

# Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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 Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

## IAIA Reaching Out

IAIA is reaching out and has become highly visible in different parts of the world. The past few months saw our Board members actively going out to build partnerships and establish rapport with our members and partners.

President-elect Peter Leonard and Chief Executive Officer Rita Hamm have been to Washington, DC, to attend technical meetings organized by our Washington Area Branch and to meet our members there.

At the end of October, I spent three days in Calgary, Canada, visiting our new Affiliate, the IAIA Western and Northern Canada Affiliate (WNC), and participating in their executive committee meeting. I visited several environmental firms and took part in the WNC Affiliate pub session, which gave me a wonderful opportunity and the joy of talking to many of the Affiliate members. I wish to extend a warm welcome to the new IAIA Western and Northern Canada Affiliate.

From 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November, the IAIA Board went to Ghana in West Africa and held a highly successful mid-term

Board meeting, thanks to the Capacity Development and Linkages for EIA (CLEIAA) in Africa and our IAIA-Ghana members. It was an energizing and highly productive week for our Board members. We visited the Akosombo Dam, met with thirty representatives from over twenty-two nations at the pan-African CLEIAA meeting during which I also talked about IAIA's new directions, spent three full days on our mid-term Board meeting dealing with many important matters, and exchanged views with and showed support to our IAIA-Ghana members. We brought back good memories, as can be seen from some photos in this newsletter.

Not only did our Board members reach out to the world, but members of our Biodiversity and Ecology Section have also made significant contributions to the recent meetings held under the Convention on Biodiversity. Congratulations to Roel Slootweg, Arend Kolhoff, and other members of the Biodiversity and Ecology Section.

Following the endorsement of a new directive by the

European Union on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), we have received many requests for input and advice about SEA best practices. To this end, the IAIA Board has endorsed the first set of guidelines on SEA—a set of performance criteria for SEA that was developed by members of our SEA Section. Our representatives also made contributions to a working group on SEA set up under the Espoo Convention. We hope to see more best practice guidelines from our Sections and members.

The IAIA strategic planning group aims to continuously review and update our strategic plan, and we wish to hear your views or feedback on IAIA's vision and mission statements that were incorporated into last year's annual report.

We also wish to receive your feedback about the enhanced newsletter that you have all received now. We wish to deliver the best possible professional news to you. We wish to improve it continuously so that we can serve you better.

- Elvis Au, President

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*A WNC pub session.*



## Associated Organizations Recognized/Sought

*Associated Organizations are independent professional associations (regional, national, and international), whose members have similar or complementary interests with IAIA and with whom there is mutual advantage in association, for example by way of joint meetings or sharing of information or projects.*

### *Current Associated Organizations:*

- *Netherlands Association for Environmental Professionals (VVM)*
- *Asociación Argentina de Geología Aplicada a la Ingeniería (ASAGAI)*
- *International Society of City & Regional Planners (ISoCaRP)*
- *Environment Institute of Australia (EIA)*
- *South Asian Regional Environment Assessment Association (SAREAA)*

*If you belong to such an organization, please contact Bridget John (bridget@iaia.org) with a brief description of the organization and its purpose, as well as contact information, including website if available.*

## Western and Northern Canada Affiliate Forms

IAIA's newest Affiliate is found in Western and Northern Canada (WNC). Because of the large geographic area covered (6.8 million km<sup>2</sup>), the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate is composed of several regions. Currently there are active regions in British Columbia (Vancouver), Southern Alberta (Calgary, our headquarters), Northern Alberta (Edmonton) and the Northwest Territories (Yellowknife). There is an effort to add Manitoba (Winnipeg) to the list and some attention from the Yukon (Whitehorse) as well.

The main purpose of the Affiliate and the most important "selling point" for memberships is the desire to exchange ideas about effective practice of impact assessment. While there is a great deal of impact assessment expertise in Western and Northern Canada, we know we can improve. Objectives of the Affiliate include improving the professional practice of impact assessment among Affiliate members; encouraging professional practitioners of impact assessment to become members of IAIA; holding regular meetings, conferences and training courses in the provinces and Territories

of Western and Northern Canada for people involved or interested in the professional practice of impact assessment; facilitating improvement of the quality of work and professionalism of persons involved in the field of impact assessment; and supporting the exchange of impact assessment studies, methods, ideas and papers and to provide a forum in which better impact assessment approaches can be developed.

After almost a year of preparatory work, we made our presentation to the IAIA Board in Cartagena and were subsequently approved as an Affiliate. We deem November 1, 2001, to be our official start date.

The Affiliate regions are already operating their own programs. Multiple sessions have taken place in each of the active regions. Some meet over lunch with speakers; some meet to discuss Affiliate and Region plans; some meet in pubs over dinner and discuss impact assessment issues. The most recent such meeting in Calgary in early November featured Elvis Au, IAIA president, who was kind enough to stop here en route from Hong Kong

to Ghana in November. In Yellowknife, the latest pub night involved a discussion of incorporating traditional knowledge into EIA.

One of the more ambitious goals on which WNC Affiliate members are working is a proposal to hold the 2004 IAIA annual conference in Vancouver.

We also meet regularly by phone with the Ontario and Québec Affiliates and have agreed to enter into a memorandum of understanding to share our ideas formally. This would be an expansion of an existing agreement between the Ontario and Québec affiliates, which strongly support the Vancouver 2004 initiative.

WNC's interim executive consists of President Bill Ross, Program Coordinator Roger Creasey, Secretary Richard Roberts, Treasurer Ryerson Christie, Southern Alberta Representative Heidi Klein, Northern Alberta Representative Bill McMillan, British Columbia Representative Paul Scott, and Northwest Territories Representative Alan Ehrlich.

- William A. Ross • University of Calgary, Canada • ross@ucalgary.ca



*Elvis Au meets with WNC Executive Committee members. Front row, L-R: Paul Scott, Elvis Au, Bill Ross. Back row, L-R: Richard Roberts, Roger Creasey, Ryerson Christie. Photos courtesy of Elvis Au.*

“**T**his has been an extraordinary year—

## Washington Area Branch Notes

The Washington Area Based (WAB)-IAIA group met for the third time this year on December 12. Guest speakers included Peter Carter of the European International Bank and Grey Block from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

Peter Carter provided an overview of the Harmonization of Environmental Assessments process currently being undertaken by many of the multilateral development banks. Grey Block discussed the various issues arising from transboundary environmental impacts and how to mitigate

cross-border impacts with inconsistencies of cross-border legislation. Participants were also provided with a copy of Japan's Bank for International Cooperation Environmental Guidelines. An interesting component of these guidelines is that they also address social issues, including human rights.

The WAB group also discussed groups that did not appear to be represented at WAB meetings, such as academics, NGOs and users of impact assessments such as decision-makers. Several people suggested ways in

which these groups could be informed of WAB-IAIA in the hopes of attracting their interest.

Future WAB-IAIA agenda items proposed included education and training, Social Impact Assessments, NGO activities, decision-makers, industry associations, and academic programs. Future meetings will also focus on regional workshop series on how the Environmental Impact Assessment field is catering to the needs of end users.

- Jean-Roger Mercier • The World Bank • [jmercier@worldbank.org](mailto:jmercier@worldbank.org)

## Survey of IA Practice Trends and Developments

The results of the survey developed by Barry Sadler will be a key part of the information submitted to the World Summit on sustainability. The survey is intended to benchmark the status and progress of IA practice in general, with regard to the areas of specialization or

expertise represented by IAIA members, and in relation to steps, activities and new areas of emphasis. Your input is critical to IAIA's being able to provide authoritative coverage of background trends and developments. This survey was

included with your October 2001 newsletter, but if you have misplaced it, please contact [info@iaia.org](mailto:info@iaia.org) for a faxed or e-mailed replacement.  
- Headquarters

## World Bank Announces Availability of CD-ROM

The World Bank has announced the availability of a new and improved CD-ROM on the World Bank's environmental, social and legal safeguard policies. The CD will provide easy access to the World Bank's ten safeguard policies and public disclosure requirements. To obtain the CD-ROM, at no cost, provide the following information:

- Name
- Address where the CDs should be mailed

- Number of CDs that you would like to receive (to distribute at your cost to your network members).

Maximum number of CD-ROMs is 50, but more can be provided if needed (please describe the size of your network). Return the information by e-mail to [lmakki@worldbank.org](mailto:lmakki@worldbank.org) or by fax to +1.202.477.0565, attention Ms L. Makki.

Technical questions on the content of the safeguard policies and associated documents, as contained in the CD-ROM

should be directed to:

- Environmental safeguard policies:

Jean-Roger Mercier  
[jmercier@worldbank.org](mailto:jmercier@worldbank.org)

- Social safeguard policies: Maninder Gill

[mgill@worldbank.org](mailto:mgill@worldbank.org)

- Legal safeguard policies: Salman Salman

[ssalman@worldbank.org](mailto:ssalman@worldbank.org)

The content of the CD-ROM and more can be found at <http://www.worldbank.org/safeguard>. - Jean-Roger Mercier

*for the United Nations, for New York, for the United States and for much of the world. But there may be parts of the world for which it was all too ordinary. When I said in my Nobel Lecture last week that we have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire, I was of course thinking of what happened on 11 September. But for Afghans, or Israelis or Palestinians or many other peoples suffering from conflict and poverty, my statement would have a different meaning. And there are many people in the world for whom it might have no particular meaning, because 2001 was not different from 2000 or 1999—just another year of living with HIV/AIDS, or in a refugee camp, or under repressive rule, or with crushing poverty, or watching crops dwindle and children go hungry as the global environment comes under greater threat. Those are the realities we have to remember, even as we find new inspiration in the honor conferred on us by the Nobel Committee.”*

— UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, summing up 2001 in a press conference at the United Nations 19 December 2001.

*(“Global Development Briefing,” Global Development Briefing—The Sum of 2001, 20 December 2001 <[briefing@developmentex.com](mailto:briefing@developmentex.com)>)*

## Practical Guide to Managing the EIA Process

There has been a limited focus on building the capacity of EIA practitioners in the practical aspects of managing an EIA process. It is also apparent that the majority of EIAs undertaken in African countries are managed by expatriates. For these reasons, the CSIR-Environmentek identified capacity building of EIA practitioners in Africa as a key area for future focus and developed an EIA project management course manual titled "Practical Guide to Managing the EIA

Process." The manual focuses on practical EIA project management aspects. The course can be presented as a 3 or 5 day course, includes practical exercises such as drawing up an EIA budget and schedule, facilitating a workshop and developing specialist terms of reference. View the Table of Contents at <http://www.csir.co.za/environmentek/TEAM/TEAM&P/eidownloads.html>. - Stuart Heather-Clark • CSIR - Environmentek, South Africa • [shclark@csir.co.za](mailto:shclark@csir.co.za).

## CIDA Drafts Conduct of SEA Guide

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is in the final stages of developing a draft SEA guide. The methodology in the guide is designed around a generic template, as SEAs can vary depending on the nature of the policies, plans, or programmes being developed. As well, the logic behind the CIDA guide is somewhat different in that our methodology encourages strategic environmental analysis in step with the policy, plan, or programme drafting. The skill sets required to write the SEA are much the same for doing many of CIDA's strategic planning documents, except that the CIDA SEA process

delves deeper into, and sharpens the environmental linkages to poverty, health, social and cultural aspects. The aim is to clarify the trade-offs at stake, showing what might be gained or lost, and point, where possible, to the best practicable option. The draft guide will go through a series of internal CIDA reviews before inviting comment from IAIA. Wider dissemination of the guide should occur in April 2002. Information on CIDA's activities and publications are available at <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ea> (English version), <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ee> (version française). - Peter Croal • CIDA, Canada • [peter\\_croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:peter_croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca)

## Strategic Assessment of Policies, Plans and Programs

On 27 September 2001, the Australian Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Resources and the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage agreed to undertake a strategic assessment in accordance with Part 10 of the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The strategic assessment will address the environmental impacts of offshore petro-

leum exploration activities in Commonwealth marine waters.

The terms of reference for this strategic assessment were made available for comment during October/November 2001. Links to information about the strategic assessment can be found at <http://www.ea.gov.au/epbc/assessapprov/strategic/index.html>.

- Nick Gascoigne • Environment Australia • [Nick.Gascoigne@ea.gov.au](mailto:Nick.Gascoigne@ea.gov.au)

## Antarctic EIA for U.S.-Based Operators

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty requires that non-governmental operators prepare EIAs for planned activities. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations delineate EIA procedures for U.S. operators. EPA's rule also provides approaches to minimize costs and paperwork, including a provision that multiple expeditions by an operator may be included in an EIA, and that one EIA may address expeditions by more than one operator. These approaches offer advantages over individual EIA submissions. For example, the EIA submitted by U.S. operators that are members of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators describes the ac-

tivities planned by all U.S. and foreign International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)-member operators, and assesses potential environmental impacts and mitigation to eliminate or reduce these impacts. This integrated process provides a comprehensive overview of the nature of Antarctic tourism, the geographic scope of tourist activities, and a more encompassing consideration of the potential cumulative impacts and focus for addressing these. A copy of the rule and an EIS that EPA prepared on it may be found at [www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa](http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa). - Katherine Biggs and Joseph Montgomery • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • [biggs.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:biggs.katherine@epa.gov) or [montgomery.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:montgomery.joseph@epa.gov)

## Hong Kong EIA Appeal Outcome

In Hong Kong, the EIA Appeal Board issued the judgment on a year-long legal battle over a railway project providing another cross-border crossing. The Railway Corporation wanted to build the railway through the Long Valley that is an important habitat for several threatened bird species. The EIA report was rejected on environmental grounds by the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) last year, but the railway company subsequently took the matter to the Appeal Board. The legal battle is probably the biggest EIA legal case in Asia.

In the judgment, the Appeal Board dismissed the appeal, indicating that any decision other-

wise might undermine the integrity of the EIA process and circumvent public participation.

This judgment also covers issues of great interest to IAIA members, including biodiversity protection, the precautionary principle, the consideration of alternatives and the need for early dialogue between the proponent and the EIA authority. The judgment can be found on the EPD ([www.info.gov.hk/epd/eia/register/reason/eia044.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/epd/eia/register/reason/eia044.htm)) and EFB ([www.info.gov.hk/efb/board/decision.html](http://www.info.gov.hk/efb/board/decision.html)) web sites. - Kin-Che Lam • Chinese University of Hong Kong • [kinchelam@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:kinchelam@cuhk.edu.hk)

## Transport Assessment Practice Evolving Toward Common Solutions?

Transport planning is increasingly facing a set of problems, and similar mechanisms are being developed around the world despite different institutional practices that are moving transport planning into integrated appraisal processes at the policy and plan stages. This requires a more explicit definition of the transport problem; therefore, the needs of users of the transport network as expressed by the users themselves is making stakeholder involvement a vital dimension for appraisal practice.

The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) has embarked upon the development of recommendations on appraisal practice that will help to meet regulatory needs while not causing paralysis to the planning processes. Position papers on appraisal practice are being prepared for the UK, the Nether-

lands and France, with the World Road Association (PIARC) contributing perspectives on other countries. These papers will then be used to formulate a set of principles to be discussed at the April 2002 Ministerial conference.

The recommendations are to be discussed by Ministers at ECMT's April 2003 Council as part of a debate on Sustainable Transport Policies. The version of the resolution agreed to by ministers will be available on the ECMT website ([www.oecd.org/cem/](http://www.oecd.org/cem/)) shortly after the event. The work on integrated decision making brings together earlier work on strategic environmental assessment and on assessing the benefits of transport available as publications from the ECMT. - Paul Tomlinson • TRL • [ptomlinson@quista.net](mailto:ptomlinson@quista.net)

## New UNEP Manual Assists Countries to Assess Trade Policies

UNEP, Geneva: During November 2001, at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Doha, governments of 142 countries reaffirmed their commitment to mutually supportive trade and environment policies referring to the greater use of national environmental reviews (NERs) or assessments for this purpose. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has prepared a *Reference Manual for the Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies* to assist professionals in this emerging field. The Manual develops assessment methodolo-

gies to evaluate the impacts of trade liberalisation on specific sectors, and to identify national and international trade policy options that can best support national trade, environment and development objectives. It describes the main elements of an integrated assessment alongside various approaches to including them in a NER according to national priorities and needs. The Manual is available at <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/acts/manpols/rmia.htm>. - Hussein Abaza • UNEP Economics and Trade Branch, Switzerland • [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch)

## SEA Making a Difference in CEE Countries

The European Union (EU) accession countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are currently establishing their SEA legal frameworks and methodologies.

A series of concerted actions, initiated in 1997 as the Sofia initiative, also related to the establishment of the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention on Transboundary EIA, have been running under the auspices of several international organizations (e.g., UNDP, WHO, UNECE, EU and national governments).

As pre-accession countries to the European Union, CEE countries have, since 1999, been preparing Regional Development Plans (RDP), and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), as required by European regulations. RDP are seen as instruments for the future use of EU structural funds in new member states.

The Regional Environmental Center (REC) for CEE is playing a central and determinant role in bridging together different experiences within the CEE countries. - For further information, contact Jiri Dusik, project manager, REC ([jdusik@REC.ORG](mailto:jdusik@REC.ORG))

## Corporate EA Training Package for Development Officers

CIDA is in the final stages of developing an electronic decision support tool to assist its project officers with compliance to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). The CEAA Job Aid will be available to all CIDA officers in Ottawa and posted overseas. Once activated, the CEAA Job Aid poses a series of networked questions which guides the project manager in applying CEAA to a project. Job Aid is supported by over forty case studies and a suite of electronic help files. CIDA will also have the ability to add more case studies to the system as CEAA-based environmental assessments are conducted. All the necessary forms are available on line and are supported with help notes. The Job Aid could serve as a useful template for other countries implementing their own respective EA legislation.

Information on CIDA's activities and publications are available at <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ea> (English version), <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ee> (version française).

- Peter Croal • CIDA, Canada • [peter\\_croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:peter_croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca)

## New EU Guidance Documents

The European Commission has updated versions of three EIA guidance documents on Screening, Scoping and EIS Review available at [www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home). The documents are designed to promote best practice in the context of EU regulatory requirements for EIA but recognising the diversity of actual practice around Europe.

- Further information is available from Andy Coates • [asc@ermuk.com](mailto:asc@ermuk.com)

## Recent Legal Cases in the UK

Two recent legal challenges in the UK have raised interesting issues regarding EIA practice.

In the "Rochdale case," consent for development of a major business park to be developed over a twenty-year period was challenged on the basis that it was not possible to carry out a competent EIA on a project which had only been designed in outline. The court held that while the EIA did not have to define every detail of a project, it did have to identify the likely maximum impacts. The court held that EIA for an outline application was possible, provided the features of the development which defined its main environmental impacts were sufficiently specified.

## Regional Planning and SEA in the State of Brandenburg, Germany

The June 2001 "SEA Directive" (2001/42/EEC) of the Council of the European Communities (CEC) requires member states to formulate formal environmental assessment requirements for certain plans and programmes within three years. In Germany, these will also include regional plans. A *Diplom*-dissertation prepared at the University of Bernburg (Siemoneit, D 2001. *Die Strategische Umweltprüfung—das Beispiel des Regionalplans Lausitz-Spreewald in Brandenburg*) examined current regional plan-making practice in the light of the Directive requirements, focusing on the Regional Plan Lausitz-Spreewald in Brandenburg. Key conclusions included: that SEA can build upon existing practice, particularly in connection with

In the "Cornwall case," consent for a landfill site extension was quashed by the courts on the grounds that there was unacceptable uncertainty about the likelihood of significant impacts on a protected species (bats). The potential presence of bats was identified in the ES but a proper survey was advocated following grant of consent. This was held to be too uncertain and therefore unacceptable in an EIA. The case raises significant issues for future EIAs, particularly the requirements for surveys of protected species. - For further information: Karen Raymond • Environmental Resources Management Ltd., United Kingdom • kr@ermuk.com

landscape planning, to meet many SEA requirements; that current practice will need to be improved particularly in terms of better consideration of alternatives, mitigation and compensation measures and monitoring; there is a need to improve consideration of international, European and national sustainable development objectives and targets. Whilst current landscape plans and programmes are excellent tools for land use "suitability mapping," the consideration of policy-related issues will not be addressed in formalised SEA, following the requirements of the Directive. For further information, contact Daniela Siemoneit@gmx.de. - Thomas Fischer • Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Germany • FischerT@irs-net.de

## World Bank News

In October 2001, the new Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12) was approved by the World Bank's Board of Directors. The new policy is a conversion of the previous Operational Directive 4.30 (1990). The conversion process has involved extensive internal and external stakeholder consultations since October 1998. The new OP 4.12 clarifies that all projects involving land acquisition and restrictions of access to parks and protected areas trigger the resettlement policy, and specifies requirements to comply with the policy.

The new Integrated Safeguard Data Sheet (ISDS) describes the potential impacts on our environmental and social safeguard policies, and the ways and means to prevent or minimize these impacts. The ISDS was implemented in October 2001 after a six-month pilot phase. It is mandatory for all investment projects and will be disclosed publicly in lieu of the Environmental Data Sheet (EDS). The ISDS has been designed in-house as a joint effort between safeguard policy specialists and regional safeguard coordinators, i.e., environmental, social and legal experts. Intensive internal and client training is being conducted on the ISDS.

All of the most recent text of the safeguard policies and ISDS, and more guidance on the implementation of the safeguard policies, is available from <http://www.worldbank.org/safeguard>. - Jean-Roger Mercier • The World Bank • jmercier@worldbank.org

## Implementation of the SEA Directive: UK

The EIA Centre at the University of Manchester, UK, recently held a conference/training workshop to explore and debate the ramifications of the adopted EU Directive 2001/42/EC on "the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment." This thought-provoking event was attended by a wide range of speakers and participants involved in SEA from government agencies, local authorities, private practice, environmental bodies and academia. A range of key issues was identified and recommendations that emerged include:

- the provision of SEA guidelines for local authorities.

- the need for a methodological consensus in approaching appraisals, arising from clear and timely government advice.
- raising of awareness of the requirement for EA/SA amongst all sectors.
- the need to explore the potential to institute regional co-ordination between the various bodies involved.
- training of existing staff within local planning authorities.
- monitoring of the process as it is implemented.

- Liz Billing • EIA Centre, University of Manchester, United Kingdom • [liz.billing.man.ac.uk](mailto:liz.billing.man.ac.uk)

## Administrative Guidelines on Significance

Environment Australia has developed *Administrative Guidelines on Significance* to assist in determining whether proposals will need approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Approval by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage is required for actions that may have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (World Heritage properties, internationally important wetlands, listed threatened species/communities, listed migratory species, nuclear actions and the Commonwealth marine environment).

The Guidelines include information on the type of actions that could significantly affect a matter of national environmental significance and sector specific information (e.g., mineral exploration, urban development, local government and marine activities). Supplements to the Guidelines have been produced for the nationally endangered Bluegrass ecological community and for interactions between offshore seismic operations and larger cetaceans. The Guidelines and Supplements are accessible at <http://www.ea.gov.au/epbc/assessapprov/guidelines/index.html>.

- Nick Gascoigne • Environment Australia • [Nick.Gascoigne@ea.gov.au](mailto:Nick.Gascoigne@ea.gov.au)

## Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology Development Project

Benfield Greig Hazards Research Centre and CARE International have initiated a project to develop a Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REA) methodology for use by field personnel and disaster victims during disasters. Initial funding for the project is being provided by UNEP/OCHA.

Accurate assessments are key to effective disaster response. Identifying, evaluating and responding to the environmental impacts of disasters is required for effective disaster relief and recovery operations. However, standard environmental impact assessment proce-

dures are unsuited for relief operations. The project will use applied research and development to establish and field test a practical REA methodology, and develop a training syllabus to allow the adoption REA as a best practice for relief operations. The project is currently developing the actual REA methodology, and this task will be completed by the end of 2001. Additional information on the project can be found at [www.bghrc.com](http://www.bghrc.com) under Disaster Management.

- Charles Kelly • Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre, United Kingdom • [72734.2412@Compuserve.com](mailto:72734.2412@Compuserve.com)

## Brazil Assesses the Impacts of Genetically Modified Soybeans

An environmental impact study is underway in Brazil to assess the impacts of genetically modified Round-up Ready® soybeans, produced by Monsanto. After a lawsuit jointly filed by the Institute of Consumers Defense, an NGO, and Greenpeace, the Courts ruled that and EIS should be prepared and filed with the Federal environmental agency IBAMA for review. Meanwhile, the Courts have denied Monsanto the right to engage in commercial production.

There has been a legal and political battle within the Federal government regarding which agency should review the EIS. While the National Commission on Biosafety claimed that it was entitled to perform the review

and issue a license, the courts upheld that as environmental law applies, it is up to the environmental agency to review the study.

However, many stakeholders understand that Brazilian EIA practice is too much molded upon preparing reports for engineering projects, and this model would not suit the needs of assessing the impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). On the other hand, the National Council on the Environment, the highest policy-making authority is still discussing guidelines for the environmental assessment of GMOs. - Luis Enrique Sánchez • Escola Politécnica - PMI, Brazil • [lsanchez@usp.br](mailto:lsanchez@usp.br)

## Integration of EIA Principles into Planning

In January 2001 a Government Commission appointed to make an assessment of the Norwegian planning legislation and to prepare the outline of a new *Planning Act* presented its first report (NOU 2001:7. Government Commission Report: *Improved municipal and regional planning according to the planning and building act* (in Norwegian)). The Commission's mandate was to see how EIA can be further improved and simplified, and to look into ways of integrating it into physical planning procedures.

The Commission suggests that an up-front, *initiating dialogue-meeting* should be conducted for all plans. For larger, more complex plans, this meeting should result in the formula-

tion of an *Assessment programme/ Study programme* for the plan. The objective is to introduce a better scoping process for the plan, as well as to identify as many stakeholders as possible at an early phase. It is also suggested to introduce clearer requirements for documentation of the impacts of plans that may have significant impacts.

The Commission's final report should be presented by the end of 2002, and will include concrete proposals for amendments to the Planning Act and regulations. - Arne Tesli • Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) • [arne.tesli@nibr.no](mailto:arne.tesli@nibr.no)

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Contact the International Headquarters for information.

## Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community

On 24 January 2001 the European Community Commission published its proposal for a decision of the European Parliament laying down the Community Environment Action Programme (CEAP) 2001-2010. Issues addressed in the proposed CEAP *Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice* include im-

provement of implementation of existing environmental legislation, deepening of integration of environmental concerns into other policies, working with the market as well as with individual citizens, and crucial meaning of land use planning and management. Special attention will be paid to four priority areas for ac-

tion: climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health, and sustainable use of natural resources and waste management. The document can be viewed at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/en\\_501PC0031.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/en_501PC0031.pdf). - Ralf Aschemann • Austrian Institute for the Development of Environmental Assessment (ANIDEA) • [office@anidea.at](mailto:office@anidea.at)

## SEA Guidelines Published in South Africa

SEA Guidelines were published in South Africa in February 2000. The guidelines resulted from more than four years of research undertaken by CSIR-Environmentek which included a review of international practice and South African SEA case studies. The final stakeholder workshops and publishing of the

guideline document were undertaken in partnership with the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT). SEA is not a requirement under the newly promulgated National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998); however, it has been included in local planning regula-

tions as a tool that can be used to facilitate sustainable development.

To download the South African SEA Guidelines, go to <http://www.csir.co.za/environmentek/TEAM/TEAM&P/eiadownloads.html>.

- For more information, contact Michelle Audouin • CSIR-Environmentek, South Africa • [maudouin@csir.co.za](mailto:maudouin@csir.co.za)

*This article is the first of a series to inform IA practitioners around the world with information about the EIA system in Egypt.*

## EIA in Egypt: (1) History

In February 1994, the government of Egypt issued law No.4/94 concerning protection of the environment. According to the law, new establishments are required to carry out an EIA before construction. Articles of law 4/94 stipulate measures related to the EIA. Relevant articles in the Executive Regulations No.338/95 complement the law.

Many donor groups contributed to setting up the EIA system in Egypt. A system similar to that used in the European Union and World Bank was recommended. Furthermore, it was suggested that activities should be adapted to the Egyptian System. Several discussions had taken place in 1994 between the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the line ministries; following the discussions, guidelines for EIA had been issued by the agency in 1996. - Ahmed G. Abul-Azm • Cairo University, Egypt • [ecma@access.com.eg](mailto:ecma@access.com.eg)

## SEA Performance Criteria Published

It's three years ago now that SEA was discussed at the IAIA meeting in New Zealand as a "family of tools" rather than one specific instrument. Depending on the context and purpose of its use—e.g., available time or level of decision making—the SEA process should look different. On the other hand, there was consensus that SEA is not a free-for-all instrument. In all cases a certain quality of process and content should be achieved. And there the quest for what was known at the time as the "SEA principles" began. A first draft was put out in 1998, and after intensive discussion on the web and at the IAIA meetings in Glasgow and Hong Kong, a set of criteria was established of what "any good SEA should do": the "SEA performance criteria." Its objective above all is to be a practical tool for SEA practitioners. It is useful both as a starting point for building new SEA processes and as evaluation criteria for the performance of existing ones. After its adoption by the IAIA Board of Directors in November 2001, it is now one of IAIA's "formal" contributions to the ongoing improvement of SEA around the globe. - Rob Verheem • Commission for EIA, The Netherlands • [rverheem@eia.nl](mailto:rverheem@eia.nl)

## Outcome of SBSTTA 7, Montreal, November 2001

On behalf of IAIA, two members of the Biodiversity and Ecology Section attended the 7th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal last November. They were invited by the secretariat of the convention to provide background information on IAIA's contributions to the CBD. As reported in the October 2001 IAIA newsletter, the biodiversity sessions in Cartagena resulted in a submission to the secretariat of the CBD of (i) country case studies on biodiversity in impact assessment, and (ii) draft guidelines for the integration of biodiversity in impact assessment. These submissions were summarised into a formal note by the CBD secretariat and presented at SBSTTA 7. The guidelines were the topic of a special IAIA side-event in Montreal. IAIA was also invited to give a short plenary presentation in which IAIA's Action Programme on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment and its present state of affairs were highlighted. IAIA's intention to provide continued support to the CBD was stressed.

Reactions from the delegations were very positive, and a rather unique event occurred: a document was recommended for endorsement by the Conference of Parties at its first appearance on the agenda. During the discussion, a number of countries further recommended that a programme of work in collaboration with IAIA and other relevant organizations should be prepared by the executive secretary. This implies that the secretariat of the convention has a formal reporting obligation to SBSTTA on the progress of work. The suggested collaboration with between IAIA and other organizations provides a good basis for future joint activities on biodiversity and impact assessment.

In its report to the next Conference of Parties<sup>1</sup>, the SBSTTA:

(1) *Recommends that the Conference of the Parties:*

- (a) *Endorses the draft guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment on the basis of the draft contained in the annex to the present recommendation and identify ways and means for their further development or adjustment;*
- (b) *Urges Parties, other Governments and organizations to apply the guidelines as appropriate in the context of their implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the Convention and share their experience, inter alia, through the clearing-house mechanism and national reporting;*
- (c) *Considers requesting the Executive Secretary to prepare for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a programme of work in collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment and other relevant organizations including regional /international initiatives such as the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the European Union directives on habitats, birds, environmental impact assessment, and the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and in doing so, take into account capacity building and experiences gained in the context of thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity;*
- (d) *Notes that emphasis should be given in the work programme to, inter alia, the development of targets, criteria and indicators needed to screen projects, plans, programmes or policies, and ways and means, including public participation;*
- (e) *Requests the Executive Secretary to compile and disseminate, through the clearing-house mechanism and other means of communication, current experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues, as well as experiences of Parties in applying the guidelines; in light of this information, to prepare proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines, particularly to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment processes, taking into account the ecosystem approach (particularly principles 4, 7 and 8), and to provide a report of this work to the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

(2) *Requests the Executive Secretary to forward the draft guidelines to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.*

Presently the quest for further funding of the Action Programme is put in highest gear. Hopefully this series of updates on the Action Programme can be continued. For more information, go to [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org), under COP 6 for the report of SBSTTA 7 to COP; Annex 7/10 contains recommendations and guidelines. Or see [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) under News > Sections News, for the Action Programme on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment and the background document submitted by IAIA to the CBD which served as the basis for the CBD guidelines. - Roel Slootweg • [SevS@SevS.nl](mailto:SevS@SevS.nl) and Arend Kolhoff • [Akolhoff@eia.nl](mailto:Akolhoff@eia.nl)

*Update 2 on  
IAIA's Action Programme on  
Biological Diversity  
and Impact Assessment*

*IAIA seeks sponsors to support and complement the action program described in this article. This initiative is designed to build a strong base of biodiversity expertise among environmental impact assessment professionals in developing countries. IAIA believes this program will be an important contribution to transitioning toward the sustainable use of natural resources and agricultural practices in developing countries—steps that are vital to the eradication of poverty. If you know of an organization that may wish to provide sponsorship, please contact Rita Hamm at IAIA Headquarters.*

<sup>1</sup> *scheduled for The Hague, April 2002 just prior to IAIA '02*



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advancing the art and science  
of impact assessment.

## UNEP's Session on Integrated Assessment of Agricultural Trade Liberalization Defining Policies for Environmental Protection and Sustainability

UNEP and IAIA have recently agreed to collaborate on mutual professional interests. During the annual conference in The Hague, UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) and IAIA's Section on World Trade and Trade Agreements will join efforts to hold a special Session on Integrated Assessment of Agricultural Trade Liberalization: Defining Policies for Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

UNEP is seeking the extensive and wide range of expertise and networks in the field of environmental and integrated assessment to provide contributions to their work in integrated assessment of trade-related agricultural policies.

IAIA's professional membership has the knowledge and the expertise in the most recent approaches and techniques of impact assessment, which can constructively contribute to the work of UNEP/ETB.

Specific topics to be discussed at the session include:

- The impact of the Common Agriculture Policy on agriculture and the environment in the European Union.
- The impact of US agricultural policies on agriculture and the environment in the US.
- The impact of agricultural policies in developing countries on agriculture and the environment in those countries.
- The impacts of export-oriented crop production on the environment in major agricultural exporters (e.g., the Cairns Group of countries).
- The transboundary impacts of subsidies provided in one country, on the agricultural sector and the environment in other countries.
- The environmental effects of agricultural commodity prices, and changes in those prices.
- The impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity, which is the subject of a mandated assessment by the Convention on

Biological Diversity.

- The observed and potential environmental effects of GMOs released into the environment by commercial agricultural use.

IAIA members interested in contributing to this work are invited to indicate the specific areas of interest and expertise in any of the above areas and their submission of written contributions and research work on any of the above topics. Go to [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > Conference > First Announcement and Call for Papers for abstract submission instructions.

Members are encouraged to highlight assessment techniques and/or research findings that can assist in assigning causality of environmental effects to specific policy measures or changes.

We encourage interested IAIA members and their colleagues to join us in The Hague for a constructive and forward-looking session. - For further information contact Hussein Abaza • [hussein.abaza@unep.ch](mailto:hussein.abaza@unep.ch) or Bernice Goldsmith • [bernice@encs.concordia.ca](mailto:bernice@encs.concordia.ca)

■ Geoindicators Workshop and Field Trip. 14-17 May 2002 • Cordoba, Argentina. The Asociación Argentina de Geología Aplicada a la Ingeniería (ASAGAI), the national group of the International Association for Engineering and the Environment, is organizing this workshop. The aim is to disseminate the geoinicator concept and to discuss its practical applications to environmental monitoring in South America. - For more information, contact Norberto Jorge Bejeriman ([asagai@infovia.com.ar](mailto:asagai@infovia.com.ar)).

■ 38th International ISOCaRP Congress. Athens, Greece • 21-26 September 2002. The first announcement is now available at [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org).

■ International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. Bloomington, Indiana, USA • 2-5 June 2002. - For more information, contact Donald R. Field ([drfield@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:drfield@facstaff.wisc.edu)).

■ Two-week Summer University: Environment and Regional Transport Planning. Organized by the Central European University (CEU) and the Regional Environmental Center's (REC) Secretariat to the Sofia Initiative on EIA • 8-19 July 2002. The Summer University will address SEA of transport corridors and networks, especially in the context of transport infrastructure development in Central and Eastern Europe. Speakers and facilitators have been recruited from the CEU, REC, Transport Research Laboratory (the UK), the University of Manchester (the UK), Polish Environmental Institute and Traffico (Austria). - For more information, contact Dr. Aleg Cherp ([cherpa@ceu.hu](mailto:cherpa@ceu.hu)) or visit the CEU Summer University Web pages at <http://www.ceu.hu/sun/>

■ Asia Pacific Societies: Contrasts, Challenges and Crises: 5th Asia Pacific Sociological Association Conference. Queensland University of Technology • Brisbane, Australia • 4-7 July 2002. The conference theme reflects both the changing nature of societies in the region and the challenges they face. The 2002 APSA conference is being held just prior to the XV International Sociological Association World Congress. The bringing together of these conferences will allow sociologists from around the world to obtain an insight into sociology in the region and will allow sociologists in the region to meet others from the US and UK-Europe and to share experiences and interests. Abstracts are due by 28 February 2002. - For more information, visit <http://www.ansoc.uq.edu.au/asia-pacific/index.htm> or contact Dr. Scott Baum ([sapsa\\_2002@asiaone.com](mailto:sapsa_2002@asiaone.com)).

**Highlights of IAIA Board's Mid-Term Meeting**  
 7-9 November 2001 • Accra, Ghana



reaches out to IAIA-Ghana



Board members visit  
 Akosombo Dam in Ghana



Elvis Au and Jonathan Allotey  
 display the IAIA-Ghana banner



Elvis Au and Rita Hamm  
 pose at Akosombo

- The Newsletter will be used to best effect for promotional and capacity building purposes.
- The strategy to attract business and industry to active IAIA membership will involve, as practicable, regional workshops and participation in IAIA.
- IAIA will lead a special Symposium at the time of the World Summit, organized in conjunction with IAIA-South Africa and inviting other collaborators as appropriate.
- IAIA will seek trademark protection of the name and initials of the organisation within the USA, the host country of IAIA.
- The IAIA web site will be divided into public domain pages and member-only pages.
- A Student Membership strategy will be prepared to ensure the long term sustainability of IAIA and its capacity building mission.
- IAIA recognizes multilingualism as a policy, and the Task Force on Multilingualism is requested to draft an Action Plan on Multilingualism to be submitted, discussed, amended (as needed) and proposed for adoption.
- The Treasurer will review and recommend an institutional membership fee structure to enable regional developing country membership for institutions.
- The current chairpersons and members of the Training and Professional Development Committee and the Publications Committee are reappointed.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Special Publication proposal as forwarded by Rob Verheem was approved.

**Mission and Vision Statements, Strategic Action Plan Under Review: Your Input Needed**

In response to a suggestion that the Board consider a change in IAIA's Mission Statement, the Board discussed content and intent of the current wording and concluded that the overall spirit of the existing statement is already inclusive of the requested subject matter. However, the consensus was that a review period for the Mission Statement is appropriate. All IAIA members are encouraged to participate in review of both the mission and vision statement and IAIA's Strategic Plan. Comments received by 15 April 2002 will be forwarded to the Strategic Planning Task Force. The Task Force will meet in The Hague, review the input, and report to the Annual General Meeting. Please send comments to Bridget John at IAIA Headquarters (bridget@iaia.org) by 15 April 2002.

*For complete meeting notes, see the web site under News > Board of Directors News*

*Our Vision: IAIA is the leading global authority on best practice in environmental assessment, management and policy.*

*Our Mission: To be a forum for advancing innovation, development and communication of best practice in impact assessment. To promote the development of local and global capacity for the application of environmental assessment in which sound science and full public participation provide a foundation for equitable and sustainable development.*

*The Strategic Plan summary was distributed in the October 2001 mailing and is posted on the web site under News > Board of Directors News.*

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## January

Mid-January: Preliminary program, ballots mailed

## MARCH

- 15 ..... IAIA '02 abstracts deadline
- 30 ..... Member survey due
- 30 ..... Election ballots due

## APRIL

- 1 ..... Deadline for registration and payment of full registration fee in order for presentation to be included on the IAIA '02 final program
- 1 ..... Last day to register for IAIA '02 training courses
- 1 ..... Newsletter, IAIA '02 update mailed
- 15 ..... Affiliate, Branch, Committee and Liaison annual reports due
- 15 ..... Action items for Board and AGM meetings due
- 15 ..... Comments on mission/vision statements and Strategic Plan due

### A sample of what's new on the 'net

- IAIA '02: Preliminary Program, hotel reservation information, links to The Hague; watch for conference updates and deadlines
- IAIA's Strategic Plan
- Board of Directors Meetings Notes
- Announcement of new World Trade and Trade Agreements Section
- New Professional and EIA Index of Web Sites links
- IAIA Action Program on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (Section News) and Proposed Conceptual and Procedural Framework for the Integration of Biological Diversity Considerations with National Systems for Impact Assessment (Section News)

## Welcome

New IAIA members from 16 September - 15 December

Aydin A. Aghayev , USA; Juergen Baumann , CANADA; Adam O.M. Boyden , ENGLAND-UK; Stephanie Briscoe , CANADA; Hugh Cross , AUSTRALIA; Colette Curran , ENGLAND-UK; Enne de Boer , THE NETHERLANDS; Edwin DeBruyn , CANADA; Stefanos Dodouras , ENGLAND-UK; Gabriel Escobar , COLOMBIA; Jean-Paul Feltgen , LUXEMBOURG; Horst G. Greczmiel , USA; Kim M. Howell , TANZANIA; Moshood Balogun Ibraheem , NIGERIA; Gladys Joudrey , CANADA; Heidi Klein , CANADA; Eric Chi-Pang Lam , HONG KONG; Dave Lamic , USA; Carmel Letourneau , CANADA; Alexander Livnat , USA; Peter R. Marsden , IRELAND; Lesley Matthews , CANADA; Jim McDonald , USA; Bill McMillan , CANADA; Abdullah M. Mohorjy , SAUDI ARABIA; Tracey Nitz , AUSTRALIA; Mikko Ojanen , TURKEY; Maria Ooi and Claude David , CANADA; Kostas Rokos , GREECE; Kristina Rundcrantz , SWEDEN; D.P. Sapru , INDIA; Douglas Smith , ENGLAND-UK; Bryan Spooner , ENGLAND-UK; Dixon Thompson , CANADA; Janice Traynor , CANADA; Dimitris Tsompanikos , GREECE; Helen Weston , AUSTRALIA; Mandy Whorton , USA; Peter Wilson , CANADA; Larry Wolfe , CANADA.

CORPORATE MEMBER: Ministere de l'Environnement, LUXEMBOURG

### You can make a change... please send in your membership survey today!

As a result of the responses to last year's survey, here are just a few of the changes IAIA has made:

- Under the editorial guidance of Chris Wood, Carys Jones, and professional practice editor John Page, IAPA is seeking to publish more short professional practice contributions.
- The newsletter and web site are being updated and upgraded to include more resources, links, listings of professional events, and professional news.

- Membership cards are being distributed with new and renewed memberships.
- Your opinion does count! Please return your survey by 30 March and help IAIA meet your needs as a member and as the organization grows.



### IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: April 2002

Submission deadline: 15 March 2002

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions to professional practice news co-editors Angus Morrison-Saunders (angus@essun1.murdoch.edu.au) and Roger Creasey (roger.creasey@shell.ca), or see the Guidelines for News Network Contributors on the web site. General interest articles should be a maximum of 500 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to IAIA Headquarters. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. © IAIA 2001. Richtman's Press Club, Fargo, ND USA.