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# Peatlands

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SER Oulu 2014: Ecological Restoration and Research in Theory and Practice  
Riga International Peat Technology Symposium attracted peat professionals and scientists  
Viewpoint: Norbert Siebels - General Remarks about the Situation of the Peat and Growing Media Industry  
Development of a Concept between the Peat Industry and the NGO NABU of Lower Saxony  
Gallery of Peatland in Kampar Peninsula and Beyond: Beauties, Challenges, Opportunities  
Peat: an important local fuel to improve regional energy security  
IUCN Peatland Programme & In the Bog, Sheffield 2014  
The surprise of biodiversity in peat extraction areas

# International volunteers researching mire hydrology in the Sarobetsu Mire, Hokkaido, Japan



Hi den ori Takahashi

Japan Peatland Society

The 1st volunteer activity in July 2010 was conducted by 24 persons from local towns and Sapporo city.

**A** local society for mire conservation, the Club Sarobetsu, was established by mire scientists and local people living near the Sarobetsu Mire in 2009. The Sarobetsu Mire, 66.57 km<sup>2</sup> in area, is located along the Sarobetsu River in northern Hokkaido as a part of the Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park. The raised area in the central part of the mire, the core

of the mire, is dominated by *Sphagnum papillosum* and *S. magellanicum*. The western marginal part of the mire, which faces the Sarobetsu River, is dominated by dwarf bamboo, *Sasa senanensis*. There are many bog rills in this marginal area of the mire.

Club Sarobetsu focused on the effects of the bog rills on the hydrological system, especially on the groundwater level in the mire. A quadrat with 50 m by 100 m was set in the marginal area and 66 plastic pipes were inserted into the peat layer for measuring groundwater levels. Volunteers from Indonesia and Japan collaborated in this work. The results of measuring the groundwater level were accumulated in a database and will be used for an analysis of the hydrological system in this area.

The collaboration with the volunteers is conducted once a year, including the winter season. The figures on this page portray the activities in the mire. The 6th volunteer activity is scheduled for 4th and 5th October, 2014.

After attending a short lecture about mire conservation, the volunteers measured the groundwater level in the mire.



Snow is an important water resource for the mire. Indonesian and Japanese volunteers and their children listened to a lecture by a snow scientist



The 2nd volunteer activity in March 2011 was conducted by 26 Indonesians and Japanese, including children from local towns and Sapporo city.



The 3rd volunteer activity in August 2012 was conducted by 24 persons from local towns and Sapporo city.



The children were very interested in the snow profile.



Young Indonesian scientists measuring the groundwater level in the mire.



After field work, the participants enjoyed salad, fruit and ice cream.

