

Newsletter

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Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Austrian Act on Transport S(E)A

The Austrian "Federal Act on Strategic Assessment in the Transport Sector" came into force in August 2005, implementing the EC Directive on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) regarding federal transport plans and programs. The word "environmental" is intentionally missing from the Act's title, as the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology explicitly lists in Article 5 social and economic objectives among environmental ones.

The Act approaches a model of a sustainability or strategic assessment (SA), and contributes to the discussion whether an integrated assessment or an environmental one is preferred. Unfortunately, the Act does not cover the Austrian Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan, which was heavily criticized by environmental NGOs. Meanwhile, the first five transport SAs are underway, and drafts of the corresponding environmental reports are available via the Internet at http://www.bmvit.gv.at/sixcms/detail.php/template/i/_e1/2/_e2/0/_e3/9000/_relid/6077/.

The text of the Act is at www.anidea.at/spvg.pdf.

Both sites are in German.

• Ralf Aschemann • Austrian Inst. for the Development of Environmental Assessment (ANIDEA) • ralf@anidea.at

SEA Papers: "Briefly and to the Point"

The Netherlands Commission for EA (Dept. of Development Cooperation) is trying to put this expression to practice by developing SEA "key sheets": maximum two-page documents aimed at specific user groups explaining the essence of SEA. So far there are four key sheets: a general introduction to SEA, ideas on how to introduce SEA in a country, SEA for poverty reduction strategies, and SEA in the water sector. These key sheets are used in capacity building programmes, specifically to support environment ministries in the introduction of SEA and to convince sector ministries of the value of SEA. The key sheets provide both background information and some cases.

Key sheets under preparation include SEA in conflict sensitive situations, SEA for coastal zone management, and strategic local development planning. The key sheets can be downloaded from www.eia.nl/nceia/products/publications.htm and are also included in the database at the same website.

For additional information, contact Petrie van Gent, Netherlands Commission for EA (pgent@eia.nl). • Petrie van Gent

Relationship Between the EU EIA and SEA Directives

A new European Commission study examines the potential for overlaps between their EIA and SEA Directives. Scenarios are illustrated that may lead to conflicts between the Directives, namely: large projects composed of sub-projects, or at a scale beyond local impact significance; project proposals requiring amendment of land use plans (and thus SEA) before an application to undertake EIA; and plans and programs that when adopted or modified set binding criteria for subsequent development applications.

Among the recommendations to the Commission and Member States is that Member States consider whether coordinated (parallel or joint) EIA/SEA procedures are possible and/or appropriate. Also included is a flowchart to guide authorities in determining whether EIA, SEA, or both, might apply. One long-term option is merging the EIA and SEA Directives into a single law.

The study is available from http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/final_report_0508.pdf

• Helen Byron • helen.byron@rspb.org.uk

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- 7 Members in the News

■ ■ ■ CBBIA Program

CBBIA Updates and Activities

New Listserv

The CBBIA project is going strong...

IAIA's Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) project is now running regional capacity building programs in Southern Africa, Central America and South/Southeast Asia. You are invited to join discussion about these and other CBBIA activities through a new CBBIA listserv. For subscription information, please contact Bridget John (bridget@iaia.org).

IAIA06 Bursaries

CBBIA will be running workshops and training during the IAIA 2006 conference in Stavanger, Norway. Applications for a limited number of bursaries to attend are invited

from suitably qualified professionals active in biodiversity and impact assessment. We are particularly interested in hearing from students and early career professionals involved in integration of biodiversity concerns within the energy and extractive industries. For application details, please visit www.iaia.org > Activities and Projects. Applications are due by 31 January 2006.

2006 Small Grants Program: Call for Applications

CBBIA is also seeking applications for small grants of up to \$10,000 to study aspects of biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment. Previous grants have supported production of a

manual on biodiversity and SEA in Lebanon and provision of guidance on management of biodiversity impacts in and around protected areas. Five grants are available for 2006.

Additional information and application forms are available at www.iaia.org > Activities and Projects. All proposed projects must have a completion date on or before 30 November 2006. Applications are due by 15 February.

For further information about any of these CBBIA activities, contact CBBIA Technical Program Manager Jo Treweek (jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk).

CBBIA Project – Southern African Update

The project aims to provide a regional guidance document

The Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA) was contracted in mid-2005 to coordinate the southern African component of IAIA's Capacity Building in Biodiversity in Impact Assessment project (CBBIA). SAIEA decided to focus the project on building capacity within decision-making authorities on biodiversity issues.

The project aims to provide a regional guidance document for decision-makers, training materials and a pilot training course. The first output from the study, a draft Situation Assessment, was completed at the end of November 2005. A concerted effort was made to obtain input from the 14 countries that make up the SADC region and to this end a system of ques-

tionnaires, follow-ups and workshops ensured that input was obtained from 11 countries. A key component of the Situation Assessment is the inclusion of 24 case studies which demonstrate both good and bad decisions about biodiversity and the lessons learned.

The conclusion of the Situation Assessment is that there are many problem areas with regard to the way in which biodiversity is addressed in the impact assessment process: firstly there are serious problems in the way that biodiversity information is supplied to the authorities (in the EIA); and secondly there does not appear to be a consistent approach in the way decision-makers make judgements

about, and make decisions on, biodiversity issues. The concepts of ecosystem services and the value of these for society as a whole are not usually taken into consideration at all. Given that a large proportion of the population of the region is fully or partially dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, subsistence and survival, and that nature-based tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors and comprises a major part of the economy in many countries, the findings of this study are extremely worrying. The need for meaningful guidance for decision-makers on biodiversity issues is thus urgent and CBBIA aims to have a draft document available for comment by April 2006. • Bryony Walmsley • SAIEA • bw@saiea.co.za

IAIA06

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

23-26 May 2006
Stavanger, Norway

Strategic Action Plan Reviewed

Since its inception in 1999, IAIA's 5-year Strategic Action Plan (for 1999-2004) has formed a central component of Board decisions. It has been regularly reviewed by the IAIA's Strategic Action Planning (SAP) Committee at regular intervals and its progress has been monitored by the Board. To date it has contributed significantly to the direction and increased stability of the IAIA organization, and has been regularly utilized by the Board, Headquarters, and Committees. Considerable progress has been made to date on actions listed in the existing plan.

During the IAIA SEA Prague conference, the SAP Committee met to review the plan as it nears the end of its 5-year life. During the review, the committee came to the conclusion that the time is now right for

- A thorough review of the SAP.
- The closure of some actions in the SAP.
- A revision in the strategic direction of IAIA and its future monitoring through a new SAP.

Central to this review was the conclusion that IAIA has struggled to become the "Global Authority" on impact assessment, as was proposed by the SAP, and whether it remains appropriate for IAIA to continue pursuing this target. The consensus was that IAIA can exert greater influence and play a more significant role as the provider for a "Global Network" for IA. Thus, the goal to become a "Global Authority" was changed to "Global Network."

In Prague, the SAP Committee proposed, and the Board agreed to, a major revision and update of the SAP to form the new IAIA 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. The review will take into account actions still unfulfilled in the original plan and determine whether they should be continued, discarded or amended. This work will be completed by the IAIA06 conference and will be fed into the future business plans for IAIA.

• Ross Marshall, IAIA President-Elect • ross.marshall@environment-agency.gov.uk

Strategic planning continues to move forward.

Financial Perspective		User (Member) Perspective	
Goals	Measure	Goals	Measure
Success	• Cash Flow Annual income exceeds annual expenses by 10% • Budget ± 2% total budget • Financial Integrity One year's operating expenses invested as operating reserve	Global Network	• Has influence on significant matters that relate to impact assessment. • Contributes effectively to debates, trends and agenda pertaining to impact assessment. • Recognized by and has strategic links with other professional organizations in impact assessment. • Proactively responds to macro trends, through early warning system and foresight, which impact IAIA vision. • Capitalizes on existing knowledge in the organization.
Prosper	• Cash Flow Cash flow that exceeds annual expenses by 25% • Budget -3% under budget • Financial Integrity Eighteen months operating expenses invested as operating reserve	International Forum	• Enables practitioners and decision makers in IA to meet and debate issues, • Increasingly broad membership base, drawn from diverse mix of nationalities, skills, professions, and cultural backgrounds.
Internal Operations Perspective		Educational Perspective	
Goals	Measure	Goals	Measure
Organizational Planning	• IAIA, through the internal structures of HQ, Board, Affiliates, and Branches, presents itself externally and internationally as an effective networking organization. • Consistent linkage between the vision, the mission and the implementation of IAIA policies.	Teaching, Learning, and Research	• Harmonization of specializations. • Anticipates and responds to IA trends in a professional manner through its conferences and training sessions.
Allocation of Resources	• Global activities of IAIA are well harmonized. • Resources allocated in support of IAIA's global networks and activities are structured to deliver greatest value to the organization.	IAIA 2005-2010 Strategic Plan	
Continuing Improvement	• Strengthen the value of conferences. • Improvement of membership services.		

Board of Directors Highlights

Mid-term meeting 2005-2006 Highlights from Prague

- The IAIA Board of Directors met in Prague, Czech Republic, on 2-3 October, following the SEA conference.
- Major Board discussion took place on:
 - Update and review of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and progress.
 - Annual conference locations for 2007 and 2008.
 - Status of the CBBIA project.
 - Use of the IAIA logo.
 - Update of web site.
 - Review of tiered membership fee structure.
 - Review and approval of the budget.

For further details on these and other items, see the minutes of the meeting online at www.iaia.org > Members > Administration and Member Services > Board of Directors Info & News.

Board Elections

By now all IAIA members should have received a ballot for the election of officers 2006-2007.

IAIA works best when every member is involved! Please return your completed ballot to Headquarters by 1 April.

Ballots may be returned by mail, or, for your convenience, by fax.

New officers will be announced via e-news and terms will commence at the conclusion of IAIA06.

Luis Montanez-Cartaxo Joins Board of Directors

Luis Montanez-Cartaxo has graciously agreed to take the place of **Gustavo Pedraza Merida** as a Board Director, effective January 2006. Pedraza was unable to continue his duties to IAIA due to changing job responsibilities. Montanez-Cartaxo was co-opted onto the Board by the IAIA President and confirmed by the Board, in keeping with procedures outlined in the IAIA Bylaws.

IAIA wishes Pedraza well in his new position, and looks forward to Montanez-Cartaxo's participation on the Board.

Biographical information on IAIA's Board of Directors is posted online at www.iaia.org > Members > Administration and Members Services > Board of Directors Info & News.

Thank You to Spanish Translators

IAIA expresses its appreciation to **Iñigo Sobrini and the team at Asociacion española de evaluacion de impacto ambiental**, IAIA's Spanish Affiliate, for the translated version of the IAIA newsletter. Their efforts are much appreciated!

Volunteers have also come forward for Russian and Arabic, and IAIA will be working with them in the coming weeks to produce general informational materials in those languages. Volunteers for other languages are still being sought.

Continho, Hill, Stobart and Walmsley join News Network

IAIA's News Network Contributors (NNC) provide the IAIA newsletter with articles related to "professional" news from the field.

IAIA welcomes the newest members of the NNC: **Miguel Continho** will be reporting news from the Portugal Affiliate, and **Richard Hill, Brandon Stobart**, and **Bryony Walmsley** have joined us from South Africa.

We appreciate their willingness to volunteer and look forward to their contributions in upcoming newsletters!

IAIA Sends Monthly E-news; Update Safe Sender List

IAIA e-mails a general news bulletin and conference announcements, job openings, and other time-sensitive information approximately the 15th of each month.

To ensure you receive these important bulletins, be sure to add info@iaia.org to your address book and/or safe sender list, and be sure to notify IAIA if your e-address changes.

IAIA'05 Boston CDs Available

A CD-ROM of papers and presentations received from the IAIA05 conference in Boston has been compiled and is available upon request from IAIA Headquarters. Contact info@iaia.org to request a copy.



Launch of the Ireland-UK Branch

The inaugural event of the Ireland-UK Branch was held on 19 December 2005 at the University of East Anglia, England. More than 100 people registered for an event that promised a thought-provoking examination of contemporary challenges facing the impact assessment community. The invited speakers ensured that such expectations were more than satisfied on the day.

The gauntlet was thrown down to Branch members: criticisms were made of public participation practices in environmental assessment, barriers to the integration of health considerations into strategic assessments were highlighted, and delegates were challenged to modify impact assessment tools to promote an ecocentric interpretation of sustainable development. In reflecting the diverse interests of IAIA members, the event also provided valuable insights into the evolving interpretation of

case law and a stimulating review of emerging commercial challenges.

The event was designed to be as inclusive as possible. Students were registered for a nominal fee and the fee for full members of the IAIA covered catering costs only. This was made possible by the generosity of our corporate sponsors.

The event was also open to non-members in an effort to raise the regional profile of IAIA and to recruit new members. Ross Marshall provided an eloquent introduction to IAIA, and outlined future Branch events and international conferences. Positive feedback was received from non-IAIA members, particularly consultants, on the creation of a regional Branch. Yet it is clear that additional initiatives will be required to engage more “decision-makers.”

The next Branch event takes place on 24 March 2006 at Uni-

versity College Dublin, Ireland. Further information on this event will be circulated in due course via the newly created Branch listserv. Future activities will not necessarily take the form of a traditional conference. Consideration will be given to the networking and capacity development requirements of the full spectrum of Branch members, so events might be topic-specific, discursive and participatory, or linked to the activities of other regionally important organisations. Your views on such issues, or other aspects of the Branch’s aims and operation, are welcome (email ie_uk@iaia.org).

We sincerely hope that the Branch members found the launch event both productive and enjoyable, and we look forward to seeing you again in Ireland. • Mat Cashmore • University of East Anglia • M.Cashmore@uea.ac.uk • and Alison Dunn

The gauntlet was thrown down...

Heads Up!

The Beerdiversity section of IAIA aims to “Foster” cultural diversity and spiritual values and provide a forum for fermentation of new ideas. Unlike other sections, the Beerdiversity section promotes active fieldwork as well as “Skol”arship and adopts a “bottoms up” approach to sharing the benefits of beerdiversity. The section already has a number of “lager than life” members, including the President-elect, and the cheers of several other sections. We aim to tap the expertise of members and disseminate our findings through both beer-reviewed pubs and the Internet [www://hopintobeerdiversity.com]. We welcome be“Guinness,”old hands, and those who as yet simply feel a “Carling.”

Sustainable use of beerdiversity is clearly essent-ale. Unlike other aspects of the environment af-

fectected by development, however, beerdiversity benefits from increasing consumption, until the “pint” is reached at which carrying capacity is exceeded. We are working hard to identify early warning indicators for critical inebriation thresholds. These reflect the full spectrum of responses, ranging from high-brau debate and increased merri-ment, to increasingly inarticulate speech, glazed expressions, proliferation of impact assessment jargon and inability to stand—a round. Some practitioners show a tendency to bottle with real-aleity—mild cases are bitter left alone, although in cerveza situations, some incapacity-building may be required.

We are also working to clarify beerdiversity definitions. The draught classification ranges from unspoiled fully-functional beertopes¹ (e.g., Budvar,

Chimay, Batham’s, etc.) to severely degraded, and essentially lifeless systems such as Bud, Miller Lite and Caffreys. Beerdiversity can be appraised at the level of the bottle, the brewery, or multiple outlets requiring a landscape approach, although the “Duvel” is in the detail. GIS (Get In the Stubbies) may be worth considering, especially in identifying longer-term impacts (known as hangovers).

At next year’s conference we propose to move into the spiritual dimension. We request members to bring examples of their local and distinctive specialities to share, to enhance the monitoring base and facilitate follow-up. Please contact us with any ideas. • Jo Treweek (jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk) and Jos Arts (josarts@zonnet.nl) on behalf of B.R. Keller, Acting Chair (bar-stool) (e-ale: beerm@demon.drink.up).

¹ Contrived double pun.

The Beerdiversity section promotes active fieldwork.

■ ■ ■ Publications

EIA Review Special Issue on "Data and Scale Issues for SEA"

Editor: Elsa João, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, University of Strathclyde, UK

Papers are currently being received for a special issue of the journal *EIA Review* focusing on data and scale issues for Strategic Environ-

mental Assessment (SEA). Case study material, either as part of a larger paper or in the form of a short paper, is also welcome. See the call for papers at www.strath.ac.uk/gses/special-issue.html < <http://www.strath.ac.uk/gses/special-issue.html> > .

The deadline for authors to submit a full paper was 9 January 2006, but if you are also interested in sending a paper, please send an email to elsa.joao@strath.ac.uk.

• Elsa João

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

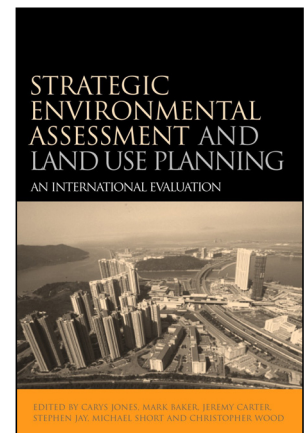
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Strategic Environmental Assessment And Land Use Planning AN INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Edited by Carys Jones, Mark Baker, Jeremy Carter,
Stephen Jay, Michael Short and Christopher Wood

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ISBN 1844071103
October 2005

Provides the first international evaluation of this exciting new discipline with 13 case studies from around the globe.



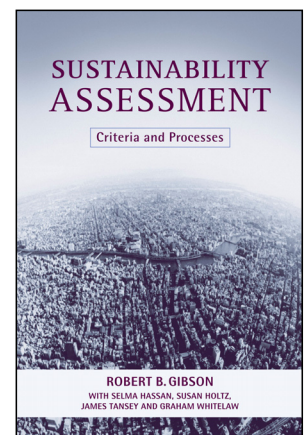
Sustainability Assessment CRITERIA AND PROCESSES

By Robert B. Gibson

With Selma Hassan, Susan Holtz, James Tansey
and Graham Whitelaw

Paperback ~~£22.95~~ £19.49
ISBN 1844070514
October 2005

Covers all aspects of the core requirements of sustainability including the creation of basic criteria, handling trade-offs, practicalities in application, implications for process design and uses in decision-making, as well as examining the range of tools and innovative examples available to assist in implementation of sustainability assessment.



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Members in the News ■ ■ ■

SAIEA Wins Award

SAIEA was recently awarded the International Association of Public Participation's 2005 Core Values Award for Project of the Year. The project SAIEA developed is called Calabash and is designed to increase the capacity of civil society in the 14 countries of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to participate more fully in environmental decision-making.

The World Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency provided support for the program which commenced in 2003. Many tools related to civil society engagement have been developed. For example, a set of Terms of Reference have been developed for public participation that is required in an SEA, point EIA or linear EIA. These and other tools are available by going to www.saiea.com and clicking on Calabash.

For more information on this program, please contact Peter.Tarr@saiea.com or Peter_Croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca. • Peter Croal
• Canadian International Development Agency • Peter_croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca



Peter Croal (center), previously Calabash Program Manager, accepts the Award on behalf of SAIEA. Pictured with Croal are IAP2 Past Presidents Lewis Michaelson and Marty Rozelle.

SEA Distance Learning Course Materials Available

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Distance Learning (DL) Course is a joint effort of the World Bank, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), as well as local and international institutes in collaboration with SEPA (State Environmental Protection Agency of China). The course responds to the increasing demand for learning in this field, as countries gradually understand the importance of early integration of environmental assessment into decision-making and planning.

The course includes:

- An overview of SEA
- International experiences
- Country-specific applications

The course materials are largely generic. The module-by-module design of the course enables audience-targeted tailoring of each delivery. Country-specific applications are developed based on country demand. • Source: The World Bank (www.worldbank.org)

Course materials are available for download from The World Bank (www.worldbank.org > Home > Learning > Learning Programs > Environment and Natural Resources Management > Strategic Environmental Assessment > Materials).

Part One materials are also available for purchase on CD-ROM from IAIA Headquarters. Contact info@iaia.org for ordering information.

In Memory

Miguel Carballo Hernandez, our friend and colleague from Guatemala, passed away on 14 November 2005.

Miguel's wife, Mireya Archila de Carballo, says that Miguel "enjoyed personally and professionally being a member of the IAIA organization. He was every year so enthusiastic about the yearly conference to participate in the training sessions, get to know people and get the opportunity to meet with the people he knew for years," and further says that IAIA colleagues were "a part of Miguel's best experience in life."

Miguel had been a member of IAIA since 1994 and in the last five years attended four conferences. His wide smile, warm personality, and professional insights will be sadly missed.

IAIA06: Important Dates

31 January

- Abstract submission deadline
- Student fee waiver applications due
- Capacity building stipend application deadline

15 February

- Presenting authors notified of acceptance status

28 February

- Presenting authors registration and payment deadline

10 March

- Early Bird registration ends

31 March

- Deadlines for training course registration, Quickpass, booths & exhibit reservations, requests to include material in delegate packs, technical visit registration, SEP/mentor participant forms, special audio-visual equipment requests, sponsorship confirmation

10 April

- Hotel reservations

Calendar

ATEF 2006. Second International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) International Conference on Advanced Technology in the Environmental Field. 6-8 February 2006. Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain. www.iasted.org/conferences/2006/Spain/atef.htm

Globe 2006. 9th Biennial Trade Fair & Conference on Business and the Environment. 29-31 March 2006. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. www.globe2006.com

GW17. The 17th Global Warming International Conference and Expo. 20-21 April 2006. Miami, Florida, USA. www.globalwarming.net

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Welcome!

◆ New IAIA members 16 September 2005 - 15 December 2005 ◆

Anne-Marie Delahunt, Australia; Stewart Lockie, Australia; Julia Pickworth, Australia; Rachel Wright, Canada; Sirina Blankson, England-UK; Dietrich Schwela, England-UK; Emma Wilson, England-UK; Claudia Eckhardt, Germany; Jim Swift, Ireland; Nicholas O. Ogue, Kenya; Cuitlahuac Hernandez, Mexico; Hilario Martinez, Mexico; Mark Gibbs, New Zealand; Lola Okwuosa, Nigeria; Mirjana Gvozdic, Norway; Anna McLauchlan, Scotland-UK; Paul Clarke, USA; Patricia Deem, USA; Amy Fletcher, USA; Christopher Nicholas, USA; Nazli Rahbar, USA; Bryce Ternet, USA; Pilar Clemente, Wales-UK; Mirriam Moonga, Zambia; Stellah Mwelwa, Zambia



What is this, and what does it have to do with impact assessment?

Find the answer hidden in the IAIA06 preliminary program. Watch your mail or download it online from www.iaia.org > Conferences > IAIA06.

Hint: Read "general information" carefully.

New on the 'net

- IAIA06 Preliminary Program and information
- SIA Bibliography: new listings
- SEA Policy Volume (Prague Conference)
- New job postings
- Board minutes, October 2005
- ... and more! Bookmark www.iaia.org today.



There is no way to make people like change. You can only make them feel less threatened by it.

~ Frederick Hayes ~

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

January 2006

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 1 Board election ballots mailed
- 31 IAIA06 submissions deadline
- 31 IAIA06 student fee waiver deadline

February 2006

- 28 Last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA06 final program

March 2006

- 10 IAIA06 Early Bird registration ends
- 15 Board election ballots tabulated; results announced
- 15 Newsletter articles due
- 31 IAIA06 technical visits, training courses, Quickpass, booth/exhibitor, SEP/Mentor program audio-visual equipment and sponsorship deadlines

April 2006

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 10 IAIA06 Hotel rate/availability cutoff
- 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

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

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IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: April 2006

Submission deadlines: 1 March Professional News
Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions by 1 March 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 March. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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