

Newsletter

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Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Pioneering International Collaboration on SEA Distance Learning Course for China

IAIA collaborated with World Bank and China's State EPA on a major distance learning course on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), which is the first of its kind in the world. Twelve IAIA SEA experts took part in this distance learning course.

This international collaboration initiative on SEA training to assist China in implementing the new PRC EIA law originated from an informal international roundtable convened by the IAIA Past President, Elvis Au, in Hong Kong in December 2002. The IAIA SEA expert team is jointly led by two IAIA Past Presidents, Elvis Au and Maria Partidario. Other IAIA SEA experts involved include John Bailey, Simon Marsden, Ralf Aschemann, Thomas Fischer, Jiri Dusik, David Annandale, Chris Fry, Stuart Heather-Clark, Rob Verheem and Jon Hobbs. Rita Hamm is the project manager for IAIA.

This distance learning course comprises video and slide presentations by experts from World Bank, IAIA, mainland China and Hong Kong, together with in-country training courses to be held in China.

The first Train-the-Trainers Course on SEA in China was held by the World Bank and China's State EPA, in collaboration with IAIA, from 22 to 24

March 2004 in Beijing, China.

IAIA was represented by Elvis Au and Maria Partidario to deliver part of the SEA training course in conjunction with World Bank and mainland China experts. That Train-the-Trainers course was very well attended and over-subscribed. About 100 senior EIA professionals and officials from more than 22 major cities and provinces in China attended the course.

Two more training courses will be held in June and July. The SEA distance learning course materials and presentations can be found at www.worldbank.org/wbi/sdenveconomics/sea/materials.html. Some of the course materials are generic and can be used in other countries.

• Elvis Au, elvis_au@hk.super.net and Maria Partidario, mp@fct.unl.pt



SEA and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners

Guidance on SEA and biodiversity has been launched by a group of UK organisations, aiming to help ensure that biodiversity considerations are appropriately addressed in SEAs. Intended to complement more generic SEA guidance, it should assist practitioners in a wide range of sectors.

The guidance focuses primarily on supporting implementation of the European SEA directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) in the UK, but will likely be of interest to practitioners in other European countries as well. Biodiversity is an important aspect of the environment that must be considered in SEAs; many plans and programmes will have potentially significant effects on biodiversity, and the Directive expressly requires its consideration. Biodiversity-inclusive SEA is also required by Article 14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(continued on page 5)

Left: Maria Partidario and Elvis Au, SEA expert team co-leaders.

More professional news ... see pages 5-6

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■ ■ ■ IAIA'04 Yearbook

We know IAIA'04 broke the record for attendance at an annual conference. So exactly how many delegates were there? How many from your country?

See the October 2004 newsletter for the answer!

IAIA'04 Canada, held in Vancouver, proved to be the largest IAIA conference in history. With a final tally of over 800 participants from more than 70 countries around the globe, IAIA'04 was an undisputed success. Thanks to the contribution of over one-third of the participants to the Conifer Challenge, this conference was also a carbon neutral event.

From the opening reception in the Great Hall of the British Columbia Law Courts to the closing banquet where we were entertained with music from across Canada and a few songs from our own EA

practitioner's band, "The Impact," the conference week was a fun and action-packed event.

More importantly, however, IAIA'04 provided ample opportunities for participants to come away with valuable knowledge, experience and contacts. The conference involved seven technical visits, several training courses, special events such as the World Bank Group Day, opening and closing plenary sessions, nine theme forum sessions, about 100 concurrent sessions, a poster session (more than 40 posters) and practitioners' forum sessions. The major innovation for IAIA'04 was the use of theme forums. Generally

viewed as a success, the theme forums were intended to demonstrate integration of various aspects of impact assessment in a particular industrial sector. In fact, the theme forum on fisheries, agriculture and forestry has generated a proposal for a new IAIA Section related to these issues.

The theme forums and concurrent sessions were well attended and led to numerous hallway discussions long after their conclusion. Our thanks to the Canadian IAIA affiliates and to the many volunteers for their hard work in creating such an excellent conference.

• Stan Holman, Conference Coordinator



Left column, top to bottom: Opening plenary speakers. Chief Ian Campbell, Hereditary Chief of the Squamish Nation, delivers a traditional welcome. The Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Government of British Columbia; Robert Connelly, Acting President of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; and Richard Morgan, IAIA President, give keynote speeches.

Above, left to right: Nabil Ktaily (UAE), Hussien Al Gunaid (Yemen), Helda Ishaq (Syria), Suzan Al-jjawi (Bahrain) and Ahmed Abul-Azm (Egypt) represent a growing contingency of delegates from Arab nations.

Below, clockwise from top left: Peter Offu (left) and Oritsetimeyin Dada discuss a poster topic. Jaafar Boulejiouch makes a point. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police ensure all is in order at a plenary session! Isayani Naicker (left) and Sachihiko Harashina enjoy the beautiful weather. • Photos courtesy of Stephen Granger.



IAIA Board of Directors Annual Meeting 2004 – Highlights from Vancouver

The IAIA 2004-05 Board of Directors met in Vancouver on April 30 and May 1, following the Association's annual meeting and conference. The BoD meeting focused on the status of various components of the Association's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), as well a number of other issues. Just a few of the SAP issues that were given considerable attention at the meeting, and which continue to be of importance, include:

- the need to continue working on the Association's goal of fostering contacts worldwide
- the continuation of the development of a recruitment and retention strategy for the Association
- consideration of a proposal submitted to the BoD from the Training and Professional Development Committee (TPDC) which discussed the training course and professional development solicitation process, training outside of IAIA conferences, and training as outreach/capacity building, as well as mentoring opportunities
- the Marrakech Action Plan (the capacity building program which was discussed at the Vancouver conference)
- continued discussion surrounding the development of a policy for multilingualism for IAIA.

For further details on these and other items that were discussed, you can view the minutes of the BoD meeting, which will be posted on the IAIA web site in the near future.

For more information on the Strategic Action Plan specifically, please contact IAIA HQ (bridget@iaia.org).

• Jill Baker • IAIA Director-Secretary • jill.baker@sympatico.ca

Call for Conference Hosts

Are you interested in hosting a future IAIA annual conference in your country? The Board evaluates many factors including the geographic location of recent conferences, proposed conference theme in relation to the IAIA mission, vision and values, as well as the quality of the proposal and potential financial outcome. IAIA is happy to receive proposals at any time; however, the final decision about where to hold a conference rests with the IAIA Board of Directors. Contact Rita Hamm at IAIA Headquarters (rita@iaia.org) to express your interest and to receive a copy of the Guide to Hosts and other valuable information for putting together an effective proposal.

SIA Listserv: Check Your Status or Join Today!

At the recent IAIA'04 conference in Vancouver, SIA Section members agreed that it would be timely to update the SIA listserv. If you believe you are registered on IAIA's SIA listserv but are not absolutely certain of this, please contact member liaison Ana Hallstrom (info@iaia.org) at Headquarters. To join the SIA listserv, follow the instructions at www.iaia.org > Members > Training, Professional Resources, Networking > Listserv Discussion Groups. • James Baines

Welcome! New IAIA Members 15 March 2004 - 15 June 2004

Kulsum Ahmed, USA; Ali Albayrak, Turkey; John Alexis, Canada; Hussien Alawi Al-gunaid, Yemen; Jonathan A. Allotey, Ghana; Mary Altalo, USA; Marc Arpin, Canada; Christine Asare, Ghana; Alastair Baglee, England-UK; Ken Baker, Canada; Chris Barlow, Canada; Janet Bauman, Canada; Tim Bekhuys, Canada; Bette Beswick, Canada; Maya Bevan, Canada; Alison Blacklock, New Zealand; Marie-France Blain, Canada; Jean Blanc, Canada; John Bones, Canada; Sibi Bonfils, Canada; Sue Bonnyman, Canada; Olena Borysova, Ukraine; Michael Boyd, Canada; Gerard Brady, Japan; Richard Braithwaite, Trinidad & Tobago; Anders Breboel, Denmark; Lucy Brooksbank, England-UK; Susan Francis Brownlie, South Africa; Frederick Brusberg, Canada; Angela Buckingham, Canada; Victor Bullen, USA; David Burdick, England-UK; Ferenc Burger, Hungary; Steve Burgess, Canada; Cherie Burns, Canada; Andrew Buroni, England-UK; Alan Calder, Canada; Christy Campbell, Canada; Susan M. Carlick, Canada; Carmen Cecilia Castillo, Venezuela; Mauricio Castro-Salazar, Costa Rica; Jonathan Chaplan, Canada; Fiona Chung Hanh Cheung, Hong Kong; Ian Church, Canada; Joy Constant, Canada; Henry Correa, Colombia; David Cox, Hong Kong; Raymond Crook, Canada; Ron Cruikshank, Canada; Brian Daly, Ireland; Alison Dalziel, New Zealand; Edina Danesok Foris, Hungary; John Dauvergne, Canada; Jacinthe David, Canada; Todd Davis, USA; Mark Davy, Canada; Billy Day, Canada; Claude Delisle, Canada; Ludwig Desjardins, Canada; Emmanuel D'ieteren, Belgium; David Diplock, Canada; Ramani Ratnamala Ellepola, Sri Lanka; Dave Elliott, Canada; Gary Epp, Canada; John Esson, USA; Margaret Fairbairn, Canada; Herbert Felix, Canada; Brian Ferguson, Canada; Lorene Flaming & Andrew Watson, USA; Derek Fraser, Canada; James Fremming, USA; John C. Furry, USA; Sheila Gariepy, Canada; Jack Gibson, Canada; Ginger Gibson, Canada; Jan Gilbreath, USA; M. Glassman, Canada; Lorne Greig, Canada; Rory Grewar, Canada; Derek Griffin, Canada; Robert Griffin, Ireland; John Zane Gully, Canada; Hugrun Gunnarsdottir, Iceland; John Hale, USA; David Hardy, Canada; Harry Heister, Mexico; Maureen Hill, Canada; Reidar Hindrum, Nepal; Hildur Hrolfsdottir, Iceland; Cindy Hubbard, Canada; Mary Hunt, Canada; Peter Hunt, Canada; Nana Janashia, Georgia; Jeff Johansen, Canada; Veronica Johansson, Sweden; Martha Johnson, Canada; Martha Johnson, Canada; Martha Johnson, Canada; Leslie Johnston, USA; Ricardo Juarez, Mexico; Biren Juttun, Canada; Mohan Bahadur Karki, Nepal; Haroon Essop Karodia, South Africa; Ruth Kelly, Australia; Csaba Kiss, Hungary; Cecilia Kjellander, Sweden; Martin Klukas, Canada; Frank Kotchea, Canada; Steven Kraft, USA; Dennis Krochak, Canada; Ryan Kustra, Canada; Ross Lashbrook, Canada; Larry Lechner, Canada; Larry Ledrew, Canada; Marcel Leduc, Canada; Jane Lister, Canada; Paul Lochner, South Africa; Maria Soledad Diaz Lopez, Mexico; Dave Lucas, South Africa; Magnus MacFarlane, England-UK; Letha MacLachlan, Canada; David Marshall, Canada; Bruce Mattock, Canada; Celso Alleluia Mauro, Brazil; George McKay, Canada; Angeles Mendoza Duran, Canada; Roberto Mezzalama, Canada; Monica Micek, Canada; Rachel Miller & Stephen Buskie, New Zealand; Jacques Mine, France; William Lembi Mngoma, South Africa; Bert Moar, Canada; Dave Munday, Canada; Felicidade Nazare Munguambe, Mozambique; Carol Murray, Canada; Nader Najmi, Iran; Hirohiko Nishikubo, Japan; Harald Noreik, Norway; Patrick O'Brien, USA; Graham O'Brien, Canada; Christie O'Brien, USA; Peter Paneak, Canada; Lilian Pederson, USA; Johnny Peters, Canada; John Petterson, USA; David Pierce, USA; Paulo Pinho, Portugal; Geraldine Pope, Canada; Timothy Powers, Canada; Kathy Preston, Canada; Martin Quijano, Mexico; Anna Radnai, Hungary; Syed Masiur Rahman, Saudi Arabia; Ronald Rathburn, USA; Gretel Aguilar Rojas, Costa Rica; Carlos A. Saizar Carnevali, Uruguay; Mario Salomone, Italy; Jeff Sansom, Canada; Terry Sargeant, Canada; Susana Serra, Portugal; Sean Sharpe, Canada; Nicolas Shuku Onemba, Congo, Dem Rep of The; Daniel Slunge, Sweden; Karen Smith, Canada; Graham Smith, Canada; Nadine Smith, England-UK; Martin Smutny, Czech Republic; Rob Southwick, USA; Claude St. Pierre, France; Arlene Suski, Canada; Lisa Sutherland, Canada; Catherine Sutton, France; Philip Tagoe, Ghana; Roslan Taha, Malaysia; R. Tailleux, Canada; Walter Tamukong, Denmark; Matthew Tanoush, Canada; Ron Tessolini, Canada; Deependra Bickram Thapa, Nepal; Marie France Therrian, Canada; Katherine Thiesenhausen, Canada; Napoleon M. Tiapo, USA; Alessandra Tiribocchi, Uruguay; Shih-liang Tu, Philippines; Robert Turland, Canada; Batu Krishna Uprety, Nepal; Paola M. Van Houten, Spain; Robert Vance, Canada; Paul Vanderlaan, Canada; Kevan VanVelzen, Canada; Jean Philippe Waabub, Canada; Rob Walker, Canada; Catherine Watson, Canada; Rob West, England-UK; Maurice Williamson, USA; David Wilson, Canada; Malcolm Winsby, Canada; Matthias Wismar, Belgium; Jennifer Woodland, Canada; Rochelle Woodley Baker, Australia; Shanshan Yang, England-UK; Noriyoshi Yokoo, Japan; Todd Zimmerling, Canada



Celebrate the Spirit! IAIA's 25th Anniversary 1980-2005

IAIA Milestones #2 Did you know...

In 1982, IAIA's first annual conference was held, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. IAIA membership topped 300 and represented 23 nations. IAIA achieved tax-exempt status in the USA.

1985: The first annual conference outside of North America and the first sponsored solely by IAIA was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

1987: A European Chapter of IAIA was formed; IAIA elected its first female president.

1988: IAIA membership reached 500 and represented 45 nations. Non-Government Organization (NGO) status was registered with the United Nations.

1989: IAIA's first Executive Director, Maurice Voland, appointed; based in Belhaven, North Carolina, USA.



■ ■ ■ CBBIA Update

CBBIA-IAIA Organizes Pre-meeting in Vancouver, Canada

A pre-meeting of the Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA-IAIA) program was held 23-24 April 2004 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in advance of the 24th Annual Conference of IAIA. The purpose of the meeting was to explore needs and opportunities as well as identify potential activities and partners in CBBIA-IAIA participating regions and countries.

The CBBIA-IAIA is a targeted capacity building program to promote good practice in biodiversity and impact assessment in developing countries. In this respect, the Vancouver meeting brought together about 25 participants from developing countries in different blocks of the world. Delegates were drawn from Costa Rica and Venezuela in Central America; Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Southeast Asia; Turkey, Yemen and Lebanon in the Middle East; Morocco and Tunisia in North

Africa; Ghana in West Africa; Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa; and Mozambique and South Africa in Southern Africa. The invited delegates were all professionals or involved otherwise with biodiversity and impact assessment issues in their respective countries and regions.

Also participating in the meeting were representatives from the following IAIA partner institutions: the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Environmental Program



(UNEP/GEF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (NCEIA), and the South African Institute of Environmental Assessment (SAIEA). The representatives of these partner institutions gave presentations that preceded and set the context for delegates' presentations.

Early in the deliberations, participants were welcomed by the President of the IAIA Board of Directors, Dr. Richard Morgan, who gave a brief background of the CBBIA-IAIA, and underscored the expectations of the program in the forthcoming years. The moderation of the entire meeting was ensured by Dr. Jo Treweek, the CBBIA-IAIA Technical Program Manager. It was all business with participant presentations and group working sessions. Delegates gave brief presentations on the key issues relating to biodiversity and impact assessment in their respective countries and regions such as the status of relevant legislation, examples of effective integration, and a summary of strengths and weaknesses. The group discussions that followed mostly focused on needs for capacity building, support and guidance, as well as possibilities or recommended areas for CBBIA-IAIA involvement in the respective countries and regions.

Delegates also took part in several core sessions of the main IAIA conference from 25-30 June, notably the biodiversity-related sessions. An exclusive closing session with all delegates was held on 22 April to recapitulate the experiences and lessons learned, and to chart the way forward post-Vancouver 2004. Southern Africa, South/South East Asia and Central America were confirmed as key regions for start-up activities. A start-up meeting was confirmed in Southern Africa in September 2004, to be set up in partnership with the SAIEA. Activities in other regions are to be prioritized, with a call for proposals and applications for "small grants" expected to be issued in July 2004.

The delegates left Vancouver determined to be flag-bearers of the CBBIA-IAIA program in their respective regions, and to be part of a core group of a worldwide network of professionals with interest and expertise in biodiversity and impact assessment. Delegates had the opportunity to tour the beautiful city of Vancouver and all look forward to the next joint meeting in June 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA where expectedly more delegates would be invited, and there would be realizations to showcase. • Napoleon M. Tiapo, Program Administrator, CBBIA-IAIA

Back row, left to right:

Batu K. Uprety, Nepal

Boulejiouch Jaafar, Morocco

Mauricio Castro, Costa Rica

Nick Davidson, Ramsar, Geneva

David Duthie, UNEP/GEF, Kenya

Jonathan Allotey, Ghana

Yaw Amoyaw-Osei, Ghana

Middle row, left to right:

Ramani Ellepola, Sri Lanka

Leyli Bektashi, University of

Manchester, UK

Abdulrahman Issa, IUCN, Tunisia

Grethel A. Rojas (Costa Rica)

Helen Byron, CBBIA Steering

Committee Chair, UK

Susie Brownlie, South Africa

Felicidade N. Mongombe Salgado,

Mozambique

Elisabeth Olivier, South Africa

Nana Janashia, Georgia

Hussien Al-Gunied, Yemen

Rachid Nafti, Tunisia

Peter Croal, SAIEA, Namibia

Renee Afoom, Canada

Front row, left to right:

Robert Hoft, CBD, Montreal

Isayvani Naicker, South Africa

Roel Slootweg, NCEIA, The

Netherlands

Asha Rajvanshi, India

Jo Treweek, CBBIA Technical

Program Manager, UK

Susan Al-Ajjawi, Humphrey Fellow,

Bahrain

Arend Kolhoff, NCEIA, The

Netherlands

Helda Ishaq, Humphrey Fellow,

Syria

Nikhat Sattar, IUCN, Pakistan

Progress Towards Meeting the Requirements of the European SEA Directive

Two special issues of the European Environment Journal have been published on the 'progress towards meeting the requirements of the European SEA Directive' (14: 2 + 3; www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jhome/5299). A total number of ten papers discuss aspects of current and anticipated future practice in spatial/land use, transport, waste management and other sector practice in Austria, the UK, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia and Italy. It is concluded that whilst there are a number of challenges ahead, the fact that SEA will usually be able to build upon existing assessment practice will make formalised application more simple. Furthermore, it is found that there are still some barriers to the effective application of SEA. These particularly include methodological and political barriers. • Thomas Fischer • University of Liverpool • Fischer@liv.ac.uk

3-Dimensional EIA Offers a Breakthrough in Public Engagement in Hong Kong

A government EIA circular issued in September 2003 encourages all government works departments to apply a continuous public involvement (CPI) process in major development projects in Hong Kong. CPI is a continuous, dynamic and inclusive process to truly involve the public at all stages of development. To support this policy and complement conventional public engagement tools, the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPD) completed a demonstration project on a 3-dimensional EIA engagement tool to facilitate public involvement in March 2004. This tool is supported by a territory wide 3-D noise prediction tool. Experience with this tool was shared at IAIA'04. In May and June, over 400 professionals and officials attended two seminars to share the latest thinking and techniques on continuous public involvement, 3-dimensional EIA and 3-D visualisation techniques for option evaluation. The responses were very encouraging. Some techniques have been successfully applied to projects to facilitate public dialogue on options and designs. If any IAIA member is interested to obtain a CD-Rom copy of such tools and examples, please contact Elvis Au (elvis_au@hk.super.net) or Simon Hui (ymhui@epd.gov.hk). • Elvis Au • Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department • elvis_au@hk.super.net

Watch this space... to learn more about Section update: the Urban Section

Seeking to draw urban government officials to the Association and hence to the conferences, the Urban Section will change its name to "Local/Regional Government Policy Section," with the conference stream by the same name in the preliminary program. Participation in Section events is invited. Contact Markus Eggenberger (markus.eggenberger@sdcc.net).



Left to right: Jiri Dusik, Hussein Abaza, Rita Hamm and Barry Sadler

UNEP Capacity Development Meetings, Korea

The Ministry of Environment of Korea was a co-host for a UNEP-sponsored meeting on Capacity Building for Integrated Policy Design and

Implementation for Sustainable Development, bringing to Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 27-28 March over 170 participants from 48 national government plus several MEAs, UN agencies, academic institutions and other organizations. The aim of the meeting was to improve the effectiveness of capacity building programmes in support of integrated policy design and implementation in developing mutually supportive trade and environment policies. This meeting was preceded by a one-day meeting of the UNEP Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development, of which IAIA is a part, focusing on what each institution contributes to capacity development.

IAIA's Section on Environment and Trade-Related Policies and its multidisciplinary membership offer the NISD/UNEP a credible and flexible resource for future collaborative efforts and meeting venue. • For more information about either meeting, contact Hussein Abaza, Chief, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP, hussain.abaza@unep.ch.

SEA and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners (continued from page 1)

The guidance explains step by step how biodiversity implications can be considered at each stage in SEA, examining links between SEA and other procedures such as sustainability appraisal, "appropriate assessment" under the Habitats Directive, and project EIA. It also provides a "toolkit" of more specific techniques for promoting biodiversity through SEA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners is available free of charge from Ian Smith at English Nature (Ian.Smith@English-Nature.Org.UK). • Helen Byron • Imperial College London • h.byron@imperial.ac.uk

■ ■ ■ Professional News

EIA and Land Use Planning Practice in California

For those who may be interested in EIA and land use planning and policy and practice in California, there are two great websites. First, the State maintains the Land Use Planning Information Network (LUPIN): <http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/>. This website includes information and documents related to planning and impact assessment. It contains a link to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (<http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>), which provides access to all State EIA regulations and case law, as well as EIA documents posted by local agencies. The second primary source is the Association of Environmental Professionals' (AEP) website (www.califaep.org/default.htm). AEP is a California-based organization of EIA practitioners, with about 1100 members throughout the State, and its website provides information on workshops, conferences, a members database, employment opportunities, and its journal, the *Environmental Monitor*. • Richard Grassetti • GECO Environmental Consulting • gecons@aol.com

Proposed Amendment of German EIA Act

On 17 May 2004, the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety published its proposal to amend the German EIA Act, to transpose the requirements of the EU SEA Directive. Currently, formal negotiations are taking place involving the relevant Ministries of the *Laender* (the German provinces) and interest groups. Coordination talks with the other Federal Ministries will follow, prior to the official legislation procedure being started. The proposal can be downloaded at www.bmu.de/files/supg.pdf, currently only in German language. The proposal's Annex 3 provides a list of 16 categories of plans and programs to be assessed according to the SEA procedure. The list covers, for example, certain federal transport plans, waste management plans, land-use plans, landscape plans and forestry framework plans. It is expected that the final Act will be adopted by the German Parliament in late 2004. The *Laender* are also expected to issue their own SEA regulations. • Ralf Aschemann • Austrian Institute for the Development of Environmental Assessment • office@anidea.at

Significance Criteria for SEA

During IAIA 2004 an impromptu session was held on the scope of significance criteria for SEA with about 16 people taking part. The discussions centered on:

- The general issues surrounding significance criteria in SEA
- What criteria should be considered
- How to evaluate significance
- The role of stakeholders in establishing the criteria
- Whether harmonisation of criteria is needed across plans and programmes

The session concluded that there was a need for a set of guiding principles, that stakeholder involvement was necessary and that further debate was required on the extent to which harmonizations was desirable.

Details of the discussions are available as a Powerpoint presentation from www.SEA-Info.net or from Paul Tomlinson (Tomlinson@quista.net). • Paul Tomlinson

Correction

The "SAIEA Environmental Governance Project" article on page 7 of the April 2004 Newsletter noted that "Calabash has established collaborative partnerships with IAIAAsa...". This partnership is an information collaboration not with IAIAAsa, but with IAIA via the Biodiversity and Ecology Section and the CBBIA project.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

"The training opened up my thinking to what is actually possible through communication and public participation. I highly recommend it!" -trainee, government employee

The Perspectives Group is offering the five-day International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Certificate Program in Public Participation.

It is a must for any organization that interacts with the public in making decisions or developing programs!

**May 24-28, 2004 in Saratoga Springs, NY
June 21-25, 2004 in Alexandria, VA
July 12-16, 2004 in Saratoga Springs, NY
September 27-October 1, 2004 in Alexandria, VA**

To register, or for more information please:
Call 703-837-1197 or
Email training@theperspectivesgroup.com or
Visit <http://www.theperspectivesgroup.com/PG/training.html>
to download a registration package.

pg the perspectives group

www.theperspectivesgroup.com

Advertising and sponsorship space is available in the newsletter. Please contact IAIA Headquarters for information.

Mark Your Calendar/Resources ■ ■ ■

German speaking EIA Association. 6-9 October 2004. Potsdam, Germany. The 7th conference of the German speaking EIA Association will revolve around the following main themes: Implementation of the European 'SEA-Directive' in Austria and Germany, Implementation of the Aarhus Convention and of the EU Directives on public participation, Implementation of EIA and SEA in the EU accession countries, and Implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. See more on the conference at www.laum.uni-hannover.de/uvp/conf04/. • Thomas Fischer • fischer@livlac.uk

1st China International Forum on Environmental Impact Assessment. 13-15 December 2004. Bo'ao, Hainan, China. Topics to be addressed: SEA theories, SEA for urban plans, SEA for land-use management/programme, Project EIA. Sponsored by China State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA). For more information, contact Zhou Yun, Director, International Cooperation Department, SEPA, zhouyun@craes.org.cn or Qui, Xin Xin, International Cooperation Department, SEAP, qiuzzz@craes.org.cn, or see the first announcement at www.iaia.org > Calendar.

IAIA'05: Ethics and Quality. 31 May - 3 June 2005. Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. See www.iaia.org > Conference for more information.

International Experience and Perspectives in SEA. 26-30 September 2005. Prague, Czech Republic. A global conference on strategic environmental assessment organized by IAIA and hosted by The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and The Czech University of Agriculture. See www.iaia.org > Conference for more information.

IAIA'04 NEPAD Presentations Available Online

Presentations given during the NEPAD sessions at IAIA'04 are available in PDF format at the public access FTP site <ftp://globe.geo.uqam.ca/> under File > Prof > Waaub_jp > IAIA-04. The presentations are in French.

At this site you will also find papers presented at the ACFAS conference's environmental assessment and sustainable development special two day sessions.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Books on SEA from
Earthscan • James & James

Strategic
Environmental
Assessment
in Action

Riki Therivel

STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT IN
TRANSPORT AND
LAND USE PLANNING

THOMAS B FISCHER

The Practice of
STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT

Riki Therivel and Maria Rosário Paribán

**JAMES
X
JAMES**

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New on the 'net

- IAIA'04 materials and follow-up information
- IAIA'05 training course proposal submission instructions
- Awards nominations information for 2004-2005
- IAIA'05 and SEA-Prague conference first announcements; watch for frequent updates and new information
- Board of Directors listing and bios
- Annual Committee and Section reports (as available)
- Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) page
- New job postings
- And more! Bookmark www.iaia.org today!



**I don't know the key to success,
but the key to failure
is to try to please everybody.**

- Bill Cosby -

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: October 2004

Submission deadline: 1 September Professional News/15 September General News

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions by 1 September to professional practice news co-editors Angus Morrison-Saunders (angus@essun1.murdoch.edu.au) and Richard Fristik (richard.fristik@usace.army.mil), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 500 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to IAIA Headquarters by 15 September. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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July 2004

- 1 Newsletter, IAIA'05 and SEA-Prague Calls for Submissions mailed
- 1 Board nominations due

August 2004

- 15 IAIA'05 training course proposals due
- 15 **Board Nominations Committee sends slate of potential Board candidates to HQ**
- 15 SEA-Prague position papers due
- 15 IAIA'04 session/workshop/special meeting abstracts due

September 2004

- 1 TPDC sends IAIA'05 training course recommendations to HQ/Board
- 1 HQ sends slate of Board candidates to Board
- 1 **Awards nominations due**
- 15 Newsletter articles due
- 15 Midyear reports due
- 15 Board action items due

October 2004

- 1 Newsletter, ballots for Board election, IAIA'05 and SEA-Prague preliminary programs mailed

November 2004

- 15 IAIA'05, SEA-Prague paper and poster abstracts due

December 2004

- 15 Newsletter articles due

January 2005

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 1 Board election ballots tabulated; results announced
- 15 IAIA'05 Early Bird rate ends
- 28 SEA-Prague presenters' deadline

February 2005

- 15 IAIA'05 Student fee waiver deadline

March 2005

- 1 Last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA'05 final program
- 15 IAIA'05 deadlines: Technical visits, training courses, social events, exhibits, Quickpass, mentor program
- 15 Newsletter articles due
- 15 IAIA'05 Regular rate ends

April 2005

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 15 IAIA'05 training course registration deadline

May 2005

- 1 IAIA'05 deadlines: requests for inserts in delegate bags, raffle, hotel conference rates
- 1 Training course instructor agreements due
- 1 Board action items due
- 1 Annual reports due
- 1 Annual General Meeting action items due
- 31 May - 1 June IAIA'05
..... Board meeting

June 2005

- 15 Newsletter articles due

July 2005

- 1 Newsletter, IAIA'06 Call for Submissions mailed

September 2005

- 28-29 . SEA-Prague