

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 36

AUTUMN 2006



Dear Members,

The IHSS meeting last August at the University of Karlsruhe in Germany was intellectually stimulating and a fun get together with friends. Our hosts, led by Fritz Frimmel and Gudrun Abbt-Braun, did a great job. They supplied us with excellent food, drink, and entertainment and when assistance was needed there always seemed to be someone nearby who could help. The IHSS Board is very appreciative of all the hard work of our Karlsruher hosts.

At our meeting in Karlsruhe I had the privilege of assuming the office of President of IHSS. I am fortunate to succeed Dr. Maria de Nobili who has been an excellent President. She now holds the office of Past President and will continue to be an important person in the leadership of IHSS. At Karlsruhe we welcomed two new Board members, Jerzy Weber and Etelka Tombacz, and said thank you to Ladislau Martin-Neto and Yona Chen who retired from the Board. We have a strong Board of Directors including our hard working Treasurer, Ed Clapp, and Secretary, Gudrun Abbt-Braun, whose duties are especially demanding. Recently Gudrun has had to work especially hard on IHSS activities, serving both as Secretary of IHSS and on the leadership team for the Karlsruhe meeting.

The strength of our national and regional chapters is very important for our future. At the Chapter Coordinator meeting in Karlsruhe, chaired by our new Vice-President, Jerzy Weber, I was happy to see that most of our chapters are active and doing well. Many hold well-attended chapter meetings. To encourage the continuation of good chapter meetings the IHSS Board has agreed to give up to \$1000 to support invited outside speakers.

Thanks to the continued strong sale of our humic samples from our collection we are in very strong financial shape. This has allowed us to expand our Travel Bursary program to support young scientists to travel to our international meetings and to initiate a Training Bursary program to assist young scientists to gain international experience and expand their technical skills.

During the last year the Board has been active in two very important initiatives. One is the revision of our bylaws. We chose to start over with new bylaws and in Karlsruhe we presented a draft of the bylaws to the General Assembly. The proposed bylaws were modified in response to the Assembly discussion and early next year we will be asking for a vote by the membership (see the article on page **). The second major initiative is to computerize our accounting system. We hired a consultant group, which specializes in assisting non-profit groups, to help us setup the accounting system, which will be used both by the Director of Sales and by the Treasurer. The software will assist in record keeping and report generation. The initial setup is almost complete but we will continue get help from the consultants until we have learned all we need to know about using the software.

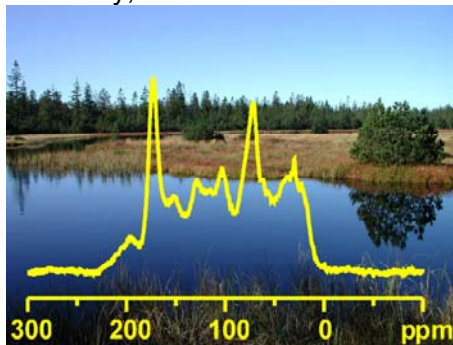
In 2008 the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) chapter will host our 14th international meeting. The meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 14 to 20, will be on a riverboat beginning in Moscow and ending in St. Petersburg (see: <http://www.humus.ru/ihss-14/eng/>). Start planning now for this exciting meeting.

Paul Bloom, IHSS President

13th IHSS CONFERENCE 2006 KARLSRUHE



Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden was the message of the recent soccer world championship in Germany, and it was also the motto for the 13th IHSS Conference in Karlsruhe.



The Technical University in Karlsruhe hosted the meeting from the 30th of July to the 4th of August, 2006. The local organizing committee was chaired by Gudrun Abbt-Braun, the scientific committee was chaired by Fritz Frimmel.

The scientific program included 46 oral and 23 short oral presentations and 195 poster contributions.

The participants enjoyed a variety of oral lectures, including keynote lectures and oral presentations of posters, stimulating poster sessions, scientific discussions, German food, and several social events.

The meeting, spread over six days, consisted of five sections, covered all main aspects of research on humic substances and natural organic matter:

Topic I: New analytical aspects

11 oral presentations, 6 oral presentations of posters, 50 posters,

Topic II: Biological aspects and transformations

7 oral presentations, 5 oral presentations of posters, 18 posters,

Topic III: Ecological aspects and genesis

9 oral presentations, 3 oral presentations of posters, 45 posters

Topic IV: Physico-chemical aspects

11 oral presentations, 4 oral presentations of posters, 50 posters

Topic V: Application: water treatment, agricultural practices, composting, remediation

8 oral presentations, 5 oral presentations of posters, 32 posters



Several keynote lectures introduced to the main topics and reviewed the highlights of the research area:

- William T. Cooper: Molecular Characterization of Terrestrially-Derived Dissolved Organic Matter in Estuarine and Marine Environments Using Ultrahigh Resolution Mass Spectrometry and 3-D Excitation/Emission Spectroscopy
- Dan C. Olk: Biological, Chemical, and Physical Fractionations for Soil Organic Matter
- Roberto Pinton: Role of Humic Substances as Rhizospheric Signals Affecting Root Growth and Mechanisms of Nutrient Acquisition
- Yona Chen: Organic Matter Transformations during the Composting of Biosolids
- Michael U. Kumke: Connecting Photodynamics of Complexes between Humic Substances and Lanthanide Ions (Ln(III)) to Humic Substances Structure
- Christian Niederer: Sorption Behavior of Organic Vapors in Soil Organic Matter: Experiments and Modeling
- Francisco J. González-Vila: Influence of Management Practices on the Structural Features of Humic Acids from Representative Amazonian Soils
- Ulla S. Lundström: Dissolved Organic Matter Dynamics of Soil and Stream Water in a Catchment Area

The highlight of the social gatherings was the excursion and the conference dinner. Along with the good food, convivial company, live music and dancing, there was the traditional presentation of the Malcolm Award and the certificates to the travel bursary winners and presentations to Prof. Ed Clapp (see picture), Prof. Yona Chen and Dr. Ladislau Martin-Neto in recognition of their contributions to the Society.



The meeting was closed with the traditional small ceremony: The IHSS flag was transferred by Fritz Frimmel and Gudrun Abbt-Braun to the chairperson of the chapter of the Commonwealth of Independent States Irina Perminova and her group. They will organize the 14th IHSS meeting which will take place on the river Wolga during a boat trip between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

13th meeting in numbers:

Organizing Committee: Gudrun Abbt-Braun (Chairperson), Fritz H. Frimmel, Birgit Gordalla, Ulrich Lankes, Margit Müller, Universität Karlsruhe (TH), Germany

Scientific Committee: Paul Bloom, Maria de Nobili, Fritz H. Frimmel (Chairman), Gudrun Abbt-Braun, Yona Chen, Russel F. Christman, Claudio Ciavatta, Edward Clapp, Egil T. Gjessing, Konrad Haider, Patrick G. Hatcher, Martin Jekel, Ladislau Martin-Neto, Irina Perminova, Michael Spiteller, Roger S. Swift

Participants: registered: 348 (323, 25 accompanying pers. (AP)), attended: 297 (275, 22 AP)

Countries:	42	37
Oral presentations (total):	47	46
Keynote lectures:	8	8
Poster presentations (total):	231	195
3 min oral poster presentations:	24	23

- Contributions were reviewed by the scientific committee
- ~ 50 % IHSS members, ~35 % students

Countries, 37 Participants, 275

Australia	6	Hungary	10	Portugal	3
Austria	1	India	1	Russia	15
Belgium	2	Ireland	5	Slovakia	1
Brazil	20	Israel	4	Spain	10
Bulgaria	4	Italy	16	Sweden	2
Canada	1	Japan	10	Switzerland	3
Chile	1	Kyrgyzstan	3	Taiwan	1
Czech Republic	5	Latvia	2	The Netherlands	2
Estonia	3	Lithuania	1	Turkey	1
Finland	4	Morocco	3	United Kingdom	10
France	14	Nigeria	1	USA	24
Germany	64	Norway	6		
Greece	2	Poland	14		



13th IHSS meeting, Karlsruhe, 2006

Gudrun Abbt-Braun

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The new Board of Directors of IHSS held several meetings during the 13th IHSS Conference at Karlsruhe, Germany. The Board discussed several pending issues and examined new ones. A brief summary of which is given hereafter.

Paul Bloom congratulated the Past President, Maria de Nobili and thanked her on behalf of the Board for her excellent work, activities and initiative taken in promoting the society issues over the past two years, as President of IHSS. The President also thanked Yona Chen, former Past President and Ladislau Martin-Neto, former Board Member, for their excellent service to the society and the Board. They were honored during the Conference Dinner with a gift on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Gudrun Abbt-Braun

IHSS ASSEMBLY

The general assembly of IHSS took place on August 3rd. Paul Bloom presented the President's report on societal issues, which was followed by reports of the Secretary (Gudrun Abbt Braun) the Treasurer (Ed Clapp), and the Past President (Maria de Nobili).

The IHSS membership and Board officially thanked Fritz Frimmel, Gudrun Abbt-Braun and the Karlsruhe group and expressed their gratitude to the whole organizing committee for their effort and sincerity in organizing the 13th IHSS conference. The President announced to the assembly that the Commonwealth of Independent States Chapter, chairperson Irina Perminova, will host the 14th IHSS conference in Russia in 2008.

Other announcements made during the assembly were:

Training Bursaries:

Starting from 2005 the IHSS supported a limited number of training bursaries. The first bursaries were already awarded and the students have completed their studies in the host institutes. The young scientist awarded are listed in the following table:

Name	Institution	Host Supervisor	Host Institution
Corrado Giampietro	University of Bologna (Italy)	C. Richard	Blaise Pascal University, France
Kristiana Ina	Curtin University (Australia)	J.P. Croue	University of Poitiers, France
Najat Khalil	Rabat University (Morocco)	M. De Nobili	Udine University, Italy
Said-Pullicino Daniel	University of Perugia (Italy)	G. Guggenberger	Martin Luther University, Germany
Song Guixue	University of Limerick (Ireland)	A.J. Simpson	University of Toronto, Canada
Zmora-Nahum Sharon	Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)	B. Marschner	Ruhr University, Germany

The call for Training Bursaries 2007 is open. For further details see page 9 in this newsletter or have a look on the IHSS webpage (further details: aim of IHSS training bursaries, eligibility guidelines, how to apply).

Abstract from the Secretary's report:

The secretary, Gudrun Abbt Braun gave her report about the membership situation in the last 4 years and its distribution around the world:

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Members, total	928	873	883	898	917	950
Members in National Chapters	899	831	832	855	875	896
Members in RoW-Chapter	29	42	51	43	42	54
Countries, total		53	53	56	55	59
Countries with National Chapters		31	31	35	28	26
Countries in RoW Chapter		22	22	21	20	21

Members that had not paid membership fees for more than three consecutive years were cancelled from the membership list.

Financial Report:

The Treasurer presented to the assembly his report along with a detailed description of actual balances, income, etc from the year 2004, 2005, and 2006 (up to now). IHSS is in good standing as far as membership, finances and collection activities are concerned.

Standard and Reference Collection:

Paul Bloom, President and Chairman of the Collection Committee presented a detailed report concerning annual HS sales for year 2005 and a partial report on year 2006 sales, updated to July 2006. Provisions for the rest of the year were also given.

Support to National Chapter meetings:

Each national meeting organizer will receive financial support by the IHSS (about US \$ 800), to invite a renowned scientist to participate in the national event. At least 25 participants from the

local country should be present and the Society should also have the option of discussing the scientific program of the event. For further details see guidelines on the IHSS webpage

New bylaws:

The President and the former Past President Yona Chen submitted a revised version of the bylaws to the members and commented on the need for the revision of the existing bylaws. The revised version will be sent to the members of the society within the next weeks for further comments.

The ballots for the elections will be sent in January, 2007. The deadline for return will be the end of April, 2007.

Gudrun Abbt-Braun

MALCOLM AWARD AND TRAVEL BURSARIES 2006

Noel Palmer, USA received the Malcolm award during a small ceremony held at the conference dinner. Nine other students were presented with a certificate and a cheque.



James Cooke, *UK*, Gilboa Arye, *Israel*, Khalid Anwer, *India*, Paul Bloom, Karpouk Leonid, *Russia*, Ursula Rodríguez, *Brazil*, Ed Clapp, Taketoshi Kusakabe, *Japan*, Gudrun Abbt-Braun, Tiphaine Weber, *France*, (from left to right), Noel Palmer, *USA* (in front), not on the picture: Yaron Drori, *Israel*, Andrea Majzik, *Hungary*.

All of them gave either an oral presentation or a short three minute poster presentation of their work during the IHSS 13th meeting.

To our regret Samuel M. Mugo, Canada, who was also a winner of a travel bursary, could not attend the conference.

Awards are based primarily on the quality and originality of the scientific content of the manuscript and the applicant's record of scientific achievement. The IHSS awarded eight travel awards in 2002, and nine travel awards in 2004 including the Malcolm Award respectively. The increased number of awardees is due to an increase both in the number and quality of applications received this year. This is very encouraging, our wish is that these awards may help students to pursue a career in a field in which NOM science is important.

Gudrun Abbt-Braun

IHSS STANDARD AND REFERENCE COLLECTION

I have chosen to continue in my role as Director of the Collection even as I serve as President. I hope I will be able to do justice to both positions.

Since January our treasurer, Ed Clapp, and I have been working with a consulting group, MAP for Non Profits, to update sales record keeping and our accounting system. We are now learning to use Peachtree, a computer program that generates invoices, tracks sales and inventory, and handles the accounting. Since July we have been using the software to track sales even as we continue to enter all of our financial information into the computer. We will continue to employ MAP for a few hours every month to assist us as we learn more about how to use the software.

Last spring we separated our credit card sales processing from the University of Minnesota system, after relying on their assistance for almost 6 years. As part of the effort to tighten credit card security the University decided to cease serving independent organizations like IHSS with card processing. We signed a agreement with a credit card processing vendor and purchased new software.

In response to requests asking about methods for quantitative determination of HA and FA and for standardized methods for preparation of aquatic humic materials I appointed a committee to make recommendations to the Collection Committee and to the Board. The committee consists of Mike Perdue (chair), Ed Huffman and Yona Chen. In addition, I asked the committee to recommend definitions of humic acid, fulvic acid, and natural organic matter that we can put on our website. Our website is very visible yet we don't utilize it to educate people who know little about humic substances.

Last spring we took delivery of 50 grams of Pony lake fulvic acid from Yo Chin and Diane McKnight. This FA was extracted from a lake in Antarctica. We will put this material on sale as soon as we have more characterization data.

Paul Bloom

IHSS BYLAWS

VOTE ON NEW IHSS BYLAWS COMING SOON

Early in 2007 the IHSS membership will be asked to vote on new bylaws to replace the current bylaws. A draft of proposed new bylaws was presented to the membership for discussion at the General Assembly in Karlsruhe in August. This draft was the product of about 9 months of discussion by the Board, which included consultation with a lawyer who specializes in working with NGO's. The draft bylaws were generally well received, but there were some suggestions for changes. After further discussion by the Board most of the General Assembly suggestions were incorporated into the proposed bylaws. Both the old and proposed new bylaws are available for viewing and download at the IHSS website: <http://ihss.gatech.edu/>. To view the proposed new bylaws, please refer to the "What's New" link in the menu on the left side of the homepage. The current bylaws are available by going to the "Organization" link.

The major objectives in writing the new bylaw were to eliminate unnecessary items, especially the provisions in present bylaws that were never implemented, and to simplify. We tried to write new bylaws that will provide the necessary structure for the organization while leaving latitude to change operations as necessary. We determined it would be too difficult to amend the present bylaws, so we chose to start over. Some of the major changes are described below.

ARTICLE II, Membership: Eliminated the Sponsor category, which has never been used. In the proposed bylaws the Board has the power to create new classes of membership when needed. All

members are allowed to vote, including student members. Eliminated the provision on how dues are collected. This is not a reasonable bylaw provision. Defined a new Distinguished Member category to honor service to the Society.

ARTICLE III, Board and Officers: Expanded explanation of the terms of office to clarify when officers are elected. Specified what to do if the Vice President (VP) or Past President (PP) positions are vacant and what happens if both VP and President positions are vacant. Shortened the provisions for termination and made sure they are in compliance with the statutes of the State of Colorado, USA, where we are incorporated.

ARTICLE IV, Board Meetings: Added a provision to allow for conference call meetings. Allowed decisions by consensus.

ARTICLE V, Membership Meetings: Specified that the meetings are both for discussion of the results of recent scientific research and for conducting business in our General Assembly.

ARTICLE VI, Elections: Clarified election procedures and dates. New Board members will be inducted at the International Meeting that follows the election. Specified that the Treasurer will be elected by the Board, not the membership, because of the special requirements of this office. The treasurer must have an interest in overseeing IHSS finances and must work closely with the Director of the Collection.

ARTICLE VII, Committees: Specified the terms of the Nominations Committee members (2 years) with each President appointing 2 new members. Clarified the provision for Presidential appointment of committees.

ARTICLE VIII, National and Regional Chapters. Specified the Coordinator position. This is not in the present bylaws.

ARTICLE XI, Dissolution: Specify that if the IHSS dissolves its assets will go to nonprofit scientific societies. The assets will be split between organizations focusing on water and soil research.

Publications: Eliminated the article on publications. The newsletter will be the only publication specified. IHSS can always create more publications, but this doesn't need to be in the bylaws.

Paul Bloom and Yona Chen

"HOW OLD ARE THE NOM'S IN WATER ?"

Initiated by Ed Tipping at Lancaster Environment Center, we are in progress collecting NOM/Humic isolates from before and during the period with atomic bomb blasts in the atmosphere. This is based on ^{14}C dating and the purpose is to gain more knowledge on the age of the matter.

I, myself, have several samples from 1962 – 1963 and the mid 1980-ies. These were isolated by low-pressure-low- temperature evaporation. The results from the early 1960-ties showed relative low ^{14}C -activity.

This letter is to search for more isolates from the period in question (1960 – 1990).

Do any of you have, or do any of you know about colleges, that might have NOM material isolated from water and that can be useful in our attempts to estimate the age of this material?

PS. The samples should not have been processed in a lab where ^{14}C radiotracer compounds have been used. However, if the owner of the sample is not sure, then we can do a screening test, so that should not stop you.

Please respond back to me:

Egil T. Gjessing

egil.gjessing@kjemi.uio.no

or to Edward Tipping, et@ceh.ac.uk

TRAINING BURSARIES 2007

CALL FOR IHSS TRAINING BURSARIES FOR 2007

Applications are restricted to students and young researchers that are either IHSS members or are working under the supervision of an IHSS member or wish to spend a training period under their supervision of an IHSS member.

They should be sent by e-mail to Maria De Nobili (denobili@uniud.it) and should arrive before the **15th of December 2006**. Proposals must be sent as 1 attachment only, in **Word, rtf** or **pdf**. All margins must be at least 3 cm and headers and footers not less than 2 cm. Font size must be no smaller than 12. Revisions to submitted proposals will not be accepted.

There is **no application form**. Read **carefully** the following guidelines and **comply** with the requirements. The proposal should be precise in terms of scientific objectives, timing and budget. Proposals must be in **English** and must provide the following information:

- **Full name and title of applicant**
- **Proposed dates and location of the training or research period, along with a brief description of the host institution**
- **Letter of invitation from the host institution**
- **Keywords relating to the research topic** (up to 5)
- **Abstract of the proposed research topic** (50-70 words)
- **Summary of the proposed research work or training program** (up to 1000 words)
Explain the scientific background and rationale of the visit as well as its novel aspects. Provide a clear justification of the need for visiting the host institution. Outline the expected benefits of the training and /or outcome of the scientific work.
- **Preliminary program**
Indicate briefly how the research work or training will be structured.
- **Estimated Budget**
Indicate the breakdown for travel, accommodation, meals and any other expenses (in US dollars). Indicate (if applicable) any financial support awarded or foreseen from the hosting institution or from sources other than the IHSS.
- **Brief Curriculum Vitae of applicant**

Successful applicants will be notified by the 15th of February 2007. They will receive a cheque in dollars corresponding to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total amount supported by the IHSS before the beginning of their visit. The remaining will be received after the applicant has sent to the President of IHSS a scientific report visit.

Maria de Nobili

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International Humic Substances Society on the World Wide Web

Visit our home page at:

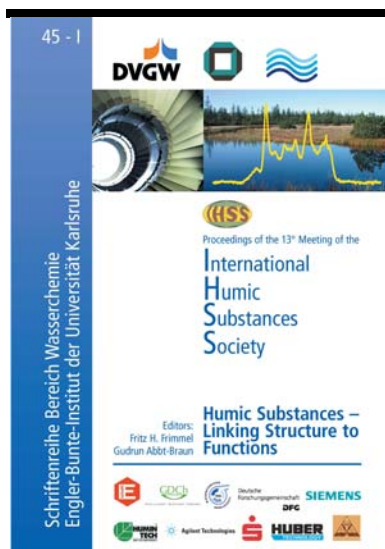
<http://www.ihss.gatech.edu>

Dr. E. M. Perdue coordinates the updating of the IHSS WEB page which is located on the server of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Contributions, suggestions and comments regarding the content and organization of the WEB pages are welcome from all IHSS members.

E-mail: Dr. E. M. Perdue at michael.perdue@eas.gatech.edu.

NEW BOOKS, NEW JOURNALS



Fritz H. Frimmel, Gudrun Abbt-Braun (Eds.):
Humic Substances – Linking Structure to Functions.
Proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the International Humic
Substances Society, July 30 to August 2, 2006, Universität
Karlsruhe, 2006, 492 S. (45-I), 623 S. (45-II), 50,00 Euro. ISSN:
1612-118X.

Order: gudrun.abbt-braun@ebi-wasser.uni-karlsruhe.de

Humic Substances Research, Japans Humic Substances Society

For further information please contact Prof. Shunitz Tanaka, editor in chief

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ANNALS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: NEW OPEN-ACCESS JOURNAL FOR HUMICS LAUNCHED

The new on-line journal Annals of Environmental Science based at Northeastern University, Boston, USA invites original contributions from environmental scientists, broadly defined. Aside from being available free worldwide, the journal operates as a traditional journal with an editorial board (to be announced soon), at least two reviews of each submission and the facility for readers worldwide to print published papers as pdf files.

Robert Wershaw, Geoffrey Davies and Elham Ghabbour direct the journal and coordinate ms. review and editing. Please contact Dr. Ghabbour at e.ghabbour@neu.edu for author guidelines and further information.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

14th International Meeting of IHSS in Moscow – St. Petersburg



Fritz Frimmel and Gudrun Abbt-Braun, head of the organizing and scientific committee of the 13th IHSS meeting, passed the IHSS banner to the organizers of 14th IHSS meeting Irina Perminova.



Announcement

The 14th Meeting of the International Humic Substances Society "**From molecular understanding to innovative applications of humic materials**" will be held on September 14 to 20, 2008 aboard the ship traveling from Moscow to St. Petersburg, Russia.

The opening ceremony and the first keynote lectures will take place in the Aula of Lomonosov Moscow State University. Scientists, engineers, and humate producers are invited to use this conference for intensive discussions of the recent findings in the field of basic and applied research on humic materials. Number of participants is limited to 300 persons due to ship capacity.

Main Topics

- Molecular understanding of humic substances (HS) and natural organic matter (NOM)
- HS and NOM in the environment
- Physical-chemical and biological properties
- Knowledge-based design and advanced separation of humic materials
- Industrial production and innovative applications

Time: September 14-20, 2008

Place: The conference will be held aboard the ship traveling from Moscow to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Contacts: Prof. Irina Perminova, Regional Coordinator of the Chapter
Dr. Natalia Kulikova, Conference Secretariat

E-mail: ihss@org.chem.msu.ru. Tel./Fax: +7(495)939-55-46

Department of Chemistry, Lomonosov Moscow State University
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<http://www.ihss-14.humus.ru>

Nordic-Baltic Chapter Meeting

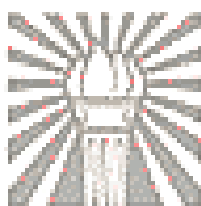
The 11th Nordic-Baltic Symposium "**Functioning of NOM the Environment**" will be held on June 10th to 13th 2007 in Joensuu, Finland.

Contact Information:

University of Joensuu, Dr. Jussi Kukkonen

E-mail: nbihss@joensuu.fi

Webpage: www.joensuu.fi/biologia/ihss



Humic Science & Technology Conference X

You are cordially invited to

HS & T X

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

THE BEST OF THEM ALL!

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA, March 21-23, 2007

PLAN AHEAD!

Abstract Deadline: January 31, 2007

For further information contact Geoffrey Davies and Elham Ghabbour, e.ghabbour@neu.edu

Impressum

Editor: INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY
Newsletter 36

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