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From the President ...

Mary Lou Morris

Greetings to all as we welcome the new millennium and undoubtedly new challenges within the very broad reach of environmental assessment. This is also the beginning of the twentieth anniversary year for IAIA. There will be more fanfare in the context of IAIA birthday celebrations over the next twelve months. For now I would like to focus on recent activities of your office-holders and staff.

The mid-term meeting of the Board of Directors was in Szentendre, Hungary, which is located within a half-hour drive from Budapest. Excellent facilities for the occasion were most generously provided by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Following three very full days of deliberations on over 30 topics, with all members of the Board present, we then attended a half-day of discussion with several regional members of the IAIA Affiliate for Central and Eastern Europe and representatives of the REC. The Affiliate is in the early stages of development but already boasts a potential regional membership of approximately 150. Notwithstanding great cultural, language and economic diversity in the

region, prospects for the future of this Affiliate are very promising and IAIA will also establish a continuing relationship with the REC.

Some of the organisational matters of major importance right now are the strategic plan, membership structure, committee functioning, conference events in '01 and '02, language services and long-term income spectrum. Attracting and involving business and industry representatives into IAIA is also a prime focus. In each case, efforts are being directed to strengthening the IAIA operating base to allow continual progress in reaching our goals, increasing membership value and extending the prospects for taking best practice in impact assessment to all parts of the world.

Knowing that all of our activity is directly dependent upon the goodwill and active involvement of members, I would like to take this opportunity at the start of a new historical era to remind every member of the voluntary and not-for-profit nature of IAIA. Our anniversary year would be a most appropriate time to take a quantum leap forward in every way!

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*... it is more important than ever to maintain
our sense of community ...*

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IAIA Capacity Building Program

At the heart of IAIA business is the need and commitment to build up capacity internationally, regionally, and locally. At its June 2000 meeting, held in Hong Kong, the IAIA Board reaffirmed its full commitment to capacity building after reviewing a report on "IAIA – Capacity Building Program" submitted by the Capacity Building Program Task Force of the International Cooperation Committee (ICC).

In response to the need for capacity building, the IAIA International Cooperation Committee set up a task force in 1999 to develop a strategic plan on capacity building. This Task Force consisted of ICC volunteers, including

Markus Eggenberger, Vinod Mathur, Richard Morgan, Parvaiz Naim, Michael Nutter, Asha Rajvanshi, Maya Villaluz, Reinoud Post, and Jules Scholten as the Task Force Advisor.

At its June meeting, the IAIA Board expressed its deep appreciation for the efforts and contributions of the Capacity Building Program Task Force. The Board felt that the suggestions and recommendations are highly valuable, with many insights and stimulating perspectives on the way forward on the future IAIA capacity building program.

Effort had been made to seek sponsorship to support 35 participants from

developing countries or countries in transition to attend IAIA'00 in Hong Kong. Such efforts would continue to be made in the coming years so that more people could benefit from the IAIA annual meetings.

The IAIA Board also agreed to include an optional, separate item in the annual membership fees for members to donate money specifically for capacity building. Such donations would be used only for the capacity building program.

Also, the IAIA Board has committed to follow up the suggestions and recommendations by prioritising the various capacity building initiatives,

operationalising the program, working out the detailed resources implications, and proactively seeking out sponsorship from possible sponsors and donors. The IAIA Board aims to develop win-win packages so that the sponsors, the potential recipients, and IAIA could all benefit from the capacity building program.

If any IAIA member or organisation is interested in contributing to or sponsoring the capacity building program, please contact CEO Rita Hamm (rita@iaia.org).

- *President-Elect Elvis Au, Environmental Protection Department (Hong Kong), and Director Raphael Mwalyosi, Institute of Resource Assessment (Tanzania)*

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The worst ... ever.

Fargo ... was hit by a meteorological event called "training echoes" - sequential thunderstorms that pounded the region.

Bleary-eyed from an overnight fight ... residents were staggered by what they found when the sun rose."

The Forum Special Section: The June 2000 Flood, June 30, 2000

IAIA Receives \$10,000 from Bremer Foundation

IAIA's International Headquarters has received a \$10,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to replace furnishings that were lost in an unprecedented flash flood 19-20 June 2000, while staff were in Hong Kong for the annual conference.

The computers, fax machine, and most printers were rescued before the flood waters reached them, and some file cabinets were salvageable. Everything else was destroyed.

IAIA staff will be moved back into the office in January 2001. For the past six months, staff have been operating from their homes, maintaining service to IAIA members and planning IAIA'01. The grant from Bremer demonstrates local support for IAIA and is most welcome.

The funding will be used to purchase office equipment and furnishings. It will also provide for the reinstallation of telephone lines, computer wiring, and a scanner which will be used to electronically archive IAPA journals.

Established in 1944, the Otto Bremer Foundation's goal is to be a resource to communities in the U.S. states of Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. The Foundation works with non-profit organizations to bring resources to these communities and the people within them. - HQ

Special thanks to IAIA members Alan Porter, Maurie Volland, and Rabel Burdge, who have offered to share their personal libraries of back journals and other publications to help rebuild IAIA's archives and resource materials. (The next time you clean your office, please consider sending in your back issues rather than tossing them!)



IAIA'01 Update

Coming Soon!

Watch your mail for the IAIA'01 Preliminary Program. It will also be posted on the Web site, approximately mid-January.

Appetitizer, Anyone?

Here's just a sample of pre- and post-conference tours and sightseeing opportunities that will be available for those who like to mix business and pleasure by taking advantage of long travels and new friends. Details and registration information will be provided in the preliminary program.

San Andres and Providence Islands. Two hours' flight from Santafe de Bogota, in the midst of the vast ocean... the archipelago of San Andres and Providencia, the scenario of the most fantastic "Adventure Story." It is at a distance of 700 kilometers (480 miles) from the Colombian coast, in the multicolored Caribbean Sea, and surrounded by spectacular coral reefs and crystal-clear waters, ideal for observing underwater fauna. The island is of coral origin and is surrounded by a barrier of white reefs and the sea of incomparable colors. It is a spirited city, full of stores and shops. Its economy is based on tourism and commerce. It was designated a free port in 1953. In contrast, Providencia, which today is presented as secondary when, before, it was historically the center of the Archipelago, is a smaller island, of volcanic origin, full of mountains. This is the ideal place for those who wish to have intimate contact with nature, far from the stress of modern life. You can travel from San Andres to this small island by boat or plane. Visit to Providence Island is optional. (3 days/2 nights)

Amazon River (Leticia). In a relatively rare area, hundreds of species of plant can be observed, as well as varied species of animals and visits to Indian communities, such as the Ticuna tribe, which still preserves its native customs. A ride along the Amazon river is an unforgettable experience: the unsurpassable handicrafts found in the riverside populations, the interior lakes, the river's branches, waking up to the songs of thousands of birds, the exotic fruits and Amazon gastronomy combine to make the trip to the Amazon a source of energy and life for the visitors. The ride along the Amazon river from Leticia to the Amacayacu Park is exciting: two hours long, observing the high, thick vegetation and the mysterious river. From Amacayacu you can go upriver to Nariño Port, a town of narrow, straight streets, with very typical architecture and friendly people. (5 Days/ 4 nights)

City Tour. This tour includes entrance three historic sites of interest: La Popa Convent, the San Felipe Castle, and the San Pedro Claver Church. (3 hours)

Party in a Chiva. Leaving from the hotel in a typical bus called a *Chiva* with a live musical band and bar with national rum. We will be visiting residential neighborhoods along the bay, the beautiful streets of the Old City, and offering snacks and open bar during the trip and a cover drink in one of the city's discotheques. (3 hours)

Snorkeling Tour. Leaving the Rosario Islands aboard a safe and comfortable boat, the most beautiful coral formations and interesting species of fish can be seen in crystal-clear waters with white beaches. (6 hours)

Important Deadlines!

- * **28 February:** Last day for regular registration rates
- * **15 March:** Extended deadline for IAIA'01 paper, poster, and workshop abstract submissions
- * **1 April:** Deadline for registration and payment of fees in order for inclusion of presentation in final program
- * **1 April:** Last day to register for training courses



Silent Auction To Be Held

Thanks to everyone who contacted us about the proposed silent auction for IAIA'01!

Because we received enough interest from those willing to donate items from their countries, we are able to confirm that IAIA will hold its first-ever Silent Auction in Cartagena. Proceeds will be donated to the City of Cartagena to purchase and plant trees.

We hope many more of you will participate in this event, both donating and bidding, so that we will be able to make a sizable gift to Cartagena. And the more who participate, the more fun it will be!

There is still time to contact us for information on how to donate an item.

Look in the October 2000 Newsletter and the upcoming IAIA'01 preliminary program for more details and description of this new event. -HQ



Of Risks, Rights and Negotiated Agreements

The World Commission on Dams launches its landmark report

The Report

The global launch of the much-awaited report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) took place in London on 16 November 2000. The 405-page document entitled *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-making*, saw the light of day two-and-a-half years after the idea of an independent commission on dams was framed at a World Bank/IUCN workshop in Switzerland.

After a first introductory chapter giving the basic statistics on water, development and large dams, the report is divided into two parts: a global review of large dams and a second part entitled *The Way Forward*. The latter comprises four chapters:

- Enhancing human development: rights, risks and negotiated outcomes
- Strategic priorities - a new policy framework for the development of water and energy resources
- Criteria and guidelines: applying the strategic priorities
- Beyond the Commission - an agenda for change

The Commission

"Let no-one say that the World Commission on Dams has not been all-inclusive" were the words with which the WCD chair, Professor Kader Asmal, Minister of Education of the Republic of South Africa, opened the launching ceremony. The all-inclusiveness is reflected in the composition of the Commission itself: academia and private sector, North and South, environmentalists and energy util-

ity managers, consulting engineers and communities displaced by reservoirs - they all had a voice in the Commission and their interests were reflected by the choice of Commissioners, who were designated in their personal capacity. A 68-member Stakeholder Forum served as a sounding board and advisory group through which WCD achieved a reconciliation of positions, interests and opinions previously held to be irreconcilable. Four Regional Consultations, eight in-depth case studies of specific large dam projects, seventeen thematic reviews of social, environmental, economic, financial and institutional issues, and a comprehensive global "cross check" survey of 125 dams provided the evidence on which the Commission based its conclusions and recommendations. Numerous IAIA members provided expertise at various stages of the study and at the meeting in London.

What Is the Way Forward?

Following are excerpts from the second part of the report:

The Commission acknowledges that today's perspective on development reflects the benefit of knowledge that may not have been available to past decision-makers. Nonetheless, it is clear that the positive contribution of large dams to development has, in many cases, been marred by significant social and environmental impacts which are unacceptable when viewed from today's values.

The WCD [...] findings clearly illustrate that development choices made on the basis of [cost and benefit] trade-offs neither capture

the complexity of considerations involved, nor can they adequately reflect the values societies attach to different options in the broader context of sustainable development. The Commission [therefore] proposes that an approach based on "recognition of rights" and "assessment of risks" [...] be developed as a tool for future planning and decision-making.

The Commission encountered considerable experience and good practice in implementing a rights-based approach [...]. It requires a legal and procedural framework that provides for a free and informed negotiating process; the framework must provide for arbitration, recourse and appeal mechanisms ensuring equitable adjudication in cases where negotiated settlements are not achievable. Negotiated agreements become part of the project compliance framework.

The Commission lists seven strategic priorities for an equitable and sustainable development of water and energy resources. All seven strategic priorities are supported by a key message and policy principles. They form the basis of the WCD Criteria and Guidelines presented in chapter 9 of the Report. The criteria refer to critical decision making points: for each point a detailed description of the process and its indicators is presented. This results in a 26-point set of guidelines for good practice under the seven strategic priorities. Each of the 26 points is then elaborated in detail to serve as guidance to project proponents, planners and decision-makers.

Health in the WCD Report

Health is implicit in most parts of the WCD report, whether it is

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through reference to well-being and quality of life, or in discussions of ecosystem health which is a key determinant for human health in many places. Several specific references to health are also made.

Impact Assessment in the WCD Report

Many of the problems of past dam projects identified by the Commission find their origin in the absence of proper impact assessment procedures during the planning phase or inadequate compliance with impact assessment recommendations. The guidelines for good practice aim to change this situation. They take on board current thinking of impact assessment practitioners. The report recommends a comprehensive assessment of the nature and risks implied by a project, including environmental risks, social risks, health risks, impoverishment risks and cultural heritage risks. In this approach socio-economic, demographic and health-benchmark surveys of all adversely affected popu-

lations must be completed and publicly reviewed prior to drafting mitigation, resettlement and development plans.

The Commission recommends Strategic Assessment as a crucial step, because it covers entire sectors, programmes and policies. This facilitates project-oriented impact assessment. The report describes the elements of such an assessment in detail. The impact assessment process should culminate in a series of written agreements with those entities that are required to implement mitigation, development or compensation plans; or respond to impacts. The scope of these agreements must be fully defined prior to tendering for construction.

Conclusion

The report of the World Commission on Dams is a landmark report for all development stakeholders. It pays due attention to the environmental and social aspects of dams, including the health problems associated with their devel-

opment. It provides a roadmap for a leap forward in development planning, through its rights-and-risks concept.

The report deserves a strong endorsement by the relevant UN specialized agencies, most significantly through the ACC sub-committee on Water Resources. It has laid the foundations for a new approach to development in the coming decade, taking the Rio principles beyond their original scope into a more comprehensive and more participatory framework.

If the report meets with broad support from all development stakeholders, then the scene is set for truly sustainable development in the 21st century.

More information can be found at www.dams.org. - Robert Bos, World Health Organization (Geneva)

The WCD report was published by Earthscan Publications Ltd., ©World Commission on Dams 2000. ISBN 1-85383-798-9 (paperback), 1-85383-797-1 (hardback). £20.

Naim Takes Over as News Facilitator

Parvaiz Naim has replaced Clare Brooke as the news facilitator, volunteering his time and talent to help seek contributions from IAIA members and others on the latest developments in IA and to disseminate professional information through the newsletter.

Specifically, Naim will be seeking high-quality professional interest articles and ideas on methodology, legislation, public awareness, and more, both within and outside the IAIA organization, as well as coordinating the regular Affiliate and Who's Who features.

Contact information: Parvaiz Naim, Regional Program Coordinator, Regional Environment Assessment Program, IUCN Asia, P.O. Box 3923, Bakhundole, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal. +977 1 528781 527781 528761 526391 • Fax +977 1 536786 • naim@iucn.wlink.com.np



EO = HQ

Because of regular inquiries regarding the central administration place for IAIA, it is thought best to change the usual designation of "Executive Office" to that of "International Headquarters," but with a more simplified reference of "Headquarters" or "HQ" in postal address and written/spoken references. Initially, small reminder notes will be included in newsletters and other mailouts to indicate that the terms have equal meaning and refer to the global administrative center of IAIA. — Mary Lou Morris



Correction

The e-mail address for Betty Hansen, Chair of the Branches and Affiliates Committee, was misprinted in the October 2000 newsletter. It should have read ecosystem@echo-on.net. - HQ

Newsletter Note

Some survey respondents indicated they would like to see some changes in the materials contained in the newsletter (see story on page 7).

The quality and quantity of material in the newsletter is dependent on the quality and quantity of material submitted!

So ... please send in your articles, information, suggestions, resource sources, photographs, opinion pieces, and ideas today!

You can make the IAIA newsletter the voice of the IA practitioner around the world.



IAIA '02-'07

IAIA has selected The Hague, The Netherlands, as the site for the '02 annual meeting. Plans for an exciting, twist-on-the-usual meeting are already being made, with a focus on using impact assessment for problem solving by decision makers in government and industry. For more information, contact Job van den Berg (job.vandenberg@mi.dhv.nl) or the VVM (Netherlands Association of Environmental Professionals) office (vvm@wxs.nl).

The Conferences Committee is issuing an immediate and open call for interested members to identify potential sites for future meetings. The Committee has identified the following six regions, listed in no specific order, as preferred locations: North America, Australia, French-speaking Northern Africa, Eastern/Southern Europe, the Middle East, and Nordic countries. However, as always, *quality proposals from any part of the world will be considered*. The goal is to set the meeting dates and locations for the next five years as soon as practical.

If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please see the "Guide to Potential Meeting Hosts" on the IAIA website under Annual Meetings, or contact Jennifer Howell at Headquarters (jen@iaia.org) for a copy of this information. It is important that the minimum logistical requirements for a meeting location be met; otherwise, the proposal can not be considered. Inquiries are welcome any time. - HQ

Report from Brazilian Affiliate Meeting:

500 Years of Impacts in Brazil

Under the general theme of "500 Years of Impacts in Brazil," the Brazilian Affiliate held its eighth meeting in the town of Palhoça, Santa Catarina State. Delegates presented 34 papers on issues such as impacts of roads, public participation in impact assessment, ex-post evaluation of resettlement related to the Itá Dam project, and impacts of gas-fired thermal power plants. Keynote speakers lectured on EIA in the Mercosur area, cumulative impacts on vegetation in Santa Catarina State and recent developments in cultural resources protection in Brazil, and other up-to-date subjects.

Following the main theme proposed for the meeting, chosen on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of European settlement in Brazil, many papers dealt with impacts on cultural resources, with a special focus on archaeological resources. For the first time, archaeologists, historians and related professionals met, under the IAIA banner, with impact assessment practitioners to discuss common problems, especially the contribution of these professionals for impact assessment.

The meeting was organized in partnership with the National Institute of Historical Heritage and the Unisul University. Proceedings are being prepared in CD-ROM format. A few copies of the abstracts booklet are still available. For further information, contact Ivan Domingues (iadjr@cruiser.com.br) and Luis Sánchez (lsanchez@usp.br). - Director Luis Sánchez, Escola Politecnica (Brazil)

Survey Results: Good News, Great Ideas!

The results are in! The International Headquarters (HQ) received 59 completed membership feedback surveys. With a membership of approximately 1,100 people, that is a 5% response rate ... not great for drawing conclusions, but we thought you would be interested in the trends so far.

Overall, your responses were positive; you generally like what the organization is doing. Of course, you also had some suggestions for changes and improvements, and we appreciate all of your feedback.

Generally, respondents found the different features of IAIA membership to be valuable. Using a scale of 1 (No Value) to 5 (Great Value), the annual conference, quarterly newsletter, *IAPA*, and web site all received

average ratings between 3.8 and 3.9. IAIA membership as a whole received an average rating of 4.0

Almost one-third (30%) of respondents read over half of *IAPA* each quarter. Nearly half (46%) read 25 to 49 percent of the journal. Suggestions included incorporating some shorter articles or research briefs, technical/business focused articles, and theme-based issues.

Survey respondents attended an average of 2.8 IAIA annual conferences. Respondents were asked the likelihood they would attend an IAIA annual conference event in different regions of the world. North America and Europe were rated the most popular conference destinations; the least popular region was Asia. The Pacific Islands and

Caribbean were write-in candidates, and the North/South Poles were suggested by a few!

Not surprisingly, the most important determinant for conference attendance is funding availability, followed distantly by active participation in the conference and conference location. The date and theme of IAIA's conference had the least impact on deciding whether to attend. Other comments about the annual conference included having more plenary time, less plenary time, more concurrent sessions, and fewer concurrent sessions! Some people wanted more structure, while some suggested incorporating more Indaba sessions for less formality.

Over half the respondents indicated that the newsletter is fine as it is now. Still, many suggested changes they'd

like to see made. Adding professional resource links to the newsletter was requested by 35 percent of the respondents. The next most requested items were listing related professional events (28%) and coverage of all facets of impact assessment (27%). Additional comments related to adding more information ranging from news, light technical articles, and commentaries to employment opportunities.

IAIA members appear to approve of the website, rating the IAIA home page at 4.2 on a 5-point scale with 5 being Very Helpful. The conference information and professional links components of the site were rated the most helpful at 4.3 each. Suggestions for improvements included adding more resources and links.

Thanks to those of you who took the time to provide feedback through this survey. It is good to see that you generally consider your IAIA membership to be valuable and that you appreciate the benefits and resources IAIA offers. You also offered many good suggestions, which will be evaluated in terms of available resources and compatibility with the many facets of IAIA's strategic plan so that IAIA can make every possible effort to meet your needs better! - HQ

(Continued from page 1)

So, please pay your dues on time, but of equal importance, please also take an active hand in the success of your organisation:

- by regularly inviting colleagues to join
- by voting for the officers and directors to lead this organization
- by encouraging student practitioners to begin their professional environmental careers with early access to excellent global networks
- by motivating fellow members to seek specific roles in committees, sections or other parts of the IAIA international structure
- by taking the time and effort to attend the annual conference event and strongly urging others to do likewise
- by letting the always receptive and highly committed staff of the Executive Office (International Headquarters-HQ) know of your interest, ideas and contacts for various projects and programs of IAIA.

It is hard to believe that 2001 has arrived and even more difficult to explain what happened to the past year, in my experience surely one of the fastest. As the pace of living seems to increase markedly at every turn, it is more important than ever to maintain our sense of community. Thus, my very best wishes to each and every member of IAIA for a new year that brings a renewed connection to the total environment of your locality, your region and the global context in which we all must exist.

I look forward to the communication, the challenges and the opportunities we will share during the coming months. - MLM

Welcome ... Welcome Back!

New and renewed members, 16 September–15 December 2000

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Catherine Searle, AUSTRALIA; Kai Schmidt-Soltau, CAMEROON; Ryerson Christie, CANADA; J. Trent Hreno, CANADA; Patricia Fitzpatrick, CANADA; Philippe Reicher, CANADA; Aurel Cecu, CANADA; Dorthy Lele, CANADA; Derrick Blay, CANADA; Hernan Blanco, CHILE; Diego Bravo, COLOMBIA; Gary Haq, ENGLAND-UK; Chan Shek "Conan" Lun, HONG KONG; Sin Pang Lau, HONG KONG; Kamran Mazhari, IRAN; Bounmy Souksavath & Somsanouk Vongsomphou, LAOS; Thongphet Douangneun & Vilaphorn Visaounn, LAOS; Soukata Vichith & Ounheuan Phommavixay, LAOS; Chantho Milattanpheang & Voradeth Phonekhe, LAOS; Rachel Portelli, MALTA; Peter Hartley, NEW ZEALAND; Ineke Steinhauer, THE NETHERLANDS; Melanie Wong, USA; Tracy Briggs, USA; Rene Serrano, USA; Mike Henderson, USA; Patricia Betts, USA; Paul W. Sage, USA; Kathi R. Kitner, USA; Luis E. Carrasco, USA. **INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS:** Hydro-Quebec, CANADA; Planning Authority, MALTA.

IAIA CALENDAR

January

10 Ballots for '01-'02 election, newsletter mailed

Mid-January

IAIA'01 preliminary program mailed, posted on web site

February

28 Last day to pay regular registration rates for IAIA'01

March

1 '01-'02 committee assignments made

15 Ballots for the '01-'02 election tabulated, new officers announced

15 Newsletter articles due

15 Extended deadline for IAIA'01 abstract submissions (see web site and/or preliminary program for submission information)

April

1 Deadline for registration and payment of registration fee in order for presentation to be included in the IAIA'01 final program

1 Last day to register for IAIA'01 training courses

1 Newsletter, IAIA'01 update mailed

15 Affiliate, Branch, Committee and Liaison annual reports due

15 Action items for Board and AGM meetings due



One finger cannot lift a pebble.

Hopi proverb.

The Hopi language belongs to the Uto-Aztecan branch of the Pueblo, the name given by the Spanish to the sedentary Native Americans who lived in stone or adobe communal houses in what is now the southwestern United States. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: April 2001

Submissions due: 15 March 2001

Articles should be a maximum of 500 words and of interest to a majority of IAIA members. Send to Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to the HQ. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

