

Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Towards an International Framework for Integrated Assessment, Geneva, 21-23 September 2005

National experts and government officials convened to review projects on Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development launched in 2004. The findings from ten country projects - Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Russia, Tanzania and Uganda - examine the links between sound environmental management, poverty reduction and sustainable trade through a specific planning process. Opportunities and challenges in conducting the assessments were identified.

A meeting to launch a process for the development of an international Framework for Integrated Assessment and Planning was also convened. Such a framework would be based on experiences and lessons learned from 28 country studies supported by UNEP since 1997, drawing particularly from the current round of studies. Framework development would include wide consultative and peer review processes, and will be undertaken in close collaboration with UNDP, the World Bank, and the OECD. For more information: http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005IAPSD21_22Sep.php. • Hussein Abaza • UNEP • hussein.abaza@unep.ch



IAIA SEA Prague

IAIA's first thematic meeting, "International experience and perspectives in SEA," was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to the many dedicated and creative topic chairs. Pictured (as available for photo), l-r: Elvis Au, Suphakij Nuntavorakarn, Jos Arts, David LeMaitre, Nick Bonvoison, Jo Treweek, Holger Dalkmann, Michelle Audouin, Marie Hanusch, Aleg Cherp, Olivia Bina, Jiri Dusik (program co-chair), Elsa Joao, Maria Partidario, Ursula Platzter, David Aspinwall, Jenny Pope, Bo Elling, Izabella Teixeira, Barry Sadler (program co-chair), Urszula Rzeszot, Thomas Fischer. See conference wrap-up on page 2. • Photo courtesy of Urszula Rzeszot.

In this issue...

1 Professional News

2 IAIA SEA Prague Highlights

3 General News

4,5 Affiliate & Branch News

5 From the CEO: About Session Formats

6 CBBIA Project Update

UNEP Workshop on Trade Liberalization in the Rice Sector, Geneva, 20 September 2005

The key issues of poverty reduction, food security and biodiversity were discussed at a workshop on six UNEP-supported country studies on Integrated Assessment of Trade Liberalization in the Rice Sector.

The "Rice Projects" were undertaken in China, Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal and Vietnam to analyze the environmental, social and economic impacts of trade liberalization in the rice sector, with special focus on the consequences of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The leaders of the country projects and government officials from the respective countries presented their findings and discussed recommendations and follow-up activities with other governments, international and non-governmental organizations, academia, and environmental/ policy research institutes.

The country studies, a Synthesis Report and the newly published Handbook on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Measures in the Agricultural Sector are available on the UNEP Economic and Trade Branch website at www.unep.ch/etb/index.php.

For further information: www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005IATRrice.php. • Hussein Abaza • UNEP • hussein.abaza@unep.ch

Key messages

On the status of SEA

- *SEA is fast moving and diversifying field* reflected in legal innovations, process developments, new areas of application and take up in developing countries
- *SEA encompasses an extended family of instruments* which have the same aim (integrating environment into policy and plan-making) but vary in provision, scope, staging, elements, etc.
- *Internationally, two key trends stand out:* the entrenchment of EIA-based procedure in the EC Directive on SEA (now being implemented across the 25 member states of the European Union); and the array of SEA-type tools that have evolved within multilateral and bilateral aid agencies in support of policy-based lending and development cooperation
- *Emerging directions include the shift toward a more integrative approach* (sustainability appraisal) which seems to be generally welcomed, provided environmental concerns are not downplayed in the process (some see this as a serious threat)

On the quality of SEA

Despite considerable progress, there are many areas of shortfall remain in SEA practice and, amongst others, a better job needs to be done of:

- *'Walking the talk'* or implementing the SEA process a) in accordance with jurisdiction-specific guidance or b) to meet IAIA or other widely accepted performance criteria
- *Talking the language of decision-making* or becoming policy literate when communicating the results of SEA
- *Adapting the approach* to the context and content of specific proposals so that SEA is fit for purpose (particularly at the policy level)
- *Delivering better outcomes* through objectives-led SEA and systematic follow up, and
- *Remembering why we do SEA* in the first place, which is to safeguard the environment (a vocation that was conspicuous by its absence from much conference discourse)

Source: from author's comments to the closing plenary

Conference in Perspective

From September 26 to 30, approximately 400 delegates gathered in Prague to discuss international experience and perspectives in SEA. The conference venue was the suburban campus of the Czech University of Agriculture. Many delegates stayed in or near to the historic town centre, twenty minutes and 200 years away, and used the local bus system to commute to and from the venue. Some of them might find a metaphor for SEA in Prague's highly efficient public transport: initially daunting with directions in an unfamiliar language; becoming easy to navigate with practice.

Hosted by the University and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC/CEE), this conference represented a new departure for IAIA. First, it was held in addition to the Annual Meeting (Boston, May 2005). Second, it focused exclusively on one particular area of assessment and attempted to address the field in its entirety; the Prague agenda covered five streams¹ and 37 topics plus a well attended pre-conference workshop on SEA in development cooperation. Third, it was intended to be an interactive forum, based on working papers, facilitated discussion to address key issues and a common reporting format.

In keeping with this aim, plenary sessions were confined to the beginning and end of the conference. The opening plenary fell into two parts. The first featured a keynote address on Czech experience in SEA of 'concepts' by the Minister of the Environment (HE Libor Ambrozek), and an overview of SEA development and capacity-building in the CEE region (Marta Szigeti Bonifert, REC Executive Director). The second part focused on macro-scale SEA, drawing on New Zealand and Australian (State of Victoria) experience of public inquiries into major policy issues. As described first hand by the NZ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (Morgan Williams) and the Victoria Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (Ian McPhail), these reviews combine both assessment and audit functions.

For the bulk of the conference, the work was carried out in topic sessions. These varied in their degree of interest to delegates (as reflected in attendance), process dynamics and quality of inputs and insights. All topic organizers were asked to make their sessions interactive and keep them on track (easy to call for, hard to do). Generally, the impression given was of a concerted attempt to do so, although, perhaps inevitably, some fell back on the orthodox approach of presented papers with the attendant traffic of people arriving and leaving. Even so, the level of open discussion appeared to go beyond that normally attained at IAIA conferences and the survey of delegates (now being conducted) should be of interest to organizers of future events.

The final day of the conference was devoted to five sub-plenary sessions facilitated by the respective stream coordinators (Urszula Raszczot, Rob Verheem, Thomas Fischer, Ralf Aschermann and Maria Partidario) and a closing plenary (chaired by Jiri Dusik). Each sub-plenary brought together the topic leaders to report on their individual sessions and to discuss the overall lessons that had emerged. At the closing plenary, the main highlights were then summarized by the stream coordinators, together with the statement on SEA in development cooperation delivered by Linda Ghanime on behalf of the organizing group.² The business of the conference concluded with brief wrap up of the key messages (see box), and it remained only to thank all those who had worked hard to make the conference a success and to invite delegates to reassemble in Stavanger for IAIA 06.

It will take time for the lessons of Prague to be fully digested and disseminated. A considerable body of information on the status and quality of SEA was brought together. First and foremost are the discussion papers, responses and posters delivered at Prague, session profiles compiled by the topic leaders and the summaries prepared by the stream coordinators. Much of this information will be posted on the IAIA website. Second, other materials of interest distributed at the conference can be accessed by those who did not make it to Prague (some examples are referenced below).³ Further publications based on the work of the conference are planned but for now the above reading should be enough for even the most avid SEA enthusiast.

• Barry Sadler, IAIA SEA Prague Program Co-chair

¹ The five streams comprised: SEA legislation and policy, SEA practice in key sectors, linkages with other policy tools, cross cutting issues in SEA practice and improving standards and building capacity.

² The text of the statement can be accessed at www.seataskteam.net public space. The organizing committee comprised Hussein Abaza (UNEP), Kulsum Ahmed (World Bank), Linda Ghanime (UNDP) and Jon Hobbs (UK DFID/OECD/DAC task team on SEA)

³ The materials distributed to delegates included SEA: A Sourcebook and Reference Guide to International Experience (Earthscan); the World Bank report on Integrating Environmental Considerations in Policy Formulation (available on www.worldbank.org/sea); and SEA at the Policy Level, focusing on developments in selected countries and released by the Czech Ministry of the Environment in collaboration with Netherlands VROM, REC and UNECE (now available on the IAIA website)

Eco-Schools Address Rural Issues in South Africa

The WESSA/WWF-SA Eco-Schools Programme is designed to encourage curriculum-based action for a healthy and sustainable environment. It is an internationally recognised award scheme that accredits schools that develop an environmental policy, develop environmentally focussed lesson plans and show evidence of improving their school's environment. Eco-Schools is an international programme active in Europe, Africa, and South America and there are about 10 000 schools registered in 31 countries. The South African national programme is funded by Nampak with regional funding for Limpopo province generously provided by the BOTSOC and De Beers. Currently 660 schools have registered in South Africa and are working towards earning their green flags (125 schools earned green flags in 2004). An important development for the programme has been the support received from the National Department of Education and provincial departments of education, agriculture, health and environmental affairs.

Eco-Schools have initiated many innovative and challenging projects which improve the school's environmental footprint and opens young minds to the concepts associated with sustainable living. These include a variety of projects ranging from planting water-wise indigenous gardens and food crops, monitoring and conservation of water and energy to learning about an area of significant biodiversity. Learners, teachers, parents and community members are all encouraged to get involved in whole-school development and improvement through the Eco-School programme.

Most of the schools being supported in South Africa represent the poorest of the poor

who are reliant on the natural environment for basic necessities of food, fuel, building material, medicines and water. The Eco-Schools framework offers a two-way bridge of knowledge whereby different sectors of society can learn together about how to lessen environmental impact at the school level.

For further information, please contact Cathy Dzerefos (Cell 083-746-2239 or cathy@dzerefos.com) or Fatima Cachalia (Cell 082-897-0579 or iti32080@mweb.co.za).

For further information on the national Eco-Schools programme, contact 033-330-3931 or ecoschools@wessa.org.za.

Further reading: www.eco-schools.org. • Cathy Dzerefos • Eco-School Regional Team

First Public WTO Dispute Hearing Held

On August 2, 2005, for the first time in its ten-year history, the WTO accepted a joint request to open to the public the proceedings of a dispute settlement meeting. The 12-13 September proceedings of the long-standing beef hormones dispute among the EU, US and Canada were broadcast via closed-circuit television to an audience of trade negotiators, non-governmental organization representatives, media, and academics at the WTO in Geneva. On the first day of the hearing, the EU, US, and Canada each emphasized the benefits that increased transparency would bring to other Members that have never participated in a WTO dispute, as well as to the general public's understanding of the WTO and the dispute settlement system. The three parties have long supported the principle of publicizing dispute settlement meetings, provided it is acceptable to all parties involved in the dispute. This decision represents a historic shift in WTO policy. A 14 September meeting among the

disputing parties and the third parties in the case (Australia, Brazil, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway) was closed, as not all of the latter were willing to open the process to the public.

• For additional information, contact Bernice Goldsmith, Concordia University
• bernice@encs.concordia.ca

Second Meeting of the Signatories to the UNECE Protocol on SEA

The meeting took place in Geneva, 25-26 April. It was announced that both Finland and the Czech Republic had ratified the Protocol, with Finland becoming the first Party to the Protocol. Other delegates indicated that they expected their countries to ratify the Protocol soon.

An overview of capacity-building needs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) was presented, as well as a draft capacity-development manual to support implementation of the Protocol. It was agreed that the manual should primarily address application of the Protocol, and that future issues might include practical experience, cooperation, health integration, public participation, and quality issues in relation to the Protocol's implementation.

The next meeting will discuss a proposal for a joint workshop between the Protocol and the Aarhus Convention on public participation in strategic decision-making.

To view the meeting's report see <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/mos.html>. • Nick Bonvoisin • Environmental Assessment Project Manager, Espoo (EIA) Convention Secretariat, Environment and Human Settlements Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE/ENHS
Nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org

Prague Delegates by Country

United Kingdom	53	Ghana	2
Canada	26	India	2
The Netherlands	25	Korea	2
USA	23	Lao PDR	2
Sweden	21	Mexico	2
Brazil	14	Nicaragua	2
Spain	13	Slovakia	2
Belgium	12	Turkey	2
Germany	12	Ukraine	2
Norway	12	Armenia	1
Australia	11	Belarus	1
Czech Republic	11	Chile	1
South Africa	11	China-PRC	1
Japan	10	Colombia	1
Austria	7	Costa Rica	1
Croatia	7	Egypt	1
Hungary	7	Estonia	1
Portugal	6	Ethiopia	1
Republic of Korea	6	Lebanon	1
Georgia	5	Luxembourg	1
Iceland	5	Macedonia	1
Ireland	5	Malawi	1
Poland	5	Malaysia	1
Slovenia	5	Malta	1
Switzerland	5	Moldova	1
Iran	4	Mozambique	1
Kenya	4	Namibia	1
Thailand	4	Pakistan	1
Denmark	3	Romania	1
Finland	3	Russia	1
Italy	3	Sri Lanka	1
New Zealand	3	Tanzania	1
Serbia-Montenegro	3	Tunisia	1
Albania	2	Uganda	1
Bulgaria	2	Vietnam	1
China-SAR	2	Total	396
France	2	Countries	80

Region	# Participants	Percent
Europe	241	61%
North America	54	14%
Asia	46	12%
Africa	25	6%
South America	16	4%
Australia & Oceania	14	3%
Total	396	100%

Mark Your Calendar

IAIA06: Power, Poverty, and Sustainability: How can impact assessment contribute?

23-26 May 2006
Stavanger, Norway

■ ■ ■ Affiliate News

AQÉI



Multilateral Financial Institutions Release "A Common Framework for Environmental Assessment: A Good Practice Note"

The Multilateral Financial Institutions Working Group on Environment (MFI-WGE) has developed a Common Framework for environmental assessment. The Framework promotes good practices, encouraging convergence among MFIs on the institutional requirements, processes, and practices for both public and private sector projects.

The Framework responds to requests both from borrowing countries and from donors for more consistency in the essential elements of MFI practices. It is intended to simplify and facilitate communication with borrowers, encourage collaborative capacity building, reduce transaction costs for borrowers, and increase development effectiveness.

Agencies and others that subscribe to the Framework are encouraged to share it with their borrowers or members as a general orientation to agreed good practice. This document does not supersede the policies of participating institutions, and the specific requirements of individual financial institutions are made available through electronic links that are attached to relevant sections of the Common Framework report.

For further information:
www.worldbank.org/environmentalassessment .
Arthur FitzGerald • afitzgerald@edc.ca

SEFA. The Association québécoise pour l'évaluation d'impacts (AQÉI) was represented at IAIA'05 by Ginette Lajoie (president) and Geneviève Beaulac, the new director of our reference database on environmental follow-up studies (SEFA). This database is designed to improve impact assessment practice by featuring results obtained in previous projects. The acronym, SEFA, highlights the international exposure of the initiative in French (Suivi Environnemental) English (Environmental Follow-up) and Spanish (Seguimiento Ambiental). Originally introduced at IAIA'03, the database has been fine-tuned and it is now entirely operational. During the conference this year, some of you had the opportunity to learn more about SEFA by visiting Ms. Beaulac's stand.

As was discussed in the theme forum on follow-up and highlighted through numerous concurrent sessions, the credibility and utility of impact assessment is enhanced through follow-up and adaptive environmental management. As a matter of fact, recommendations drawn from the studies available on SEFA provide a framework to establish more effective and efficient follow-up methods and indicators.

SEFA NEEDS YOU! SEFA represents an opportunity for environmental assessment professionals to expand their knowledge base by integrating their own studies and by consulting those produced by colleagues. Currently, SEFA contains hundreds of references, which are available on the web. As SEFA is in its expansion phase, and since the AQÉI has decided to devote human resources to its devel-

opment (thanks to profits generated by IAIA'04), this database will be increased to integrate more English and Spanish content. To this end, we invite you to contribute to this important initiative by submitting your reports or your references on environmental follow-up studies.

You can access the database, free of charge, at: <http://sefa.asp.visard.ca> or via www.aqei.qc.ca. For questions, comments, or for help in putting your data on the site, you are welcome to communicate with Ms. Beaulac at the following e-mail address: sefa@videotron.ca. SEFA will launch its first bulletin this fall; check out website.

AQÉI's Annual Conference. The 14th annual conference of the AQÉI is the first to be organized conjointly with another organisation: the "Ordre des Urbanistes du Québec," a professional association that groups together almost a thousand urban planners from across Quebec. Together, we have developed a program on the theme "Public Participation in Sustainable Development: a Reality for Some, a Challenge for Others". The conference (in French) will be held November 16-17 in Montreal.

New look and upcoming events. Last but not least... Check out the revamped AQÉI website at: www.aqei.qc.ca. You can consult it to be informed about activities throughout year. • Françoise Mondor • AQÉI • mondorf@aqei.qc.ca

Translation Partners

In response to the call for translation partners, Iñigo Sobrini and a team at *asociación española de evaluación de impacto ambiental*, IAIA's affiliate in Spain (www.eia.es), are now translating the IAIA newsletter into Spanish. The Spanish version is posted online. Other translators have also volunteered and will be announced as the materials become available.

Additional translation partners are still needed. To volunteer, please contact Jennifer Howell at IAIA HQ (jen@iaia.org).

Are You Receiving Your IAIA E-Newsletter?

IAIA e-mails a general news bulletin and time-sensitive announcements approximately the 15th of every month.

To ensure you receive this news about IAIA, please add info@iaia.org to your address book or safe sender list and be sure IAIA has your current e-mail address.

IP Section Seeking Participants

Indigenous Peoples Section coordinator Bob Tai is seeking individuals who are interested in joining the Section. Anyone interested in joining the Indigenous Peoples Section, please contact IAIA HQ (info@iaia.org) with cc to Bob (bob.tai@ecan.govt.nz).

Ireland-UK Branch to be Established

Overview. Over the last two years, several IAIA members have considered establishing a new Branch of IAIA for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The idea was circulated by Ross Marshall and Jo Treweek to provide a forum for Impact Assessment practitioners and students to interact, share information and experiences, and provide opportunities to disseminate good IA practices within the relevant national contexts.

With widespread support from the Irish and UK membership, interested members were invited to a meeting in Birmingham in April 2005. It was agreed by all attendees that it would be highly desirable to create a Branch. The initial ideas generated at the meeting were circulated to all Irish and UK members, and comments received have been welcomed.

A proposal for a Branch was duly submitted to the IAIA Board at IAIA'05 Boston, USA, in June. The IAIA Board approved and welcomed the proposal, and the Ireland-UK Branch is now being formally established.

Aims. The principal aims of the Ireland-UK Branch are:

- To create a dynamic and networked community of IAIA members in Ireland and the UK.
- To facilitate continuous professional development of the Branch members through an annual programme of events.
- To expand the IAIA's membership by increasing its relevance to impact assessment professionals in Ireland and the UK.

Administration. At the Birmingham meeting in April, an Interim Committee (led by Ross Marshall and coordinated by Mat Cashmore) was formed to progress and oversee the various tasks required to establish the Branch, and other members with an interest in contributing have since been welcomed. Working Groups have recently been formed to progress issues such as structure/organisation, engagement/publicity, events, membership and internet presence.

The Interim Committee will administer the Branch until a Branch Committee is created by the end of the year. The Branch Committee will be elected by a democratic procedure (to be established) and approved by the IAIA Board.

Programme of Events. The first event to launch the Branch will take place on 19th December 2005 at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. This event will examine aspects of the changing context of Impact Assessment and culminate in a discussion of the implications for the Branch's development. Subsequently, two further events are proposed during March and September 2006, at the University College Dublin and the University of Liverpool. Further details will be circulated to IAIA members when available.

The events will reflect IAIA's broad multidisciplinary focus, covering all aspects of impact assessment, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), sustainability appraisal, and biodiversity, social and health impact assessment. They will also be designed to encourage the participation of practitioners, young professional and students, and will be funded by an attendance fee and/or possible sponsorship.

Please contact Mat Cashmore (M.Cashmore@uea.ac.uk) for further information. • Adam Boyden on behalf of the Interim Committee of the Ireland-UK Branch • Nicholas Pearson Associates • adam.boyden@npaconsult.co.uk

IAIA Session Formats: Stale Bread or Staff of Life?

Are the IAIA conferences getting stale as twenty-five year-old bread? No! We see fresh format ideas taking shape:

■ **Question:** What is a cut-above, larger than concurrent sessions but smaller than a plenary session? **Answer:** the *theme forums* in Vancouver and Boston. This format seem to work best when the interests of several IAIA Sections are combined with top-notch speakers and challenging issues.

■ Even if you did not attend the conference in Boston, you may have already heard about the *debate* over accreditation which was held with a standing-room-only crowd cheering and booing the extremists on either side. Talk about engaging and lively!

■ **Conference in a coffee shop?** Not exactly, but the Legal and Policy Framework for SEA in Europe Stream used the World Café format in Prague (www.worldcafe.org) to engage participants in small group discussions with incredible outpouring of coffee and intellectual thought.

■ **Practitioners' forums** allow informal, on-the-spot discussions and even creative games to help motivate impact assessment professionals.

Future conference sessions will likely reflect the paper presentation format customarily found in the past 25 IAIA meetings and in most professional conference exchanges—it's the staff of life that has kept the conferences going all these years. Yet fresh ideas and new approaches are really welcome and will add more than a bit of spice to future conferences.

Please share any suggestions you have for innovative conference session formatting (jen@iaia.org) (rita@iaia.org), so that future program committees can incorporate a few new ideas into each conference.

• Rita Hamm, CEO



Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessment

Schmidt, M., João, E. and Albrecht, E. (2005) (eds.), Springer-Verlag, 742 pages, ISBN 3540205624.

This Handbook covers a wide range of SEA-related topics for different sectors, countries, natural resources, and from different SEA perspectives. The Handbook has eight Parts. Part I introduces key SEA principles and the legal framework in relation to the European SEA Directive. Part II describes the implementation of the SEA Directive in eleven European Union member states. Part III discusses the SEA experience in the USA, Canada and New Zealand. Part IV evaluates SEA requirements in developing and fast developing countries by discussing the cases of Kenya, Ghana, Ukraine and China. Part V discusses methodologies for SEA and public participation. Part VI evaluates SEA for soils, water and biodiversity. Part VII discusses SEA links with landscape planning, urban planning, transport, agriculture, waste management and mining. Finally, Part VIII concludes by discussing capacity-building, best practice, and future challenges and possibilities for SEA.

■ ■ ■ Resources

CBBIA Project Update

CBBIA sponsored 15 people to attend the IAIA SEA Conference in Prague (26th September to 1st October '05). CBBIA-sponsored participants came from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the UK and Vietnam to chair sessions, attend workshops and take part in panel discussions. 5 Sessions were held on SEA and biodiversity:

- Planning for biodiversity and development: SEA as a tool
- SEA practice and biodiversity
- International guidance and principles on SEA and biodiversity
- SEA and biodiversity: delivering the Millennium Development Goals
- Streamlining assessment and management for biodiversity using SEA: the case of the Waddensee and other stories.

The sessions were structured to allow lots of time for open discussion. Panel discussions stressed the critical importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services as cross-cutting issues that underpin most, if not all of the Millennium Development Goals. An important benefit of SEA is that it encourages positive management, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the long term and for future generations, rather than focusing purely on damage limitation. We need to encourage

greater emphasis on the socio-ecological basis for development and human well-being to ensure that ecosystem services are mainstreamed in development planning. SEA can be a good tool for this if it includes effective public participation. Papers from India and Vietnam reinforced the benefits of effective participatory approaches. Papers from South Africa showed how SEA could be used to improve Integrated Development Planning and to raise the profile of biodiversity and ecosystem services. We also explored how SEA could be used in the oil and gas sector to help clarify constraints and opportunities for developers and governments.

SEA is an important tool for considering cumulative, regional or sectoral effects, given its relatively broad scope. Many negative effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services need to be considered at a landscape scale to address linkages with – and effects on – broader social and economic systems.

New guidance on biodiversity in EIA and SEA has been produced by the Convention on Biological Diversity and can be seen on the CBD website. Examples of the application of this guidance in practice would be welcomed by the CBD.

For copies of presentations or for further information about the results of the conference, please email Jo Treweek (jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk).

Did you know...

November
World Communication Month
December
Universal Human Rights Month



Resource

Calabash Programme Releases New Handbook

One of Calabash's main objectives is to increase the effectiveness and ability of civil society to participate in environmental decision-making. However, due to either a lack of capacity or information with a regulator or proponent, public participation programmes are sometimes not designed well enough to take advantage of the benefits that civil society engagement has to offer. The latest output of Calabash, *A Guide to Opportunities for Public Participation in Environmental Assessment Processes in the Southern Africa Development Community*, hopes to address this issue in a practical way.

This handbook contains a clear description of all the rights that communities and the public have to participation in environmental decision-making as con-

ferred by international, regional and SADC region conventions, laws and policies related to environmental impact assessment and decision-making. This document has approached the rights issue from "an opportunity to participate" perspective, and is formatted around several key questions for each SADC country. The handbook also examines opportunities to participate as described in international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional conventions and protocols, and even discusses African customary law concerning the windows to participation that it has.

With this handbook, communities and Community Based Organizations will have a clear and concise summary all the opportunities they have to par-

ticipate in the EIA process. As well, the guide has an annex which details, country by country, all the projects for which an EIA is required. This too, will be of benefit to civil society, but should also be an invaluable resource for regulators in charge of the EIA process.

It is hoped that this document is a gateway to building capacity in many EIA stakeholder groups, and is certainly a tool that can be used to advance good governance in the SADC region. Calabash has developed over the last two years a suite of tools that should allow civil society and many other stakeholder groups to be able to better participate and manage the civil society engagement process.

These tools are available at www.saiea.com (click on Calabash Project. • Peter Croal • Peter_Croal@ACDI-CIDA.gc.ca

Members in the News ■ ■ ■

Members in the News

Upreti Receives Award

Congratulations to **Batu Upreti**, who has been awarded the RONAST (Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology) Talent Award 2005 in institutionalising EIA system in Nepal through the development and implementation of EIA guidelines and procedures. The award was given by Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev on 29 June 2005 amidst a function attended by about 1000 dignitaries including Rt. Honourable Vice-Chairs of the Council of Ministers, Honourable Ministers, and other high level governmental officials, scientists and technologists. The award was given in different fields such as engineering, medicine, agriculture, plant science, forests, computer science etc. Upreti was the only honoree in the field of environment.

Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department Wins Competition

The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department has won a Merit Award for its "Digital 3D EIA Public Engagement Tool" in the first-ever Hong Kong Outstanding Software Application 2005.

The competition was organized by Intel, HP and Oracle and was supported by all major IT trade associations. The competition was very keen and attended by all major IT/software companies. EPD was the only government department that dared to enter the competition.

This award signifies an increasing recognition of the importance of public engagement and the application of the latest technologies for that purpose. • Elvis Au • Environmental Protection Dept., Hong Kong SAR Government • elvis_au@hk.super.net

In Memory

Dr **Norman Lee** (1936-2005) died in August 2005 after a short illness. Throughout three decades, Lee undertook innumerable research projects, published extensively on impact assessment with many collaborators and enthused generations of students and practitioners with his innovative thinking and teaching. Lee was a colossus of IA, was universally respected and was the worthy recipient of the 2000 IAIA Rose-Hulman Award for his international contribution to IA.

Lee advised the European Commission on the content, implementation and revision of the European EIA Directive and on the early drafts of the SEA Directive. A senior lecturer in economics at the University of Manchester, he set up the interdisciplinary EIA Centre with Christopher Wood and Carys Jones, with whom he wrote over 50 publications.

He was involved in many project EIAs and in reviewing the EIA practices of various organisations. This work led to perhaps his best-known publication: *Reviewing the Quality of Environmental Statements*, with Raymond Colley. This was later revised to encompass SEA reports.

Lee's work on IA in developing countries led to his book, with Clive George, on *Environmental Assessment in Developing and Transitional Countries*.

Latterly, he was engaged in the development and practical application of methodologies for the integrated (economic, environmental and social) appraisal of policies, plans and programmes, focusing particularly on international trade and development issues. This resulted in *Sustainable Development and Integrated Appraisal in a Developing World*, with Colin Kirkpatrick.

His last research involved the development of review packages to assist in the quality control of sustainability assessments.

In consultation with his widow, Audrey, an annual Norman Lee prize for the best masters degree dissertation on impact assessment is to be instituted by subscription at the University of Manchester. • Christopher Wood • University of Manchester •

HQ Staff Update

Napoleon Tiapo left the role of Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) Program Administrator in July 2005 to focus on his PhD thesis. IAIA appreciates his service and wishes him well in his new endeavors.

To fill the position, IAIA HQ shifted the job duties of **Bridget John**, allowing her to step in as CBBIA Program Administrator through the end of the project.

Some of John's previous finance-related duties were assumed by **Hang Sun**, who began working part-time at IAIA HQ in August 2005. Hang, a native of China, has bachelors degrees in accounting and business administration. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in statistics at North Dakota State University. Efficient and detail-oriented, Hang has been doing a great job and is quickly learning the complexities of international financial transactions and IAIA.

Wood Retires, Kirkpatrick and Jones Announced as IAPA Co-Editors

Concurrent with his retirement from the University of Manchester, **Christopher Wood** is resigning as co-editor of *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*. Wood has served as an IAPA editor since March 2000.

In June 2005, the Board of Directors accepted the IAPA Editor Task Force's recommendation to approve **Colin Kirkpatrick** as Wood's successor. Beginning in September, Kirkpatrick assumed his duties as co-editor with **Carys Jones**.

IAIA thanks Wood, Jones and Kirkpatrick for their willingness to serve IAIA in this capacity. We wish Wood many happy years of retirement and the new team of Jones and Kirkpatrick all the best as they direct IAPA to new heights as IAIA's flagship publication.

Professional News Index

Integrated Assessment: Towards and International Framework 1

UNEP: Workshop on Trade Liberalization 1

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Advertising and sponsorship space is available in the newsletter.

Please contact IAIA Headquarters for information.

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Welcome!

◆ **New IAIA members 16 June 2005 - 15 September 2005** ◆

Rachael Wedd, Australia; Shahila Perumalpillai, Australia; Alex Rankin, Australia; Phillip Belling, Australia; Joy Duncan, Australia; Nesad Seremet, Bosnia & Herzegovina; Andja Hadziabdic, Bosnia & Herzegovina; Tambe and Ayuk Inyang, Cameroon; Nyanutse Kokou Edem, Canada; Natasha Brotherston, Canada; Kimberley Horrocks, Canada; Wade Brunham, Canada; Julie Tasker-Brown, Canada; Mabaye Dia, Canada; Nenad Mikulic, Croatia; Irena Brnada, Croatia; John Phylip-Jones, England-UK; Philip Le Gouais, England-UK; Nicholas Murry, England-UK; Peter George, England-UK; Pauline Airey, England-UK; Susanne Channon, Georgia; Achim Broenner, Germany; Ewusi Anthony, Germany; David Malone, Ireland; Teresa Lavin, Ireland; Hideki Yukihira, Japan; Jackson John Kitetu, Kenya; Slavco Hristovski, Macedonia; Magdalena Trajkovska Trpevska, Macedonia; Slavjanka Pejcinovska-Andonova, Macedonia; Sokol Klincarov, Macedonia; Raymi Beltran, Peru; Raul Farfan, Peru; Albab Akanda, Philippines; Instituto de Ciencia Aplicada e Tecnologia, Portugal; Julieta Macedo, Portugal; Radoje Lausevic, Serbia-Montenegro; Svetlana Marusic, Serbia-Montenegro; Lazarela Kalezic, Serbia-Montenegro; Gisela Loran Benavent, Spain; Inter Poveda Bjorklund, Sweden; Melanie Simmons, USA; Jenna Wright, USA; Carol-Anne Murray, USA; Erika Clesceri, USA; Jan T. Twarowski, USA; Dan Garson, USA; Jeff Hudson, USA; Betty Ann Hughes, USA; Robert Ewing, USA; Lee Alexander Risby, USA; Wilfredo Soto-Suarez, USA; Andrew Dannenberg, USA; Dean Gouveia, USA; Todd Hall, USA; Lee Alexander, USA; Megan Nordgren, USA; Katherine Cushing, USA; Jose Ramon Gomez, USA; Maria Witz, USA; Harvey Himberg, USA; Abdulkadir Mohamed Alariki, Yemen



The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them. - *Albert Einstein*

New on the 'net

- Biodiversity Principles and Practices (see Publications & Reference Materials)
- HIA Quarterly - October 2005
- Board minutes, June 2005
- IAIA06 News and Information
- ... and more! Bookmark www.iaia.org today.

IAIA Calendar of Important Dates & Deadlines
Subject to change - watch for updates

December 2005

- 15 Newsletter articles due
- 31 IAIA06 Early Bird rate ends

January 2006

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 1 Board election ballots mailed
- 31 IAIA06 submissions deadline

February 2006

- 15 IAIA06 student fee waiver deadline
- 15 Last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA06 final program
- 15 Newsletter articles due
- 15 IAIA06 regular rate ends

March 2006

- 15 Technical visits, training courses, Quickpass deadlines
- 15 Board election ballots tabulated; results announced

April 2006

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 15 IAIA06 deadlines: requests for inserts in delegate bags
- 15 Training course instructor agreements due
- 15 Board action items due
- 15 Annual report information due
- 15 Annual General Meeting (AGM) action items due

May 2006

23-26 . IAIA06

- tbd Board meeting

June 2006

- 15 Newsletter articles due

July 2006

- 1 Newsletter, IAIA07 call for submissions mailed

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: January 2006

Submission deadlines: 1 December Professional News **Professional practice articles** should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions by 1 December to professional practice news co-editors Richard Fristik (Richard.Fristik@wdc.usda.gov) and Bram Noble (b.noble@usask.ca), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 300 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to IAIA Headquarters by 15 December. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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