



INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY

- A scientific and technical organization for the study of peatlands and peat -

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT: SEMINAR AND EXCURSION

TOPIC: PEATLAND RESTORATION IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND SOUTH EAST ASIA: LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Venue: Belfast, Northern Ireland, Friday 24th, Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 2009

Sponsors: United Kingdom and Irish National Committees of the IPS

Aim: To bring together individuals and members of organisations (including Government bodies, academic and research institutions, NGOs and forest, peat and energy companies) with an interest in peatlands and peat to focus on current and emerging issues of peatland restoration.

Seminar: This will address the importance and success (or otherwise) of peatland restoration in the British Isles. This will be compared with the situation in Southeast Asian peatlands where restoration is now an urgent requirement but implementation is at a very early stage.

Excursion: There will be an excursion will visit natural, working, cutover and restored peatland in Northern Ireland in order to view and assess peatland restoration problems at first hand.

Workshop: The meeting will conclude with a workshop at which restoration problems and issues will be discussed in the light of the Irish Restoration Network to explore how this could be extended to include the UK and other countries. There will also be an opportunity to discuss peatland restoration methods and standards.

Presentations: These will cover key aspects of peatland restoration in Ireland, Indonesia and the United Kingdom. The programme will be circulated in the next circular and offers of papers are invited now.

Attendance: All interested persons are cordially invited to attend. Membership of the IPS is not essential. Cost, final programme, venue and list of hotels will be notified at the beginning of January 2009 but I would appreciate if you could respond now with an expression of interest in attending. A charge (to be determined) per person will be made to cover the costs of refreshments and light lunch.

A meeting of the UK National Committee of the IPS will be held in conjunction with the seminar (IPS members and potential members only) to deal with organisational matters and a proposal to establish a British Peat Society that would provide a platform for peatland management, research and restoration.

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Friday 24 April 2009

10.00-12.00 Registration

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-16.30 Seminar presentations

16.30 Refreshments

16.30-18.00 Meeting of the UK National Committee of IPS (IPS members and interested persons)

19.00-21.00 Seminar dinner

Saturday 25 April 2009

There will be a whole day excursion to visit natural, working, cutover and restored peatland sites in Northern Ireland. The locations of these and programme will be circulated in the next information circular.

Sunday 26 April 2009

09.00 – 12.00 Peatland Restoration Workshop: Restoration methods, standards, networks and emerging issues.