

IAIA

Training and Professional Development Committee (TPDC)

Six months report

This report covers the period from May 2009 to October 2009.

Activities during this period, all of which are based entirely on volunteer work, have progressed unevenly as should be expected.

The present 15 members of the TPDC are:

- Arne Dalfelt, Norway, Chair;
- John Boyle, Canada, Chair-elect
- Wes Fisher, USA, Board Liaison;
- Maya Gabriela Q Villaluz, Philippines
- Ebenezer Appah-Sampong, Ghana
- Olivia Bina, Portugal;
- Ainhoa Gonzalez, Spain;
- Matthew Cashmore; United Kingdom, p.t. Sweden;
- Gene Owens, USA;
- Bobbi Schijf, The Netherlands;
- Lee Wilson, USA;
- Ausra Jurkeviciute, Hungary;
- Lone Kørnøv; Denmark;
- John Fry, Ireland;
- Bridget John, IAIA, USA

The following were the main activities of the TPDC this period:

I) The IAIA'09 TPDC meeting in Accra was held on Thursday May 21st. The main action items on the agenda were as follows:

1. **IAIA certified courses.** IAIA President Nick Taylor referred to a discussion he had with this year's course trainers where certification of courses had been discussed. Such IAIA certification would allow trainers to give IAIA certified courses also outside the limits of the annual IAIA conferences. However, IAIA will only be able to provide certificates based on experience from implemented IAIA courses and attendance, not competence, but such courses may then be provided in different countries by the same trainer(s). In the discussion, the following additional points were made:

Training should basically follow the model of the UNEP manual based training as had recently been done for the Maldives government. This had been organized by IAIA, and the revenue from these courses was split between the trainers and IAIA according to a pre-agreed formula.

The consensus was to accept this in principle, but to start applying the model on a small-scale, providing IAIA certification for existing courses that have been well evaluated. The certification will only be available to members who have a proven track record in IAIA pre-conference training.

In future, additional training courses could be organized by IAIA, for example at the request of corporate members. However, the idea of TPDC/IAIA developing a curriculum of training modules was rejected by the committee..

2. **TPDC membership changes:** "Adding or deleting" members of the TPDC do not follow any formal or structured process with some exception for the chairperson who may need Board approval. At the committee meeting, the following changes were approved, with an expression of appreciation and thanks to outgoing members, and a welcome to joining new members. The changes are as follows: Outgoing

members: Sang Hoon Lee, South Korea; Juan Carlos Garcia de Brigard, Colombia; Jonathan Allotey, Ghana. Incoming members: Ebenezer Appah-Sampong, Ghana; Maya Gabriela Villaluz, Philippines. Internal changes: Wes Fisher becomes the TPDC Board liaison.

Arne Dalfelt intends to step down as TPDC chair at mid-term, and John Boyle will take over as chairperson from that point in time.

3. Review of TPDC mode of operation. TPDC has long since had difficulty in completing actions agreed, although the response for evaluation of training proposals has always been very good. The consensus was that members have no desire to change mode of operation to any significant degree. Activities are based on volunteer work and there is a need to be realistic in ambitions. The conclusion was that Bridget and the chair will do more nagging to keep people on task.

4. New and unusual training course ideas. The local organizers of the next IAIA conference in Geneva (UNEP) indicated that new and innovative training course ideas would be welcome in connection with next years conference. Several ideas was proposed and added to the call for proposals. However, with few exceptions this year's proposals followed a rather standard set of ideas.

6. Review of IAIA CB stipend. The IAIA CB stipends are not structurally funded, and funding sources change from year to year. Networking has proven to be the most important way to find sponsors. However, a system based on individuals seeking support from their governments is not sustainable and the IAIA HQ will continue to look for ways of securing CB stipends through more formal MoUs with donors. It was agreed that new potential supporters should be approached, for example JICA (Japan) may possibly be interested, and Chinese funding might also be an option.

6. The Marrakech action plan included a component on mentoring which was of special interest to the TPDC. Two TPDC members will reinvigorate this agenda item, review options, and get back to the TPDC.

8. United Nations University web-training (and other web based training resources). The training database that is on the IAIA website has been dormant. Two TPDC members will review the website and develop a proposal for updating. They will also review the UNU Wikipedia EIA and SEA, and will eventually propose to TPDC how IAIA could contribute to these web-resources or vice versa.

II) The IAIA'10 training course proposals. Sixteen training course proposals were received this year for IAIA'10 in Geneva. The overall quality of the proposals was very good, and there was considerable consensus in the entire review group as evaluations goes. Eight members of TPDC participated in the review which is a bit less than last year, but was still sufficient for making firm recommendations. Twelve courses were judged by the TPDC to be of sufficient quality to be offered, based on the average score received, while ten of those courses were given priority.

However, the Board approved all the twelve courses for IAIA'10 based on the list of both priority proposals and the borderline cases as recommended by the TPDC members.

The good quality of the proposals also this year is assumed to be the results of the new and much improved guidelines for the proponents as developed by the TPDC in recent years. This also makes it easier to reach a consensus on recommendations to the Board. A separate report was sent to the Board detailing the review work and recommendations given.

The review and evaluation of training course proposals continue to be the main task for the TPDC.

III) International registry of IA professionals. The discussions on this topic went back and forth for a few years with the TPDC involved. However, there were a number of concerns related to IAIA's legal responsibilities and risks involved in a certification scheme or registry, and the Board decided in the end to take this at least temporarily off the agenda and put the proposal on the back-burner.

It was instead decided to prepare a clearer structure for Practitioner and Administrative Standards. John Boyle prepared a draft matrix identifying standards for 3 levels of practitioners (IA practitioner, senior practitioner, lead practitioner), and for 3 levels of administrators, and it was agreed that he would develop those further and send a revised draft matrix to TPDC for feedback. This has now been done, and the draft matrix has been sent to the Board for preliminary discussion at their mid-term meeting in October. It is expected that a final proposal may be submitted to the Board for discussion and decision at IAIA'10.

IV) Changing command. As Arne Dalfelt had requested to be relieved of the chairmanship for the TPDC this year, and since John Boyle from Canada has accepted to take over the chairmanship at mid-term, this will now take effect with John Boyle taking over as TPDC Chair from November 1, 2009.

*Arne Dalfelt
TPDC Chair
07 October 2009*