

Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

IAIA Has Strong Presence at International Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment

In early November 2007, a high level international conference on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was held in Beijing, China, with support from IAIA and participation by several IAIA members. This conference was an excellent follow-up to the First International Conference held in Bo'ao, Hainan Island, China, in December 2004. Former IAIA president Elvis Au chaired an international advisory committee for the conference, while Maria Partidario, KC Lam, Xu He and Elvis Au swiftly co-edited a bilingual monograph, with major contributions from Barry Sadler, Rob Verheem, Ross Marshall, Lone Kørnov, Thomas Fischer, Linda Ghanime, Olivia Bina, Kirsten Oleson and Hussein Abaza; a number of these contributors also gave presentations.

The conference was officiated by the Vice Minister of PRC State Environmental Protection Administration who attended the entire first day, and was also well attended by senior officials, academics and practitioners from all over China. It was regarded as a huge success by all participants and was nationally broadcast. • Contributed jointly by Elvis Au, Maria Partidario & KC Lam.
Contact: elvis_au@hk.super.net



Left to right: Olivia Bina, Kirsten Oleson, Josh Lam, Bruce Davidson, KC Lam, Linda Ghanime, Ross Marshall, Zhu Xingxiang, Elvis Au, Hussein Abaza, Rob Verheem, Bie Tao, Wang Yong.



Left to right: Ross Marshall, Pan Yue (Vice Minister of SEPA), Elvis Au.

See related story on page 6
More professional news, pages 6-9

In this issue

- 2..... IAIA08
- 3..... IAIA09
- 3..... Affiliates & Branches News
- 6..... Professional News
- 5..... Networking Tips
- 9..... Effectiveness Study Update
- 10 Board Highlights
- 11 IAIA Matters and Resources



• 4-10 May 2008

• Paper and poster submissions open through 7 February 2008

IAIA08 Updates

Preliminary program is available! The IAIA08 preliminary program is posted on the IAIA Web site (www.iaia.org > IAIA08 > Program) and was mailed to IAIA members in October. The preliminary program is packed full of detailed information about IAIA08, including the technical program, technical tours, training courses, and registration, as well important information about traveling to Perth and to Australia in general.

Abstract submission information and innovations for 2008. Paper and poster abstract submission is open at [http://iaiaconference.org/?p= Posters/Submit](http://iaiaconference.org/?p=Posters/Submit) through 7 February. *We have made a few changes* to the abstract submissions process for IAIA08 which we hope will streamline the process and ensure high quality sessions. When you submit your abstract, you will be asked:

- To nominate your preferred topic stream and specific session. Details of the topic streams and sessions are on pages 11-24 of the preliminary program. Your abstract will stand the best chance of being accepted by the chair of your preferred session if you engage with the synopsis for the session as presented in the preliminary program and comply with the session format that the chair is planning.
- To provide a short biography that your session chair can use when introducing you.
- To provide a short summary of the main points of your paper or presentation, in addition to your abstract. If your submission is accepted, this summary will appear in the final program (there will be no separate abstracts volume).
- To indicate whether you would like your full written paper to be peer-reviewed by two anonymous reviewers. If you would like to include your full paper in the proceedings, note that only those papers that are peer-reviewed and found to be acceptable will be included in the IAIA08 conference proceedings! To take advantage of this opportunity, you will need to submit your paper to IAIA08 Program Coordinator Jenny Pope (jennypope@bigpond.com) by the end of March 2008. Additional information about paper submissions will be provided in the coming weeks via e-news and the Web.

Minerals, Management and Magic: Pilbara Technical Tour. Places are filling up fast for the special post-conference technical tour to the extraordinary Pilbara region of Western Australia. This is a 9-day bus and camping tour that will take you into parts of the country that few Australians ever see, where large-scale mining operations co-exist with an emerging eco-tourism industry and the ancient traditions of the local indigenous people. You will learn about all of these aspects and more from expert guides in each location we visit. Special attention will be given to the role of impact assessment in the ongoing management of the Pilbara region. Check page 32 of the preliminary program for further details. More comprehensive information and relevant web links are also available on the IAIA08 web page. The cost of the tour is AUD\$1940, which equates to the advertised US\$1750 at October 2007 exchange rates. Reasonable levels of health and fitness are required, and a love of camping and the outdoors would be helpful! To book your place, go to www.eecwreservations.com. Wives, husbands and partners are welcome, too!

Technical visits. Even if you can't spare the time to join us in the Pilbara, plenty of one-day pre-conference technical visits are available. Check pages 30-31 for more information, and sign-up using the IAIA08 registration form.

Participate in IAIA08's "Carbon Offset Program with a Difference!" When you register for IAIA08, you can choose to pay an extra US\$40 to offset the average carbon emissions that will result from your attendance at the conference (and you can also choose to offset a buddy). You can also choose to go one step further and actually help to plant the trees and other species that will offset your carbon—a great opportunity to get out into the Australian bush and help to restore a beautiful national park. The Carbon Offset Planting Day is scheduled for Monday, 5 May, just north of Perth in the Yanchep National Park. If you register for this program on the IAIA08 registration form, you will receive more information at a later date. Please note that participating in the Planting Day is optional and not required for the carbon offset contribution.

Important notice: Health requirements for entering Australia (Yellow Fever). All delegates should note that Australia requires any person over one year of age to hold an international yellow fever vaccination certificate if, within the six days prior to their arrival in Australia, they have stayed overnight or longer in a declared yellow fever-infected country in Africa or South America. These countries include Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Ecuador, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Peru, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Venezuela. However, conference delegates are advised to check the latest information available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pub-hlth-strateg-communic-factsheets-yellow.htm>. • Jenny Pope, IAIA08 Program Coordinator • jennypope@bigpond.com

Ghana Affiliate Preparing for IAIA09

In August 2007, members and friends of the IAIA-Ghana Affiliate hosted a site visit for the 2009 conference in Accra. Mark your calendar for **23-29 May 2009!** Pictured below are team members, already working hard to make **IAIA09** the highlight of your professional year.



Team members in Accra.

Front row (6 persons, left to right): Emelia Brew-Butler, Evans Darko-Mensah, Rita Hamm, Jonathan Allotey, Patience Dampety, Richmond Yeboah Amoako

Second row (1 person): A.K. Armah (just behind Emelia)

Third row (6 persons): Sam Anku (in all white), Aaron Asante-Addai, Edith Clark, Ebenezer Sampong, Mamaa Entsuah-Mensah, Mike Tsiagbey

Last row (5 persons): Augustine Owusu-Asare, William Yeboah, K.A. DeGraft Johnson, Nii Teiko Evans-Anfom, Abdel Satti

Photographer: Kwabena Badu-Yeboah

Not pictured: Christine Asare

Aboriginal Consultation in Environmental Assessment

This year, the Ontario Association of Impact Assessment (OAIA) hosted its most successful conference ever. From 6-7 November 2007, close to 300 proponents, practitioners and Aboriginal people gathered to better understand who Aboriginal people are in southern Ontario, why there is now a legal "duty to consult" with them, and how they and government agencies are dealing with the demands on their time and resources.

The success of the conference can be attributed to one key element: we designed the conference with Aboriginal people. Henry Lickers, the Environment Director from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, co-hosted the event and inspired and motivated us to learn from



the Aboriginal framework for thanksgiving that gives attention to all of the same elements (and more) that we should assess in our project work and to do this in the context of looking ahead to seven generations.

The conference program, speakers' biographies and some of the presentations can be viewed on the OAIA Web site: www.oaia.on.ca. • Pam Hubbard, OAIA Past President phubbard@sympatico.ca

Delegates attend a session of the OAIA conference on Aboriginal Consultation in Environmental Assessment.

••• Affiliates & Branches

IAIAsa Hosts Conference on “Managing Resources for Sustainable Development through Impact Assessment”

The South African affiliate of IAIA (IAIAsa) hosted a conference in Somerset West, Cape Town, from 5-7 November 2007. The theme of the conference was “Managing Resources for Sustainable Development through Impact Assessment.”

The conference focused on five core themes: energy, agriculture, sustainable cities, mining and water. Consideration of socioeconomic aspects and ecosystem services cut across all of these five themes. Each theme comprised invited papers by speakers respected in their field of expertise, site visits to developments relevant to the particular theme, and a participatory workshop with delegates.

Fifteen key issues were identified by the conference. Of these fifteen, six were seen to be a priority by all or most of the conference themes. The six priority areas for improving impact assessment can be broadly grouped into three main clusters, namely:

1. The need for a more strategic and sustainability-oriented approach to impact assessment.
2. The need for greater integration within the impact assessment process and between that process and other planning and authorization processes.
3. The need to place greater emphasis on the

“doing,” “checking” and adaptive management of development activities.

In order to bring about these improvements to impact assessment practice, changes in the following areas are needed:

- Impact assessment practitioners should be required to demonstrate their competence and to change the way they operate.
- The approach by governments to the regulation of impact assessment at strategic and project levels, and its integration with other planning and authorization/permitting processes, should be reviewed and amended.
- Collaboration and cooperation between the various stakeholders in the impact assessment and planning processes should be improved.
- New and practical tools and approaches need to be developed and/or applied in the region, to tackle the priority and key issues that are currently not being adequately addressed. In particular, tools for strategic level assessment and to assess impacts on the resilience of social and ecological systems in particular are needed.
- Networking between impact assessment practitioners in different sectors, professional bodies and research institutions, and key stakeholder groupings both in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and within countries in that region should be improved. In addition, greater sharing of information, emerging best practice in impact assessment for sustainability, and lessons learned through practice in the region, should be promoted.
- Capacity in impact assessment practice should be developed through mentoring and sharing expertise.

A record number of 396 delegates registered for the IAIAsa conference, with representation from 24 different countries around the globe, including IAIA President Charlotte Bingham and IAIA08 hosts Angus Morrison-Saunders and Jenny Pope. What was most encouraging was that there were delegates from twelve out of the fourteen SADC countries.

The full conference report will be posted on www.iaia.co.za.
• Susie Brownlie • bass@icon.co.za / •
Byrony Walmsley • bw@saiea.co.za

Cultural Impact Assessment: Beyond the Biophysical

Conference of the Northwest Territories Region of the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate

28-29 February 2008
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada

For more information:
vgibson@interchange.ubc.ca

YOUR AD HERE

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

Ireland-UK Branch Holds Meeting “Changing Climates for Environmental Assessment”

The Ireland-UK Branch of IAIA met at the University of Manchester on 24 October 2007. This was the Branch's fifth meeting since its inception in 2005. The meeting was hosted by the School of Environment and Development (SED) and supported by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) North West Region, and focused on the theme of “Changing Climates for Environmental Assessment.” Over 50 delegates, including consultants, regulators, planners, industry, non-governmental organizations, and the research community attended and listened to a wide range of presentations throughout the day.

The morning session concentrated on climate change and the consequences for environmental assessment. Professor John Handley (University of Manchester) set the scene by highlighting current research on the assessment of climate change impacts, drawing on the new and emerging tools available and concluding that adaptation research is a critical area. Bill Sheate (Collingwood Environmental Planning) presented initiatives in London for climate change adaptation including the current strategy and integrated appraisal. Dermot Smith (Environment Agency) concluded the morning session with an exploration of the role for EIA and SEA in climate change, and challenging practitioners and decision-makers to address these questions:

- What are the effects of a project/strategy on climate through greenhouse gas emissions?
- What effects will climate change have on the long term sustainability of a project/strategy?
- What effects will climate change have on the impacts from a project/strategy?

In the afternoon, Cassandra Wesolowski (PhD student) and Dr. Jeremy Carter (Research Associate) presented some current research ongoing in SED, relating to addressing alternatives through a tiered environmental assessment framework for radioactive waste management, and sustainability appraisal and flood risk management in England, respectively. Sue Kidd and Urmila Jha-Thakur (University of Liverpool) then engaged the delegates in a participatory presentation to develop a current research study on developing the learning potential of appraisal in spatial planning. Finally, Adam Boyden (Nicholas Pearson Associates,

and current Branch Committee Chair) presented the role and functions of the Ireland-UK Branch, and highlighted some recent activities, in particular the input of Branch members to European Union research evaluating the “EIA Directive,” and the potential role of the Branch in the new International Study of Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment 10 Year Review.

We would like to thank Parsons Brinckerhoff for their generous support in sponsoring the event. • Carys Jones and Adam Barker • School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester • carys.jones@manchester.ac.uk / Adam.boyden@npaconsult.co.uk

Seasoned Conference Attendee, or New to Meetings: Tips for Networking (Part 1 of 2)

Have you been to too many conferences and find your inspiration growing stale? Are you new to professional conferences and meetings? Have you noticed that networking seems easy for others, but not for you? Here are some networking tips to help everyone make the most of conferences or meetings.

At the conference

- Stay at the conference hotel or close to the conference venue, if that is possible.
- Be seen! Attend all conference events.
- Approach new people with joy and curiosity.
- Find something you have in common with each person you meet.
- Listen more than you speak.
- Chase away the tendency to think primarily about what is in it for you.
- Cast a wide net: every delegate could be a future source of information or business.
- Act like you are the host. Introduce those you have just met to others you want to meet.
- Introduce yourself to others; do not wait to be introduced.
- If a person you want to meet is making a presentation, attend the session and ask questions.
- Use the conference lunches to sit with people you do not know.
- Take every opportunity to go to dinner with others to strengthen the connections you have just made with them.
- Act professionally during the conference and after hours.
- Arrive early, stay late and be the unofficial greeter, even if this is your first conference.

Stay tuned ... part 2 (April 2008) will provide tips on how to make the most of your meeting after you return to the office.
• Extracted from “Conference Networking Tips” by Jana Coleman.

Calendar

January 1
Global Family Day

January 8
World Literacy Day

February 2
World Wetlands Day

March 8
International Women's Day

March 22
World Day for Water

UNEP: Assessment of Trade-Related Policies and Biodiversity in 6 ACP Countries

Responding to the CBD Conference of Parties call to study the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity, UNEP is currently supporting Jamaica, Cameroon, Mauritius, Madagascar, Uganda and Papua New Guinea to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of trade-related policies in their respective agricultural sectors, focusing on the challenges and opportunities agricultural trade liberalization presents for biodiversity. Since 2007, governments and designated research institutions in the six countries have undertaken these assessments in close collaboration with a range of stakeholders. In Jamaica, Mauritius, and Uganda the assessments have focused on the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations and potential impacts in the sugar and horticulture sectors. Cameroon, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea are examining the impact of trade liberalization policies in the cacao, shrimp aquaculture, and oil palm/coffee sectors, respectively, and ways to align export strategies with sustainability goals. From 26-28 November 2007, the country teams met in Geneva to share experiences and intermediate results and receive feedback from international biodiversity and trade assessment experts. For further information see www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php or contact Vera Weick, UNEP, at vera.weick@unep.ch. • Vera Weick

European Funded Project on SEA and Environmental Policy Integration in China (Asia Pro-Eco II Program)

The article by Elvis Au (page 1) illustrates the growing interest in SEA in China. Our 2007–2009 European project, designed to provide a wide perspective on SEA and its current context, will contribute to the analysis and further advancement of practice in the Chinese energy and transport sectors. Using Environmental Policy Integration (EPI) (EEA 2005) to systematically assess the strengths and weaknesses of integration mechanisms in these sectors, opportunities for SEA will be identified. This Asia Pro-Eco II project is a partnership between four European nations and four Chinese organizations, with the aim of sharing experience.

Two case studies—transport in Shaanxi Province and municipal energy in Xichang (Sichuan)—are being developed and an overview of EU practice in SEA and EPI for transport and energy is being produced to inform the analysis. Sectoral guidelines will be produced to enhance SEA practice in China and improve environmental governance. The project ends with a conference in mid-2009. Comments and feedback are also welcome. Further information and documents are available at www.epi-in-china.com/. • Olivia Bina • Stockholm Environment Institute • o.c.bina.92@cantab.net / • Daniel Bongardt • Wuppertal Institute • daniel.bongardt@wupperinst.org

Reference: EEA. 2005. Environmental policy integration in Europe - State of play and an evaluation framework. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen.

Public Participation in Strategic Decision-Making Workshop: Questions Answered, Raised

A workshop on public participation in strategic decision-making (PPSD) was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 3-4 December 2007. The session, initiated by the Working Group of the Parties to the UN ECE Aarhus Convention, was organized by the Austrian Lebensministerium. It was interactive and offered extremely informative examples of best practice.

Most examples involved some level of IT (information technology). It was acknowledged this was quick and efficient, but there was predictable introspection about why this approach is favored. Is it because it is cheap, administratively easier, trendy? Or is it the only logical outreach in developed economies with increasingly unfashionable of traditional media such as newspapers? I detected cultural differences, with some representatives still being enthusiastic about the usefulness of the traditional press. Evidence suggested that IT media have not provided magic solutions, with worries expressed about low participation or even consultation fatigue, and all participants agreed that a balance of approaches was necessary.

One note of caution was sounded that reflected my own concerns: what proof is there that a satisfying round of public participation/participatory planning actually results in better environmental decisions? An excellent French case study culminated in an appropriate decision to defer construction of new freeways in favor of improvements to the existing transport network—but I thought of the chaos caused by trying to upgrade the Dublin orbital motorway while it still carried a high proportion of Ireland's road freight.....

The workshop compendium/abstracts are available in English or Russian from the Lebensministerium Web site (www.umweltnet.at/article/archive/7247) or the Aarhus PPSD Web site (www.unece.org/env/pp/ppsd.htm). • John Fry • University College Dublin • john.fry@ucd.ie

What proof is there that a satisfying round of public participation/participatory planning actually results in better environmental decisions?

Environmental Mainstreaming: A User Guide to Tools

The challenge to integrate/mainstream environment into development has never been more urgent. In response, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), steered by an International Stakeholders Panel, launched a project in early 2007 to develop a User Guide to tools and tactics for such integration/mainstreaming.

Explanation of key terms

Environmental mainstreaming/integration

These two terms mean the same thing. In this project they encompass the process(es) by which environmental considerations are brought to the attention of organizations and individuals involved in decision-making on the economic, social and physical development of a country (at national, sub-national and/or local levels), and the process(es) by which environment is considered in taking those decisions.

Tools

Instruments, methods and tactics that are used (individually or in combination) to carry out the above processes to take environment into consideration in decision-making, e.g., approaches for providing information, assessment, consultation, analysis, planning, and monitoring so as to inform decisions.

Comments and suggestions on the User Guide are invited.

The User Guide will focus on formal and informal/traditional tools and tactics that directly help to shape policies, plans and decisions, but not on the array of secondary tools applied to implementation (e.g., market delivery mechanisms and instruments, field management tools). Such tools might be applied at various levels (e.g., national, district, community) and by a range of users.

An initial phase of country surveys is underway in the Caribbean, Chile, Ghana, India, Kenya, Philippines, and South Africa, aimed at gathering user perspectives on challenges, integration needs, and tool effectiveness. In a second phase in 2008, a User Guide to the top tools and tactics will be developed. This user-driven approach is likely to result in an expanded set of locally-developed tools and approaches, beyond those that tend to be emphasized by external technical experts. The guidance will be based on evidence submitted through the regional and country-based stakeholder/user consultations and workshops, interviews and questionnaire surveys, and the Panel's own experience.

The project aims to produce:

- (a) A core of about 30 tools, profiled and reviewed according to common criteria
- (b) A guide to help users select the tool or approach that is right for particular problems or tasks
- (c) An overview of areas with weak or missing tools, to guide further tool development

Lessons from the South Africa country survey were presented at the November 2007 IAIAAsa conference in Cape Town, and progress will also be reported and debated at IAIA08 in Perth.

To learn more about the project and to contribute directly, visit the new Web site (www.environmental-mainstreaming.org), or contact project coordinator Barry Dalal-Clayton (barry.dalal-clayton@iied.org). Comments and suggestions should be sent to UserGuide@iied.org. • Barry Dalal-Clayton • International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

11th Meeting of the Working Group on EIA under the Espoo Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context, 21-23 November 2007

This meeting of the Working Group was the final one before the 4th meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Bucharest, 19-21 May 2008. It focused on drafting decisions for the Bucharest meeting, and especially on developing a workplan for the three-year period between the 4th and 5th meetings of the Parties. The documents considered by the Working Group are available at www.unece.org/env/eia/workinggroup.htm. The Working Group agreed that the workplan would focus on implementation of and compliance with the Convention, strengthening subregional cooperation, the exchange of good practices, and supporting ratification and application of the Convention's Protocol on SEA. The outline programme for the Bucharest meeting is available at www.unece.org/env/eia/bucharest.htm. The draft decisions, provisional agenda, practical and other information will be added in the coming months. For information contact Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, at nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org. • Nick Bonvoisin

••• Professional News

German EIA Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary

In September 2007 the German EIA Association celebrated its 20th anniversary and its evolution into an international and interdisciplinary expert network contributing to EIA development and implementation through consultation, training, mentoring, conferences, and the journal *UVP-report*. The Association marked its anniversary with the "Dortmund Declaration," which notes previous achievements of EIA instruments and identifies future needs. Over the past 20 years, EIA has become one of the most important means of environmental precaution in Germany. Among its achievements:

- Transparent and cross-sectoral identification and evaluation of the environmental effects of proposals
- Establishment of preconditions for granting consent that include environmental quality objectives
- Introduction of SEA, including EA for local land-use plans, and monitoring at the strategic level
- Early public participation and consideration of alternatives, leading to legally stronger decisions and reduced investment risk.

Future needs for EIA include:

- Further institutionalize EIA, creating a central agency for EIA documentation
- Develop increasingly interdisciplinary environmental quality objectives and standards
- Increase international exchange of experiences in implementing EAs, including multi-lateral development of environmental objectives and processes
- Consider global effects in SEA, particularly climate change and biodiversity
- Harmonize existing planning and assessment instruments
- Intensify EIA research and development, education and training initiatives, and capacity-building through increased expert personnel and funding.

For additional information contact Wolfgang Wende, Vice President of the German EIA Association, at wende@uvp.de, or visit www.uvp.de/. • Wolfgang Wende

Promotion of European Education on Environmental Assessment for Third Country Audience (PENTA)

A third European Commission funded PENTA workshop on the development of a curriculum for environmental assessment related master programmes was held in Dehradun, India on 24-26 September, 2007. It was jointly organized by the PENTA team (Ingrid Belcakova, Ralf Aschemann, Urmila Jha-Thakur, Paola Gazzola and Thomas Fischer) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII; represented by Priyaranjan Sinha, Vinod Mathur and Asha Rajvanshi). A total of 30 academic and non-academic participants from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the European PENTA team members attended the workshop. Nine sessions were held on existing EA curricula and EA practice in the EU and South East Asia. Further information, including workshop agenda, presentations and conclusions can be obtained at the PENTA Web site: www.penta-eu.net. • Thomas Fischer

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See you at IAIA08 in Perth!

Belgrade Initiative on SEA

The 6th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” was held in Belgrade from 10-12 October 2007. This conference brought together Ministers and high-level officials from 51 countries across Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and North America, and representatives of international organizations and NGOs. They discussed progress in implementing environmental policies since the 5th Ministerial Conference (held in Kiev, 2003), capacity-building and partnerships, and the future of the “Environment for Europe” process. Armenia, Belarus and Moldova, with support from UNECE, UNDP and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, proposed an Initiative on SEA as follow-up to work on SEA capacity-development in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (see www.unece.org/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.18.e.pdf). Several countries and regional environmental centres then met in Belgrade to discuss a possible work programme for the Initiative. UNDP has come forward with funding to begin the process early next year and the Espoo Convention’s Working Group on EIA (see article in this issue) later agreed to include text welcoming the Initiative in the draft decision on adoption of the Convention’s workplan. For information contact Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, at nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org. • Nick Bonvoisin

Preliminary Notice of the IAIA International Study of EA Effectiveness 10-Year Update

Over the next 18 months, an Update of the International Study of EA Effectiveness (completed in 1996) will be undertaken. IAIA and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) co-sponsored the original study, which was carried out with the support of a consortium of countries and international organizations (downloadable copy available on the IAIA Web site: www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=76_). As before, the Update is expected to involve a number of agencies and individuals on an “as interested” basis and draw on a range of commissioned work and in-kind contributions.

The Update will be on a smaller scale than the original study, which will serve as a baseline for retrospective review of trends, issues and progress since 1996. It is expected that the Update of EIA and SEA process effectiveness will be based largely on existing work. Additionally, however, an IAIA theme meeting on cumulative and large scale effects is proposed to address an area of particular and pressing concern to practitioners (as identified in member responses to the survey of the President designate in April 2007). Consideration is also being given to extended treatment of sustainability issues through integrated assessment, engaging other domains of impact assessment. In that regard, much will depend on available resources and interest.

Some of the tools that may be used to gather and analyze information on the lessons of experience are described in the accompanying box. Further information, including options for participation by IAIA members, will be included in the next issues of the IAIA Newsletter. In the interim, we will be contacting IAIA Branches, Sections and others to canvass their views on opportunities and ways forward. Members with specific ideas or interests can contact Barry Sadler, who will serve as Director *pro tem* of the Update (Bsadler01@aol.com). • Barry Sadler

Effectiveness Study Update – Some Potential Tools for Information Gathering

- Survey of IAIA members and specialized constituencies to benchmark progress on EA and other core domains of impact assessment.
- Trend and issues analysis to identify and compare key developments over the last decade, internationally and for selected countries.
- Focus groups to take stock of the pros and cons of experience with EIA/SEA processes and their application in selected countries.
- Effectiveness and performance review of quality of ES, direct and indirect contribution to decision-making processes and the linkages to environmental outcomes, societal benefits and policy and institutional adaptations (system-wide check or case-specific).
- SWOT analysis of procedures and methodologies related to quality assurance, assessing and mitigating cumulative and large scale effects.
- Foresight process on the prospects for and pragmatics of designing and applying integrated approaches to sustainability issues, particularly substantive linkage of economic, social and environmental considerations.
- Use of IAIA Annual Conference as a shop window on the above themes.

Board of Directors Highlights

The IAIA Board of Directors met 26 October 2007 in conjunction with a conference of the Comisión Federal de Electricidad in Mexico City, Mexico. Guided by the Strategic Action Plan, the Board:

- Approved a recommendation by the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Section to change its name to Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management.
- Implemented a policy that Section chairs must either attend or send a representative to the annual Council meetings to deliver a state-of-the-Section report.
- Disbanded the Affiliates Committee and replaced it with a Global Network Group consisting of all IAIA Affiliate Presidents, Branch chairs, and key contacts from other organizations with whom IAIA has signed agreements.
- Approved the 2008 operational budget.
- Decided on "M-IAIA" (Member of IAIA) as the designation for members with four or more years of continuous membership.
- Agreed in principle with proposals from Angus Morrison-Saunders and Ross Marshall to improve the quality of annual conference's technical program; pilot the proposed changes to the extent possible beginning with IAIA08.

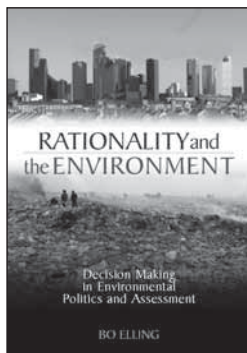
For details on these and other discussion items, see the minutes of the meeting online at www.iaia.org > login > Administration & Member Services > Board of Directors Info & News.

New Intern at IAIA HQ

IAIA HQ welcomed **Loreley Fortuny R. Mounts** as a part-time intern in December 2007. A native of Guatemala, Loreley has nearly completed her Masters degree in environmental auditing and is working toward a second Masters in social anthropology. Her broad background and skills, combined with her engaging yet efficient nature, make her a great help to HQ staff.

Loreley's responsibilities include assisting with marketing and outreach, financial activities, the Capacity Building Stipend program, and various conference preparations.

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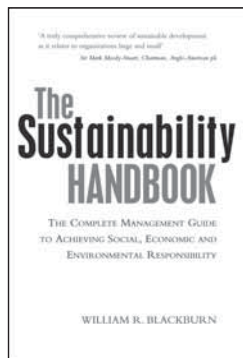
Rationality and the Environment

Decision Making in Environmental Politics and Assessment
Bo Elling

This revolutionary work argues that ethical and aesthetic dimensions can only be brought into environmental politics and policies by citizens actively taking a stand on the specific matters in question. The author draws on Habermas's trisection of rationality as cognitive-instrumental, moral-practical and aesthetic - expressive, to suggest that truly effective environmental policy needs to activate all three approaches and not favour only the rational.

Hardback £65.00 · ISBN 978-1-84407-524-9
January 2008 · 304 pages

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The Sustainability Handbook:

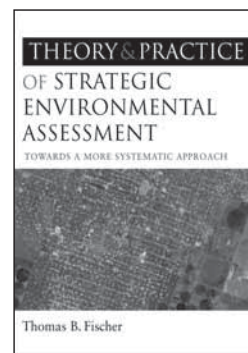
The Complete Management Guide to Achieving Social, Economic and Environmental Responsibility
William R. Blackburn

'By far the best book on sustainability I have read in the last ten years.'

George Nagel, Senior Director, EHS Strategies and Outreach, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

The Sustainability Handbook provides a blueprint for how organizations can reach or exceed economic, social and environmental excellence. Truly the only reference needed for every organization.

Hb £49.95 · ISBN 978-1-84407-495-2
October 2007 · 828 pages



Theory and Practice of Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thomas B. Fischer

'This book is an invaluable reference text for SEA practitioners. I recommend it to everyone!'
Xu He, Director of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Center at Nankai University, China

This textbook, the first of its kind, provides for a state-of-the-art review of SEA theory and practice and promotes a more systematic approach to SEA. It is written for a wide student, professional and academic audience and aims particularly at supporting the development of SEA modules in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Pb £24.95 · ISBN 978-1-84407-453-2
July 2007 · 208 pages

For more information and a full listing of Earthscan titles, simply visit www.earthscan.co.uk

Position Announcement

ENSR Corporation is seeking a **Director of Petroleum Capital Project Permitting** in our Houston, Texas, USA office. The successful candidate would manage and develop ENSR's worldwide petroleum capital project permitting and impact assessment practice.

The scope of the position includes coordinating and growing ENSR's global petroleum capital permitting practice with a specific focus on award and execution of large projects. Projects would range from feasibility assessments and ESHIAs through implementation of sustainable development programs, socio-economic and environmental management plans. It is expected that the position would work closely with ENSR's Project Management Department in the project management aspects of the job, Petroleum Sector Lead to coordinate efforts with the global petroleum market, ENSR's capital permitting service line leader, and with ENSR's Account Managers in the sales/development aspects of the job.

See www.ensr.aecom.com > Careers > Search our US careers database > Search Openings > Requisition/Vacancy No. 19725BR.

IAPA Seeks Inclusion in SSCI

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal is IAIA's journal. It is one of the few journals in the world fully dedicated to impact assessment. It is within IAIA aims to continue improving this journal and keep it at the level of the best international journals. An important step is to have *IAPA* indexed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI); this will improve the international recognition of *IAPA* as being among the best.

To achieve this status, *IAPA* needs to be cited in other journals that are already in the SSCI. And it needs to receive good and even excellent articles. You can help us in this effort. If you are submitting a paper to another journal, please

make sure that the journal is already in the SSCI and please cite *IAPA* papers. And if you are submitting a paper to *IAPA*, remember that *IAPA* goes to about 117 countries, to libraries as well as to members, and is widely read by policy makers, consultants, etc., and by academics and students.

Notes for Authors are available in the journal and on the Web (www.scipol.demon.co.uk/iapanote.htm); submit papers to the editor at editor.iapa@manchester.ac.uk.

• William Page • BeechTree Publishing • page@scipol.co.uk and Maria Partidario • Instituto Superior Técnico and chair, *IAPA* editorial board • mrp@civil.ist.utl.pt

IAPA: Free Online to IAIA Members!

Did you know ... Full online texts of papers in *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* since March 1999 are free to IAIA members through IngentaConnect. Tables of contents, abstracts and index, and a contents alerting service are also available.

Bookmark IngentaConnect at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/beech/iapa today!

International Conferences

7-9 February 2008. **Sustainable Development and Climate Change (DSDS 2008)**. New Delhi, India. Web site: www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/index.htm.

17-21 February 2008. **3rd Annual Solar Cities Congress. Adelaide, Australia**. Web site: www.solarcitiescongress.com.au/ for more information.

28-29 February 2008. **Cultural Impact Assessment: Beyond the Biophysical**. Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. Contact: vgibson@interchange.ubc.ca.

12-14 March 2008. **Globe 2008**. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Web site: www.globe2008.ca/.

2-3 April 2008. **Cooperation for Waste Issues 5th Annual Conference**. Kharkiv, Ukraine. Web site: www.waste.com.ua/cooperation/index.html. (Russian/English)

10-12 April 2008. **Energy & Responsibility: A Conference on Ethics and the Environment**. Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. Web site: http://isse.utk.edu/energy_and_responsibility/index.html.

22-26 April 2008. **Ecocity World Summit**. San Francisco, California, USA. Web site: www.ecocityworldsummit.org/index2.htm

4-10 May 2008. **The Art and Science of Impact Assessment**. 28th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment. Perth, Western Australia. Web site: www.iaiaconference.org/?p=Page&id=3.

23-25 June 2008. **Eco-Architecture 2008: 2nd International Conference on Harmonisation Between Architecture and Nature**. Algarve, Portugal. Web site: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/ecoarch08/index.html#abstracts.

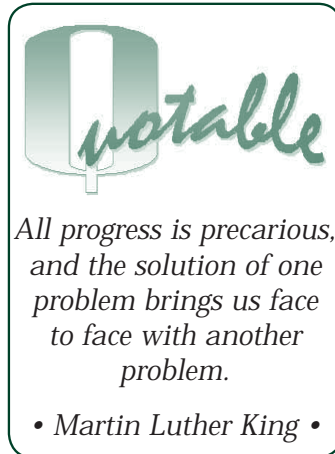
Professional News Index

Education: Promotion of European Education on EA.....	7
Environmental Mainstreaming: A User Guide to Tools	7
Networking: German EIA Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary.....	8
Public Participation: PP in Strategic Decision Making Workshop.....	6
SEA: Belgrade Initiative	9
SEA: European Funded Project on SEA.....	6
Trade: UNEP Assessment of Trade-Related Policies & Biodiversity.....	6
Transboundary: 11th Meeting of the Working Group on EIA	7

On the 'net

Coming soon: **Career Central**, an interactive jobs board. With its focus on companies and professionals in the field of impact assessment, Career Central will offer IAIA members and the IA profession at large an easy-to-use resource for online employment connections.

Expressions of interest from employers are invited: please contact IAIA Headquarters for information if your company has positions to fill.



Welcome!

❖ New IAIA members 16 September—15 December 2007 ❖

Alma Koka, Albania; **Erjeta Koskija**, Albania; **Merita Kucuku**, Albania; **Shpresa Banja**, Albania; **Alice Wendy Russell**, Australia; **Charles Meredith**, Australia; **Dianne Katscherian**, Australia; **Grace Blau**, Australia; **Maree Elizabeth Treadwell**, Australia; **Marie Anne Verschuer**, Australia; **Paul Fridell**, Australia; **Robert Brian Gratton**, Australia; **Warren Alistair McGrath**, Australia; **Wendy Hutchison**, Australia; **Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha**, Benin; **J.M. Augusto Cuadros Prado**, Bolivia; **Sergio Augusto Mercado Centellas**, Bolivia; **Fikret Jakupovic**, Bosnia & Herzegovina; **Izet Cengic**, Bosnia & Herzegovina; **Ozren Laganin**, Bosnia & Herzegovina; **Beloni Terezinha Marterer Pauli**, Brazil; **Silvia Bittencourt Muller**, Brazil; **Doncho Angelov Dimitrov**, Bulgaria; **Ralitz Stefanova**, Bulgaria; **Garrett Lyndon Brown**, Canada; **Glen White**, Canada; **Ken Ursic**, Canada; **Margaret Trias**, Canada; **Nathalie Charland**, Canada; **Orla Robinson & Gillian Donald**, Canada; **Sean E. Steller**, Canada; **Shirley Tsetta & Madeline Chocolate**, Canada; **Gonzalo León Silva**, Chile; **Maria Eliana Vega Fernández**, Chile; **Craig Andrew Reid**, China-SAR; **Alberto Baquero Vega**, Colombia; **Mauricio Bayona Pulido**, Colombia; **Oscar Orlando Osorio**, Colombia; **William Borges Quesada**, Costa Rica; **Ana Kojakovic**, Croatia; **Elvis Kesetovic**, Croatia; **Gordana Pavokovic**, Croatia; **Vjerman Pirsic**, Croatia; **Alejandro Herrera Moreno**, Dominican Republic; **Juan Manuel Aguas Changoluiza**, Ecuador; **Klever Chavez Benalcazar**, Ecuador; **Lucia de las Mercedes Burgos Salvador**, Ecuador; **Jean Claude Lau Thi Keng**, France; **Thomas Rehahn**, Germany; **Bessy Aspra Iglesias**, Honduras; **Fidel Ernesto López Barahona**, Honduras; **Emma Arnold**, Hungary; **Praveen Mathur**, India; **Sinead McAleer**, Ireland; **Ivana Trkulja**, Italy; **Filip Ivanov**, Macedonia; **Lilijana Tanevska**, Macedonia; **Zoran Boshev**, Macedonia; **Abdullah Malim Baginda**, Malaysia; **Luis Humberto Mojica Vazquez**, Mexico; **Félix A. Bernabel Badillo**, Peru; **Susana Chu**, Peru; **Andreia Duborjal Cabral**, Portugal; **Arinda Maria Cadariu**, Romania; **Christiana Elena Surdu**, Romania; **Luminita Ileana Cornea**, Romania; **Adnan Elshani**, Serbia; **Gani Berisha**, Serbia; **Nezakete Rexhepi Hakaj**, Serbia; **Rizah Hajdari**, Serbia; **Slavica Tosic**, Serbia; **Lerato Ramagoshi**, South Africa; **Nicolaas Willem Hanekom**, South Africa; **Anne Therese Nolan**, Sweden; **Johan Rodéhn**, Sweden; **Simon Walker**, Switzerland; **Melanie J. Richards**, Trinidad & Tobago; **Wayne Chaman Huggins**, Trinidad & Tobago; **Riad M. Mahfouz**, United Arab Emirates; **Caroline Scott**, United Kingdom; **Elaye E. Youdeowei**, United Kingdom; **Huw Coffin**, United Kingdom; **Kenneth Francis**, United Kingdom; **Ly Vaillancourt & Mary Lou Lauria**, United Kingdom; **Anne E. Huebner**, USA; **Cynthia Cauthern**, USA; **Gary Krieger & Marci Balge**, USA; **Gordon Appleby**, USA; **Kimberly A. Wetzel**, USA; **Remigius Ignace Rushomesa**, USA; **Samuel Schramski**, USA.

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IAIA Important Dates & Deadlines

Subject to change - watch for updates

January 2008

7.....Newsletter, ballots for Board election mailed

February 2008

7.....IAIA08 paper and poster submissions deadline

7.....IAIA08 Student fee waiver deadline

10 ..IAIA08 Early Bird registration ends

29...Last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA08 final program

29...IAIA08 deadlines: technical visits, training courses, Quickpass, booth and exhibit reservation, raffle donation forms

March 2008

1.....Newsletter articles due

1.....Text for IAIA09 call for papers finalized

15...Training course instructor agreements due

15...IAIA08 hotel reservations

31 ...IAIA08 deadlines: requests for inserts in delegate bags, requests for special audio-visual equipment, sponsorship confirmation

31 ...Board action items due

31 ...Annual reports due

31 ...Annual General Meeting action items due

April 2008

1.....Newsletter mailed

1.....Board election ballots tabulated; results announced

16...IAIA08 Pre-registration cutoff

May 2008

4-10 IAIA08

.....Board meeting

June 2008

1.....Newsletter articles due

July 2008

1.....Newsletter, IAIA09 Call for Submissions mailed

Has an IAIA member you know recently made news, celebrated a promotion, retired, or completed a major project? Please send the information to the newsletter and share it with the IAIA community!

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: April 2008

Submission deadline: 1 March 2008

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions 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. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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