



International Peatland Society

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More than 1400 members from 35 countries for the Wise Use of peatlands.

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## *National Committee Round Table*

National Committee Round Table  
Pullman Hotel Kuching, Malaysia, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor  
14 August 2016  
15:30 - 17:30

Attendees: National Representatives, NC Chairs and Secretaries, EB, SAB:

Tom Malterer, USA  
Samu Valpola, Finland  
Maija Lampela, Finland  
Gerald Schmilewski, Germany  
Roxane Andersen, UK  
Jack Rieley, UK  
Paul Short, Canada  
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden  
Tuija Vähäkuopus, Finland  
Janne Kivilompolo, Finland  
Ingrida Krigere, Latvia  
Moritz Böcking, Germany  
Michiel Gerding, Netherlands  
Nick van de Griendt, Netherlands/Estonia  
Donal Clarke, Ireland  
Hannu Salo, Finland, IPS  
Chris Jan Rynhout, Latvia  
Thanja van Dongen, Netherlands/Latvia  
Lulie Melling, Malaysia  
Frederick Haili Teck, Malaysia  
Sharon Lau Yu Ling, Malaysia  
Guus van Berckel, Netherlands/Germany  
Barbara Kalisz, Poland  
Susann Warnecke, Finland/Germany, IPS  
Chair: Donal Clarke

## **Notes**

### **Brief introduction of participants (1 min/person)**

All participants introduced themselves briefly.

## **Structure, strategy and resources of the IPS and the role of National Committees**

Donal Clarke shortly introduced the meeting to the recent work of the Executive Board. Hannu Salo and Guus van Berckel explained the new Commission structure with expert and project groups and future tasks for the IPS.

Guus van Berckel, Economic: Influence of policy making on peatland and industry, and vice versa, not all impacts are considered when making decision e.g. on permissions

Marie Kofod-Hansen, Society: Education should be included, future generations, peatlands affecting people

Bernd Hofer, Environment: will be introduced during the Congress week

Jack Rieley: Change should be embraced, IPS as a federation of different interests

Paul Short: Industry and IPS working together on all aspects of peatlands

Donal Clarke: Future tasks of the IPS, importance of projects and implementation on local level, resources and funding have to be further investigated.

Michiel Gerding: More focus should be given to Asia, e.g. a vice chair from the tropics.

Jack Rieley: Major symposia should be organised by each of the Commissions in the three years between Congresses.

Gerald Schmilewski: Draft of new Commission, expert and project group structure – a joint meeting will be held on Wednesday at 17 hrs.

Jack Rieley: pro-active National Committees are essential for IPS, possibly also regional meetings

Susann Warnecke: activities attract new people and new activities, e.g. in the Baltics; National Committees should also actively use the [natcoms@peatlands.org](mailto:natcoms@peatlands.org) mailing list to exchange information

Lulie Melling: membership is not very attractive in Southeast Asia, more income and attendance can be generated via events

Donal Clarke: National Committees should have their own websites, maybe FB groups/pages. IPS' website should be revamped, but funding is still being sought for.

Susann Warnecke: passwords are sent with each issue of Peatlands International, this is different from the personal intranet login.

## **IPS financial status, budget and membership fees 2016-2017**

The membership fees and budgets are included within the meeting package. It is expected to have a deficit of about €10.000 only at the end of the year, thanks to additional contributions from one company and the 2015 fee of the former Norwegian NC. IPS is mainly relying on voluntary work and we thank the NCs for their input.

Jack Rieley: More activities are needed with NCs.

Moritz Böcking: Financial problems exist in IPS as well as within the National Committees.

Roxane Andersen: Industry working in the peatlands is changing, e.g. wind, whisky, oil industry; NCs should be encouraged to explore new membership sectors.

## **Introduction of Executive Board candidates**

Lulie Melling, Guus van Berckel, Gerald Schmilewski, Jack Rieley, Paul Short, Donal Clarke, Samu Valpola

## **Annual Assembly procedure and contents**

Susann Warnecke explained the details of Annual Assembly procedures, with focus on elections.

### **Direct IPS membership for persons from countries with a National Committee**

It was suggested at the EB meeting in spring to allow people to join IPS directly via the Secretariat also in countries with a National Committee e.g. for scientists who would not want to join an industry association. Different opinions were given. The “central” membership fee should be higher than the NC fee. Possibly this concerns only a small group of people, mainly in the Baltics. It was also said that we should concentrate on strengthening and encouraging NCs to have a diverse membership.

### **Situation of National Committees, good practices and future challenges**

Germany: new brochure by DGMT, new young people should be brought in

Poland: new book in English on the Polish National Committee

Ireland: focus on annual member event

UK: strong support for Allan Robertson Grants, appeal for funds, NC contributions welcome

Finland: two seminars annually, biannual Peatland Day as new, very successful concept, excursions, also with neighbour country’s attendance, young scientists and women needed

Estonia: Congress 2020, input also from Estonian government

Susann Warnecke: **Deadline for Peatlands International now 1 September!**

Next EB meetings in Kuching, virtually in September and October, and face-to-face in the Netherlands 17-18 November. National Committees can invite the EB e.g. for spring 2017.

### **Any other business**

All participants were invited to the Commission meeting on 17 August and to the Annual Assembly on 19 August.

