chair:

Dr Maurice Doyon, Canada

2nd vice-chair:

Professor Meng Xianmin, China

### Expert Groups (so far):

Peatlands for agriculture:  
Peatlands for forestry:

Dr hab Ryszard Oleszczuk, Poland  
Dr Sakari Sarkkola, Finland

#### Commission 2 Peatlands and Environment:

Chair:

[Bernd Hofer](#), Germany

1st vice-chair:

Dr Maria Strack, Canada

2nd vice-chair

Professor Budi Indra Setiawan, Indonesia

#### Expert Groups:

Peatlands and Climate Change:

Dr David Wilson, Ireland

Peatlands and Biodiversity (Eco, Hydro & Geology):

Dr Lydia Cole, United Kingdom

Peatland Restoration:

Dr Roxane Andersen, Canada/United Kingdom

#### Commission 3 Peatlands and Society:

Chair:

[Marie Kofod-Hansen](#), Sweden

1st vice-chair:

Dr Kirsi Laurén, Finland

2nd vice-chair:

Dr Rachel Carmenta, UK/Indonesia

#### Expert Groups:

Peatlands Education, Communication & Publicity:

Dr Catherine O'Connell, Ireland

Peatlands, Governance and Conventions:

Professor Jack Riele, United Kingdom

Peatlands and Culture:

Dr Anne-Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands

Peatlands and People:

Dian Novarina, Indonesia

## Allan Robertson Grants 2017

The Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals went to the following "future stars":

- Paul Gaffney, Environmental Research Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands, UK: Measuring restoration progress using water chemistry in formerly afforested bogs (handed over in Aberdeen)
- Chris Hatcher, Loughborough University, UK: Interactions between microtopography, habitat heterogeneity and plant nutrition on peatlands
- Hongxing He, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: Travel and registration fee for IPS 2017, retained as could not participate
- Liam Heffernan, University of Alberta, Canada: Carbon emissions from a thawing permafrost peatland
- Aino Korrensalo, University of Eastern Finland: Greenhouse gas emissions after Sphagnum harvesting: finding the study sites
- Motseko Mots'ets'e, National University of Lesotho: Research information dissemination and review of Lesotho wetlands(peatlands) monitoring protocols
- Susanne Claudia Möckel, University of Iceland, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences: Soil organic carbon in Icelandic peatlands: formation, stability and decomposition
- Jarosław Pietruczuk, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland: Late Glacial and Holocene environmental changes in Western Polesie (Eastern Poland) recorded in the sediments of alkaline fens

The Grants of € 500 each are awarded to young peatland and peat researchers (normally under the age of 30) carrying out research or practical work or young professionals in early stages of their career in managing peatlands or peat industry. We warmly thank all who have contributed financially, especially Allan Robertson's family and his daughter Barbara Gray, who gave a moving in-memoriam speech during the Gala Dinner at Haddo House. Allan will be kept in our hearts and minds. If you want to contribute to the 2018 Grants, contact jack.riely (at) peatlands.org.

## Decisions of the Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives, the highest decision-making organ of the IPS, was held on **31 May** in Aberdeen, with 14 representatives of the 16 IPS National Committees and 6 observers present. The Assembly approved the Annual Report and IPS' Finances 2016 and the plan of activities, budget, affiliation and the membership fees of the Society for 2017. The budget and membership fees 2018 were approved as interim documents. The Assembly also approved new Statutes for the IPS. National Committees were informed that two additional Executive Board members will be elected in 2018. In addition, there will be four regular seats available on the IPS Executive Board next year. We will keep you updated on deadlines and requirements.