

Newsletter

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Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Valuation of Ecosystem Services and SEA: Lessons from Influential Cases

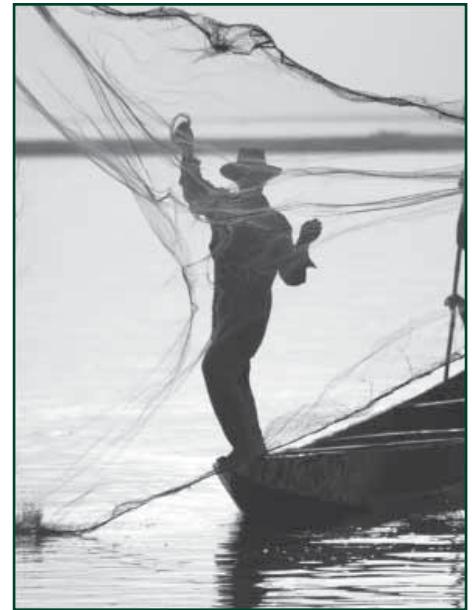
The concept of ecosystem services, i.e., the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, has received significant attention since the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, yet cases where the valuation of ecosystem services has influenced policies or plans remain scarce. The SEA community has rarely used ecosystem services to translate environment into societal benefits; thus it is difficult to find practical evidence that the ecosystem services concept works in SEA.

Ten cases, several of which used SEA or a similar process, were documented where the recognition, quantification and valuation of ecosystem services have significantly contributed to decision-making by providing better information on the consequences of new policies or planned developments; valuation also resulted in major policy changes or decision-making on strategic plans or investment programmes.


The case study document and synthesis report can be downloaded from the Web site of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (www.eia.nl); the synthesis report is also available in print. • Roel Slootweg, SevS, sevs@sevs.nl • Arend Kolhoff, Netherlands Commission for Impact Assessment, akolhoff@eia.nl • Pieter van Beukering, IVM/Institute for Environmental Studies, pieter.van.beukering@ivm.vu.nl

A Decision-Maker's Tool for Sustainability-Centered Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Decision-Maker's Tool (DM Tool) profiled at IAIA08 is designed to guide strategic environmental assessment (SEA) practitioners step-wise through a typical SEA process, using sustainability-focused questions that culminate in an effective Briefing Note for the Decision Maker (DM). The DM Tool can be used to guide the practitioner through the crucial step of presenting SEA findings in a consistent, relevant and usable form for the DM to determine the best way forward. SEA findings are usually presented to DMs in the form of a Briefing Note, and a well-crafted Briefing Note acts as a "translation tool" for the DM. The tool aims to translate a wide array of technical information and values into a language matching the culture familiar to the DM. The DM Tool is still in a draft phase, and the authors invite IAIA members to review and or test the tool in an actual SEA process. • For more information, contact: Robert Gibson (rbgibson@envmail.uwaterloo.ca), Peter Croal (acdi-cida.gc.ca), Charles Alton (earthlink.net), Susie Brownlie (dbass@icon.co.za), or Erin Windibank (ewindiba@admmail.uwaterloo.ca)



Benefits from ecosystems in Mali: Fishing in inner Niger delta. Photo by Pieter van Beukering.



Special Topic Meeting
6-9 November 2008
Calgary, Canada

**Assessing and Managing
Cumulative
Environmental Effects**



IAIA09
Accra, Ghana
16-22 May 2009
Adinkra Symbol of unity
and Human Relations

More conference
news inside!

In this issue

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••• From the President



Ethics as a Professional

• Sachihiko Harashina • Tokyo Institute of Technology • Sahara@depe.titech.ac.jp

I stressed ethics in my message in the July issue of the newsletter, which was written after my presidential address at the Annual Conference at Perth in May. At the Annual General Meeting in Perth, we had just passed the Code of Conduct as self-ascribed professional members of IAIA. This action shows that we consider it quite important to make IAIA trusted around the world as a professional society.

To be trusted as experts and members of a professional society, we should behave honestly and neutrally, and provide relevant and unbiased information for decision-making surrounding major human actions that might have big impacts on the environment. The fifth item of the Code of Conduct addresses this issue. We should provide not only accurate scientific information and engineering services for improving sustainability, but also fairly convey the opinions of the people to the decision-makers to support their wise judgments.

Science and technology is a foundation for economic development. One of the major factors of Japanese economic success after World War II was the ability and trustworthiness of engineers. Engineers were appreciated because of their contribution to economic growth at that time. My university, Tokyo Institute of Technology, is known as a university that produces trustworthy engineers. Alumni were educated to have the mindset of “Shokunin Katagi,” which in Japanese is an artisan spirit. I think that concept is closely related to “Bushido,” or the traditional Japanese Samurai code of conduct. People believed that Samurai should have a high level of ethics, and Samurai were respected because they were quite honest and reliable—not by their swords, but by Bushido.

I would like my colleagues in IAIA to be viewed with the same belief. We should be trusted in each society and also all over the world through our activities. To behave in such a manner, we can utilize our global network of talented people and organizations to help each other.

... we can utilize our global network of talented people and organizations to help each other.

IAIA Code of Ethics

As a self-ascribed professional member of IAIA, the information and services that I provide must be of the highest quality and reliability. I consequently commit myself:

- To conduct my professional activities with integrity, honesty, and free from any misrepresentation or deliberate bias.
- To conduct my professional activities only in subject areas in which I have competence through education, training, or experience. I will engage, or participate with, other professionals in subject areas where I am less competent.
- To take care that my professional activities promote sustainable and equitable actions as well as a holistic approach to impact assessment.
- To check that all policies, plans, activities, or projects with which I am involved are consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and guidelines.
- To refuse to provide professional services whenever the professional is required to bias the analysis or omit or distort facts in order to arrive at a predetermined finding or result.
- To disclose to employers and clients and in all written reports, any personal or financial interest that could reasonably raise concerns as to a possible conflict of interest.
- To strive to continually improve my professional knowledge and skills and to stay current with new developments in impact assessment and my associated fields of competence.
- To acknowledge the sources I have used in my analysis and the preparation of reports.
- To accept that my name will be removed from the list of self-ascribed professional members of IAIA should I be found to be in breach of this code by a disciplinary task-group constituted by the IAIA Board of Directors to consider any complaint lodged against my professional conduct.

Networking Follow-Up How-To

You *meant* to follow up with people you met at the IAIA conference...

Maybe you think you're too busy to follow up, or he is too busy to respond. Or maybe you can't find her business card. (They are easy to lose, but you can check your list of participants. Can't find your participants list? Download it from the Web site or contact IAIA HQ.)

It takes only a few minutes to compose a short e-mail. Yes, it is possible that the other person won't remember you or what you discussed. But don't let "what ifs" prevent you from making contact. Set the foundation for follow-up in your e-mail. Comment on the work he or she does, and don't be afraid to ask any details or specifics that you might have forgotten.

Networking is one of the best ways to find new clients, meet potential partners, and discover people who can help you with your work. Take advantage of the network at your fingertips as a member of IAIA. • Rita Hamm • IAIA CEO • rita@iaia.org

Coming Out on Top Down Under

The 2008 conference in Perth was the first IAIA annual conference held in the Southern Hemisphere since 1998 (Christchurch, New Zealand), and based on the feedback from the delegates, it was certainly a success.

Two weeks after returning from Perth, IAIA HQ sent an e-mail invitation for an online conference evaluation. Of the 748 delegates, 703 were successfully contacted to complete the survey, and 231 of those responded, resulting in a 31% response rate.

The IAIA08 Local Organizing Committee and IAIA staff thought the conference went very well, and that belief was confirmed by the survey results, with 93% responding that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall conference program. This is in keeping with similar ratings (90% or more) from evaluations of previous recent IAIA conferences. Of all the conference elements, the conference banquet received the highest rating, with 91% considering it satisfactory or very satisfactory. The theme forums and scope/appropriateness of conference theme (both with 88%), opening plenary (87%), and concurrent sessions (85%) were all rated with high levels of satisfaction as well.

In an open-ended question, delegates were asked what they considered to be the most valuable aspect of attending IAIA08. The most frequently mentioned comments were networking, learning opportunities, listening to people from around the world, knowing what was happening in different locations, training courses and presentations.

For IAIA08, mini-abstracts were printed within session descriptions in the new program. (In the past, full abstracts were printed in a separate volume.) Of those who responded, 63% really liked this format. Twenty percent liked the idea but would have preferred longer descriptions, while 11% would have preferred a separate volume of abstracts.

Seventy-two percent of respondents thought the IAIA08 conference was a good or very good value for the registration rate, with another 16% staying neutral on the issue. Delegates felt they received sufficient support from IAIA Headquarters throughout the conference and registration process, with 88% of respondents indicating that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the headquarters staff helpfulness. The Program Committee was also considered helpful, with 84% of respondents satisfied or very satisfied.

As historically has been the case in IAIA conference evaluations, the delegates at IAIA08 had conflicting opinions about the time allocation of both theme forums and concurrent sessions. Over half of the respondents thought IAIA should keep the same amount of time for both (58% for concurrent sessions and 67% for theme forums), 11% and 17% of respondents thought there should be less time for forums and sessions respectively, while 22% wanted more time for forums and 24% wanted more time for sessions.

IAIA08 was the first IAIA conference for about half (54%) of the evaluation respondents. Another 30% have attended between two and ten IAIA conferences. Delegates from government (30%) and private consultants (29%) comprised the largest two sectors represented at IAIA08, followed by education (16%). Research institutes/laboratories represented 8%, industry 5%, NGOs 3%, donor agencies 2% world/regional banks 1%, and "other" rounding out the rest with 6%.

The following items in the survey were related to features of future conferences. Respondents were almost evenly split on whether a complete paper should be required prior to the conference in order for the presentation to be included in the final program. Of the 48% who thought a pre-conference paper should be required, the most common reasons given were to ensure quality, commitment and seriousness when planning the presentations. The 52% who did not agree with the requirement most frequently cited the fact that there are many interesting presentations that do not require or are not suitable for papers.

Delegates were asked what material they would like included in the post-conference proceedings. While 29% wanted only peer-reviewed papers to be included, 73% of respondents also wanted PowerPoint presentations, and 64% wanted all papers and posters included. In terms of how to access the proceedings, the majority (69%) would like proceedings available from both a CD Rom and the IAIA Web site, while 19% would prefer to have them on the IAIA Web site, and 12% said they would like to have them on a CD Rom.

Respondents were asked to rate time allocation for different aspects of future conferences on a 5-point scale from "more" to "less/fewer." The majority of respondents preferred the same time allocation for the training courses, plenaries, social and networking events, and the entire conference in general.

Complete survey results may be requested from IAIA HQ. • Bridget John • Marketing/Financial Specialist, IAIA HQ • bridget@iaia.org



What was the most valuable aspect of attending IAIA08?

Networking, learning opportunities, listening to people from around the world, knowing what was happening in different locations, training courses and presentations.

••• Focus on Affiliates

IAIA-Italia and Dirittoambiente Form Partnership

IAIA-Italia is organizing several official meetings with Italian environmental institutions and is publishing proceedings of the national congress on SEA at the University of Venice (see www.iaiaitalia.it). About twenty contributors explained their experiences and methodologies for improved SEA processes with particular focus on new opportunities for GIS applications and the importance of cultural and historical aspects in the strategic evaluation of plans and programs in a country like Italy. Materials are freely available for IAIA and IAIA-Italia members.

In order to promote IAIA and to increase Italian players' interest on environment in an international context, IAIA-Italia President Giuseppe Magro has signed an important partnership with Dirittoambiente (www.dirittoambiente.net), the leading Italian organization on legal and practical aspects regarding impact assessment.

Dirittoambiente's newsletter reaches more than 70,000 people working in environmental institutions, municipalities, and environmental control agencies and is instrumental in promoting IAIA-Italia programs as part of IAIA-Italia's strategy to generate interest and create a positive mood before potentially organizing an IAIA event in Italy in the next few years.

One of the most relevant suggestions to come from the last IAIA-Italia conference is the importance of enforcing an effective national network on Strategic Environmental Assessment experiences by promoting constructive discussions on relevant indicators and models and relevant experiences in environmental analysis and evaluation of structured plans. It is particularly important for public players to have practical instruments for managing the participation process in SEA.

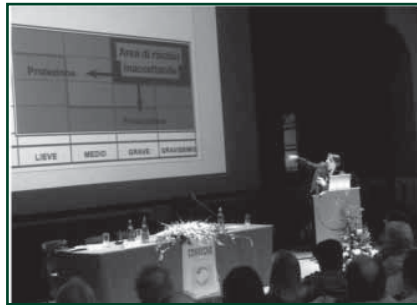
All of these aspects will be discussed in October 2008 during an official IAIA-Italia meeting with new Italian government delegates to plan an IAIA global event proposal.

For information on IAIA-Italia activities and its new international partnership, contact info@iaiaitalia.it. • Stefania Pelligrini • IAIA-Italia • segreteria@iaiaitalia.it

Nominations now being accepted for 2009 awards

For a list of awards, criteria, and nomination instructions, please contact Robert Connelly, 2009 IAIA Awards Committee Chair (Robert.Connolly@sympatico.ca).

Nominations should be submitted individually and confidentially.



Photos: Presentation of IAIA-Italia and Dirittoambiente partnership in Spoleto, Italy.

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Why Is the EIA Model so Widely Used?

In 2005 I prepared a book review on Lynton Caldwell's *The National Environmental Policy Act: An Agenda for the Future*. My take was that it is an extraordinary and interesting story on how the Act and our EIA craft was created, how it was copied by 80 countries, and how it developed successfully—yet left some gaping holes, ones which many of our IAIA countries share. While the book is no longer new, I feel that it is still of interest and needs to be brought to the attention of the IAIA membership. • Patrick Duffy

Have you considered why we EIA workers from around the world seem to use the same model, language, and tools? A book by Lynton Keith Caldwell makes it all very clear. Caldwell's book is entitled *The National Policy Act: An Agenda for the Future* (Indiana University Press, ISBN 0-253-33444-6. 1998). He traces this U.S. Act from its beginnings in the late '60s when he and Senator Henry Jackson led the drafting, including the creation of the environmental impact statement as an "action-forcing mechanism," holding all U.S. agencies in strict compliance (Section 102). This EIA legislation was copied by over 80 countries at the time of writing. This is the good news and accounts for our common interests.

The bad news is in Caldwell's "agenda for the future," i.e., correcting the weaknesses in the EIA including the lack of a National Environmental Policy as a backdrop to effective EIA execution. Four of the weak areas are given here. Do they sound familiar to your situation?

- The courts seem to focus on the weak preparation of documents and miss the coordination and economizing benefits of impact assessment.
- Government bureaucracies object to opening the (sponsoring) agency's expertise to question ("the agency always knows best").
- The requirement to consider unquantified amenities and values is a burden.
- The existing state of science is inadequate to resolve problems relating to the environment. Valid EIA requires reliable science.

The main message for us is that without the backdrop of a National Environmental Policy which is understood by stakeholders, the potential for success in EIA will continue to be weakened by patchy support. This is the case in the U.S. Is it the same situation in your jurisdiction?

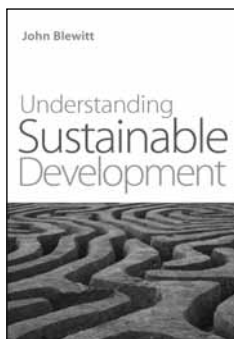
• Patrick Duffy • PJB Duffy & Associates • pjduffy@shaw.ca

Sound Off!

What is the situation in your jurisdiction?

E-mail feedback to this question in care of jen@iaia.org. Responses may be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

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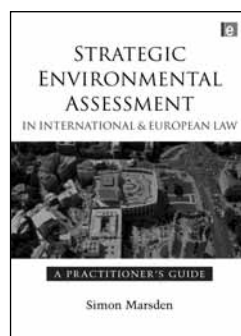
Understanding Sustainable Development

John Blewitt

'Understanding Sustainable Development is a major work ... the comprehensive book on a broadly based interpretation of sustainable development!' Julian Agyeman, Associate Professor and Chair, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University

This book adopts a multi-perspective approach designed specifically to allow access to sustainable development from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds.

Paperback • £18.99 • ISBN 978-1-84407-454-9
August 2008 • 304 pages



Strategic Environmental Assessment in International and European Law – A Practitioner's Guide

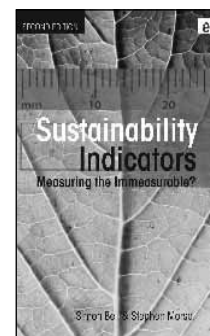
Simon Marsden

'I am very impressed! The author has done a tremendous job.'

Dr Thomas Fischer, Reader in the Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool

Understanding the legal aspects of SEA can be challenging. This guide provides a clear analysis of the issues, based on a comprehensive overview of the relevant literature.

Hardback • £65.00 • ISBN 978-1-84407-489-1
August 2008 • 336 pages



Sustainability Indicators

Measuring the Immeasurable? (2nd ed.)
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'A valuable contribution.'
Christine Blackmore, Open University

The new edition of *Sustainability Indicators* brings the literature up to date and shows that the basic requirement for a systemic approach is now well grounded in the evidence.

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New Membership Categories Offered

To better serve you, the IAIA Board of Directors has restructured membership categories and benefits. Effective 1 September 2008 for new members (and on your renewal date for current members), you have a wider selection of categories to better meet your needs, along with an expanded list of benefits. The unanimous approval of the by-laws amendments at the IAIA08 Annual General Meeting made this flexibility possible.

One major change is a membership option for those who wish to access the quarterly journal, *IAPA*, electronically only. Those who want a hard copy of the journal mailed to them can still obtain that benefit for an additional US\$25/year. IAIA still offers the two rate levels for non-OECD and LDC members, as well as a special rate for students/graduates.

For professionals who are perhaps less directly associated with impact assessment but who would still like to keep up with the field, IAIA now offers an Associated Individual membership category. Although the member benefits are more limited, the fee is also much lower as well.

Two different categories are now available for corporate memberships: Standard Corporate Membership (US\$1,000) and Stewardship Corporate Membership (US\$5,000). Both include discounts on conference registrations and exhibit space as well as recognition in IAIA's newsletter and on the IAIA Web site. Stewardship Corporate Members have added advertising and conference sponsorship benefits.

For more details about each of these categories and specific benefits associated with each, please click the Membership Application link under Join or Renew on the IAIA Web site (www.iaia.org) or contact Shelli LaPlante at IAIA Headquarters (info@iaia.org).

Meet Our New Board Members

■ Nick Taylor, President-Elect

Currently Nick is the director of the private research and consultancy company Taylor-Baines and Associates (established 1989), based in New Zealand. He has 26 years of experience in impact assessment, has developed and conducted SIA training nationally and internationally, has an academic background in applied sociology and environmental sciences, and has collaborated internationally to develop approaches and techniques for social assessment and public involvement. His co-authored text *Social Assessment: theory, process and techniques* is in its third edition (2004). Nick's research and consultancy work focuses on assisting communities to increase their livelihood options, resilience and sustainability; including work in the agriculture, tourism, energy, forestry, fishing, and mining sectors. He has also assessed impacts of infrastructure projects such as harbors, waste-water treatment and landfills, retail facilities and tourism developments.

Nick is a long-time member of IAIA and the SIA Section, serving as Sections Coordinating Committee Chair and serving on the Training and Professional Development, Awards, and Board Nominations Committees, as well as co-chairing IAIA98. He has been a leader in the New Zealand Affiliate of IAIA (NZAIA). His focus is on increasing networking within IAIA and IAIA involvement in key issues globally.

■ Maya Villaluz, Director (to '11)

Maya is a Civil Engineer with Master of Science degrees in Environmental Engineering from two universities and a PhD in Environmental Science through a joint program of the University of the Philippines and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. She has 25 years of professional experience and is currently the Environment Operations Officer at the World Bank office in Manila, conducting impact assessment for investment projects that range from large infrastructure to environmentally critical to community-driven development projects.

Maya has been a member of IAIA since 1994, serving on several IAIA committees and as a reviewer for *IAPA*. She would like to see IAIA membership expanding to as many as countries as possible and is interested in IAIA's hosting of regional and national meetings in different countries on different continents to complement the annual conferences as well as and interacting with other professional groups interested in impact assessment.

See bios for all Board members
at www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=114

Mark Your Calendar

► Upcoming IAIA Events



6-9 November 2008. **Assessing and Managing Cumulative Environmental Effects.** IAIA special meeting. Calgary, Canada. www.iaia.org



16-22 May 2009. **Impact Assessment and Human Well-Being.** 29th Annual Meeting of IAIA. Accra, Ghana. www.iaia.org

Watch www.iaia.org for conference events and announcements!

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

Sponsoring an IAIA conference is a great way for your company or organization to demonstrate its commitment to the environment and contribute to the improvement of impact assessment around the globe.

As a sponsor, you have access to a wide array of delegates from a multitude of disciplines, which promotes your company as businesses with a global impact assessment conscience and a valuable partner. Sponsors are entitled to a number of valuable benefits.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the special meeting on cumulative effects and IAIA09! Contact Bridget John at IAIA Headquarters (bridget@iaia.org) for more information.

► Upcoming Affiliate/Branch Events

23 October 2008. **Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Forum: Integration in SEA.** Leeds, UK. www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354

19-20 November 2008. **OAIA 2008. Going Green: Implications for Environmental Assessment in Ontario.** Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. www.oaia.on.ca/news.htm

27-28 November 2008. **Assessing Impacts in Coastal and Lake-Front Environments.** Nelson, New Zealand. www.nzaia.org.nz

11-13 March 2009. **V Congreso Nacional de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental: Cooperación, Desarrollo y Sostenibilidad.** Córdoba, Spain. www.coneia2009.com

► Other Conferences/Events

20 October 2008. **Getting Better Value from Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).** Glasgow, Scotland. www.ce.strath.ac.uk/sea

26-28 November 2008. **EnviroCon2008.** Mabula Lodge, Limpopo, South Africa. www.envass.co.za/envirocon.php

27 February - 1 March 2009. **Implementing the EIA Law in China: Five-Year Review and Prospect.** Hong Kong. www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=102 or contact Dr. WU Jing, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, wujing@cuhk.edu.hk



Find that perfect fit.

IAIA Career Central

Where do you go to find qualified candidates? **IAIA Career Central** is your online resource for making employment connections in the field of Impact Assessment.

<http://jobboard.iaia.org>



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Online Carbon Value Analysis Tool Available

The Carbon Value Analysis Tool (CVAT) is a screening tool to help companies integrate the value of carbon dioxide emissions reductions into energy-related investment decisions and to allow project managers to factor in the price of carbon when evaluating greenhouse gas reduction projects.

CVAT estimates direct and indirect emissions reductions using standards developed by the GHG Protocol Initiative. CVAT can also run a Monte Carlo analysis for key project variables such as carbon value, providing insights into the possible range of a project's internal rate of return.

To analyze a project, CVA asks four types of information:

- Basic project information
- Some details about the project's design and operation
- Assumptions about future energy prices
- Foreign exchange rates (for projects denominated in currencies other than US dollars)

CVAT is designed for use by many types of professionals, including project managers, engineers and energy managers in large companies. For more information, visit the World Resources Institute Web site (www.wri.org/publication/carbon-value-analysis-tool).

Contributed by Angela Pinilla Urzola via the Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management listserv

IA Research Corner

Input Invited from Students, Scholars

One of IAIA's strategic goals is to make contributions, advancements and disseminate IA research. Among IAIA's members are several junior and established scholars who are passionate about impact assessment (IA) and bring that enthusiasm into their research. Master's and Ph.D. students in particular are close to the "sharp end" of innovative and original IA research, contributing to the advancement of the theory and practice of IA and providing up-to-date breadth and depth of knowledge on cross-cutting themes and topical issues.

The IA Research Corner is intended to provide students, as well as more senior scholars, an opportunity to inform other IAIA members about their research topics, disseminate knowledge, communicate findings, or seek contributions.

Contributions to this new feature are invited. Text should be no longer than 300 words and may be sent to jen@iaia.org. • Paola Gazzola • University of Liverpool • gazzola@liverpool.ac.uk

IAPA: Free Online!

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.

As of January 2008, all items in *IAPA* are open-access 24 months after publication.

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

IAPA Seeks Inclusion in SCSCI

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 over 120 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

Board of Directors Highlights

At its meeting in Perth, in support of IAIA's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and in general business, the Board of Directors:

- Noted that IAIA's financial position is sound. US\$100,000 was moved to the reserve fund in October 2007.
- *SAP activity: Develop the corporate package and promote corporate membership.* Noted that a corporate brochure can be publicly distributed following the approval of the amended bylaws at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Reviewed the new membership categories and noted that, with the AGM's passing of the bylaws, the rates will take effect after new administrative software is installed.
- *SAP activity: Promote IAIA to underrepresented segments within IAIA.* Expressed appreciation to Montañez-Cartaxo for his extraordinary efforts in reaching out to Latin American professionals and noted that recent progress includes establishment of university contacts and a Spanish-language session at IAIA08; noted student recruitment and retention efforts including the student fee waiver program, student listserv, training course waiver, the mentoring scheme, the student poster award, Career Central and upcoming "research corner" feature in the newsletter.
- *SAP activity: Increase and improve Web-related services.* Noted that a Web administrator has been hired. The Board and Publications Committee have already discussed making the Web the gateway to IAIA and impact assessment. Evaluation of administrative software is underway and will be implemented ASAP, and a strategy is being developed to take advantage of interactive online networking/conferencing opportunities.
- Following discussion on feedback from various Sections and the Sections Coordination Committee, approved a motion that all listservs be made public and that IAIA look into potentially phasing out listservs for blog-style discussion forums.
- Extended its appreciation to all committee members and especially to all committee chairs for their contributions to IAIA activities during the past year.
- Approved permanent status for the Ireland-UK Branch.
- Approved (in principle, subject to conditions of a formal partnership) a proposal from the Biodiversity Section to develop a partnership with Global Biodiversity Information Facility in order to mobilize biodiversity data for improved IA practice).

Full minutes are available at www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=113.

AGM Highlights

- Treasurer Alan Kwok reported that IAIA is in a healthy financial position, with major revenues from membership dues and conference proceeds. Major expenses in 2007 were conference and operational expenses. Additionally, we put investments into the Web to upgrade hardware and software as a means to improve services to members. For 2008 we have made a modest increase for inflation and will continue to put money into Web-related services for improvements.
- The Ethics Task Force presented the Code of Conduct, clarifying that the Code of Conduct is applicable to individual members, who may self-subscribe to it, as opposed to the organization-wide Code of Ethics. By this time next year, we intend to have a consolidated document which will start with the mission and vision statement and include the general Code of Ethics as well as the Code of Conduct.
- The membership unanimously passed the proposed bylaws revisions, which generally were intended to allow for more flexibility in offering different types of memberships.
- Julieta Pisanty-Levy was presented with the Outstanding Service to IAIA Award.

Earth Calendar

16 October

World Food Day

17 October

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

8 November

World Town Planning Day

16 November

International Day for Tolerance

1 December

World AIDS Day

5 December

International Volunteers Day

10 December

Human Rights Day

Special-Interest Discussion Groups Available

The increasing use of electronic communication provides additional opportunities for international associations such as IAIA to assist their members in direct ways. A listserv is an e-mail based communication tool whereby sending a message to a single e-mail address, users distribute their messages via e-mail to all subscribers in that group. IAIA has listserv discussion groups in some of the more popular fields of impact assessment and to cater to particular groups within IAIA.

These are not intended to be high-volume discussion groups; rather, they are intended to focus on small areas of impact assessment and to discuss issues of interest to an international membership. From time to time, facilitators in each field will promote a discussion by raising key issues.

The following listserv discussion groups are available at this time:

- **News** is not a discussion group but a news group to provide rapid transmission of news about all IAIA activities and about impact assessment issues generally. It is recommended that all IAIA members join this list.
- **Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries** (NR “Natural Resources”). Discuss and assess the benefits of increased practical application of EIA to these sectors. Facilitator: Patrick Duffy.
- **Biodiversity and Ecology**. This listserv provides a forum for discussing ecological impact assessment and the integration of biodiversity issues and concerns with impact assessment at the project, program, and policy levels. The facilitators are Asha Rajvanshi and Verina Ingram.
- **Climate Change**. The purpose of the IAIA Climate Change listserv is to identify the role of impact assessment (including strategic impact assessment) in addressing climate change issues around the world. Discussion should be wide-ranging and consider areas of concern for national and international governments, industry, NGOs, and donor institutions such as International Finance Institutions (IFIs). IA is directly linked to adaptation, but mitigation, although most commonly indirectly linked, may also be discussed. Co-facilitators are Norval Collins and Anne Elisabeth Carlsen.
- **Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management**. An open forum to discuss practical issues and strategies associated with CSR and its relation to the EIA process. Potential topics include environmental auditing, voluntary initiatives and corporate social responsibility, local perspectives on projects involving the application of Environmental Management Systems, follow-up and more. Facilitated by Angela Pinilla Urzola.
- **Health** deals with health impact assessment and is facilitated by Lea den Broeder.
- **Ireland-UK Branch** informs Branch members in the Ireland-UK Branch about local activities and IA-related information of interest. Facilitated by Adam Boyden.
- **SIA** deals with social impact assessment and is facilitated by Frank Vanclay and others.
- **Strategic** is a discussion group about strategic impact assessment and is facilitated by Thomas Fischer.
- **Students and Early Professionals** provides a forum for SEPs to exchange ideas and experiences. It is also intended to provide a forum for pursuing improved SEP involvement in IAIA throughout the year and at IAIA annual meetings. Facilitated by Tracey Nitz.
- **Washington Area Branch** (WAB) is used to inform IAIA members and friends in the Washington, DC, area about local IAIA activities and IA-related information of interest. Facilitated by Will Knowland.

New discussion groups are added from time to time based on request. Contact IAIA HQ for information if you are interested in starting a new discussion group.

Following a Board decision based on feedback from members who wanted to see the listservs opened to broader discussion, in June 2008 most listservs were opened to the public; i.e., the instructions to join and use them were moved to the public pages of the IAIA Web site. IAIA HQ and the Publications Committee, which has oversight of the Web, are monitoring usage to determine what effect, if any, this move has had. Unofficially, the most obvious change to date seems to be a slight increase in spam traffic. All spam reports and out-of-office replies are broadcast to all listserv members; this is an unavoidable result of all subscribers having the ability to both send and receive messages.

The Board, the Publications Committee, and IAIA HQ are currently investigating newer types of group communications, such as online forums or blogs, that may have more advantages than listservs (e.g., the ability to archive discussion threads or bypass the spam problem). A test group will likely be set up in the coming months based on the findings and recommendations.

Find the complete list of IAIA listserv discussion groups and instructions for joining them under the “Resources and Networking” menu at www.IAIA.org. (www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=324)

Tomlinson leaves C4S, Joins Scott Wilson

Paul Tomlinson has left C4S to join multi-disciplinary consultancy Scott Wilson in Birmingham (UK). He will continue his work in the transport sector and on SEA, EIA, health and spatial planning, but will also return to working in the energy sector. Paul may be reached at ptomlinson@quista.net.

In Memoriam

Phil La Moreaux, a major influence in hydrogeology and environmental management in the U.S. and internationally, passed away on 26 June 2008.

Have you or 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!

Announcing a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Training Course

Making Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Count for Planners and Resource Managers. 23 & 24 October 2008 at the Holiday Inn-Arlington, Virginia, USA (Washington DC area at the Ballston Stop on the Metro Orange line). For a registration form and more details, contact **Rabel Burdge** at burdge@comcast.net or phone + 1-360-676-9892. To view the SIA course outline, see www.socialimpactassessment.net/WashingtonDCSIACourse.htm.

Owens Paper Wins Award



Gene Owens

Gene Owens' paper on "Analyzing Impacts of Bioenergy Expansion in China Using Strategic Environmental Assessment" was chosen as an Outstanding Paper Award Winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2008. The paper, published in *Management of Environmental Quality: An International Journal* (May 2007, Vol. 18, No. 4), was "one of the most impressive pieces of work the journal's editorial team has seen throughout 2007," according to Ruth Heppenstall of Emerald Group Publishing Limited, which bestowed the award.

Owens first presented the paper at IAIA06 In Stavanger, Norway, in the Asia Panel on SEA, and says "IAIA provided the opportunity, my colleagues and professional peers provided the support to ask the right questions, the Emerald Press editors made it readable and publishable, and I am grateful to those who did the Award selections as well.

It certainly serves as an incentive to keep plugging away professionally doing the things I like to do, which is writing and working on environmental issues and with international environmental professionals."

Owens is currently Co-Director of the Washington Area Branch of IAIA.

Publications Now Available in Spanish, French

Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment Best Practice is now available in Spanish, with gratitude to **Julieta Pisanty-Levy** for the translation.

Public Participation International Best Practice Principles (IAIA Special Publication No. 4) is now available in French, courtesy of **Pierre André, Karim Samoura** and **Kelly LeBlanc**.

Both documents are available online at www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=74. Translators are being sought for all key IAIA materials; if you are interested, please contact IAIA HQ (jen@iaia.org).

Database Provides Information about the Earth and the Environment

The *Encyclopedia of Earth* (www.eoearth.org/) is an electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society. The encyclopedia is a free, fully searchable collection of articles written by scholars, professionals, educators, and experts who collaborate and review each other's work.

The articles are written in non-technical language and may be useful to students, educators, scholars, and professionals, as well as the general public. The goal of the *Encyclopedia of Earth* is to be the largest reliable information resource about the environment, and it seeks to maintain a strong level of objectivity. • Source: GrantStation (www.grantstation.com)

Have a Web site that is particularly helpful to you?

Share it with the IAIA membership!



Please send suggestions in care of jen@iaia.org.

Professional News Index

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SEA: A Decision Maker's Tool for Sustainability-Centered SEA.....	1



*We find comfort among those
who agree with us—growth
among those who don't.*

• Frank A. Clark •

New on the 'net

- In Spanish: *Principles of Environmental Assessment Best Practice*
- In French: *Public Participation International Best Practice Principles*
- IAIA08 conference proceedings
- And more ... bookmark www.iaia.org today!
- Coming later this year: Beta version of IAIA discussion forums, fresh graphics, updated SIA Bibliography

Suggestions for information or services you would like to see on IAIA's Web site are invited! See www.iaia.org/website_suggestions/ or contact IAIA webmaster Jeff Torreson (webmaster@iaia.org).

Welcome!

New IAIA members 1 June - 31 August

Brent Carter, Australia; **Gina Castelain**, Australia; **Robert Hales**, Australia; **Peter Hoppe**, Australia; **Mervyn Mason**, Australia; **Jessica McCormick**, Australia; **Patrick Savo**, Australia; **Bruce Smith**, Australia; **Gerhard Gruber**, Austria; **Henning Wefelnberg**, Austria; **Marcia L. Barron**, Canada; **Francois Boulanger**, Canada; **Diana Campbell**, Canada; **Jay Chou**, Canada; **Heather Ducharme**, Canada; **Kathryn Fraser**, Canada; **Ken Richard Goodwill**, Canada; **Kerry Higgins**, Canada; **Kim Johnson**, Canada; **Melanie Lalani**, Canada; **Laura McAuley**, Canada; **Jo-Anne McDonald**, Canada; **Darcie Reynolds**, Canada; **Matthew Graham Scoular**, Canada; **Robert VanWynsberghe**, Canada; **Dennis Vroom**, Canada; **Roy Wares**, Canada; **Simon Hui**, China-SAR; **Kristin Salome Jonsdottir**, Iceland; **Aya Mimura**, Japan; **Sergio López Noriega**, Mexico; **Erik van Eyndhoven**, New Zealand; **Tolutope Oludele Alalade**, Nigeria; **Cyril Uchenna Gwam**, Switzerland; **Zeina Jokadar**, United Arab Emirates; **Millie Plowman**, United Arab Emirates; **Baba Abu**, United Kingdom; **Mark Barnard**, United Kingdom; **Mark Elton**, United Kingdom; **Bridget Savage**, United Kingdom; **Richard Bickhaus**, USA; **Leila Chennoufi**, USA; **Christopher Dore**, USA; **Phillip Dukes**, USA; **Melissa B. Kendrick**, USA; **Jessica Medwied-Savage**, USA; **Sean O'Meara**, USA; **Brent W. Stoffle**, USA; **Mark C. Travis**, USA; **Richard Carlos Worden**, USA.



Key Corporate Member
TEC, Inc.
USA



Standard Corporate Members
Commission for EIA
The Netherlands



Czech Academy of Sciences
Czech Republic



**International Petroleum Industry
Environmental Conservation
Association**
United Kingdom



Millennium Challenge Corporation
USA

IAIA Important Dates & Deadlines

Subject to change - watch for updates

October 2008

- 1 Newsletter, ballots for Board election, IAIA09 preliminary programs mailed
- 6 Group rate at Westin ends for Cumulative Effects special meeting
- 8 Midyear reports and Board action items due
- 21 Pre-registration deadline for Cumulative Effects meeting

November 2008

- 6-9 Assessing and Managing Cumulative Environmental Effects special meeting
- 9-10 Mid-term Board meeting

December 2008

- 1 Newsletter articles due
- 19 IAIA09 Capacity Building Stipend applications due

January 2009

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 1 Board election ballots mailed
- 15 IAIA09 paper and poster submissions deadline

February 2009

- 1 Newsletter articles due
- 10 IAIA09 Early Bird deadline
- 15 IAIA09 Student fee waiver deadline
- 28 Last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA09 final program; IAIA09 technical visits, training courses, social events, and Quickpass registration deadline

March 2009

- 1 Newsletter articles due
- 30 Training course instructor agreements due
- 30 IAIA09 deadlines: requests for inserts in delegate bags, hotel conference rate, mentor program, exhibitor reservations

April 2009

- 1 Newsletter mailed, Board election results announced
- 23 Board and Annual General Meeting (AGM) action items due
- 23 Annual reports due

May 2009

- 5 Pre-registration for IAIA09 closes
- 16-22 IAIA09
- 29-30 Board meeting

June 2009

- 10 Newsletter articles due

July 2009

- 1 Newsletter, IAIA10 First Announcement mailed

YOUR AD HERE

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

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: January 2009

Submission deadline: 1 December 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).

Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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