

# Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**Are Impact Assessment Practitioners Craftsmen, Tradesmen or Professionals?** • Richard Fuggle, IAIA President

*The question arises whether the practitioner undertaking impact assessments is in a different position to other professionals with respect to satisfying a client's interests.*

During the Middle Ages, those making their livings in towns mostly identified themselves as craftsmen, tradesmen or professionals (gender sensitivity was not high in those days). Craftsmen underwent an apprenticeship and acquired through practice the skills necessary to produce specific goods from raw materials—garments, metal items, and jewelry are examples. They were skilled at making things, and to protect special interests, those in similar occupations grouped together in guilds, e.g., tailors, blacksmiths, and goldsmiths. These guilds regulated who would be deemed a master in a particular craft and also established performance and quality standards. Buying and selling the goods made by crafters, as well as farm produce and forest products, was the prerogative of traders. Expertise in commercial transactions was developed through experience, and success was closely associated with developing networks to match supply with demand. Those who did not make or sell things but provided services based on knowledge and extended formal education were known as the professionals—lawyers, physicians, clergy, and

engineers. Individuals who grouped together in order to decide on appropriate training and entry criteria styled themselves “Institutes” or “Associations.” Because disputes over the quality of advice and service could not be as easily resolved as disputes related to quality of goods made or sold, professional institutes formulated rules of conduct and disciplinary measures to censure errant members. Self-regulation of members thus became associated with professionalism, as did the notion that a professional has a duty to serve a client’s needs at all times. It is nevertheless recognised that the so-called information professions (scientists, teachers, journalists) should have a primary allegiance to the accuracy of the information they disseminate rather than to serving a client.

An ethical dilemma facing impact assessment professionals is “in whose interest does one practice?”. Or, put another way, “to whom is one ultimately accountable?”. Is the professional’s responsibility personal, or to employed staff, or to a client, or to the profession itself, or to society at large, or to all of these? A professional seeks to make a living by exercising particular expertise, so there is obviously a personal interest in obtaining work both to support oneself and family as well as employed staff. A client

employs a professional in order to meet a specific need of his or her own—this might be to cure an illness, design a house, or defend a legal action: the client expects the professional to earn the agreed fee by acting in his or her (the client’s) best interests. The professional also expects to make a living by providing a service that meets the need of the client. The nature of the market place is such that a professional who is perceived by a client not to be acting in their best interests will forfeit the business. It is clearly in a professional’s own interest to act in a client’s interest subject to legal constraints and rules of conduct laid down by their professional body.

For many professionals, two common problems arise: deciding between one’s personal interest and the interest of one’s client, and deciding between serving the need of a client and serving the need of society. Most professional associations or institutes deal with the first problem by having professional codes that require the client’s interest to be placed ahead of personal considerations. They require that conflicts of interest be declared and that the basis for professional remuneration should be formally agreed and be in accord with the norms of the profession. The second

*Continued on page 8*

**In this issue...**

- 2 ..... 1st China International Forum on EIA
- 2-4 .... Conference News: Boston & Prague
- 5 ..... IAIA-WNC Scholarship Established
- 5 ..... Affiliate News: OAlA Annual Meeting
- 6-7 ..... Professional News
- 7-10 ... Announcements & Resources
- 11 ..... IAIA Matters: Tiered Fees, Board Highlights, Election Results

# ■ ■ ■ Conference News

## A Strong IAIA Presence at the First China International Forum on EIA in Hainan, China



The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of People's Republic of China held its First China International Forum on EIA from 12 to 14 December 2004 in Bo'ao, Hainan, China. The Forum was held to promote the implementation of the new EIA Law in China which came into effect in September 2003. IAIA and the Environmental Protection Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government were, among others, the co-organisers. The CEO of IAIA, Rita Hamm, was one of the vice chair persons of the organizing committee, and the former President of IAIA, Elvis Au, was one of the Deputy Director Generals of the committee. It was the highest level EIA forum held in China in recent years, with the Vice Minister of SEPA, Mr. Pan Yue, the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, Dr. Sarah Liao, and the current President of IAIA, Dr. Richard Fuggle being the officiating guests and keynote speakers.



From left: Bobbi Schijf, Zhou Yun, Maria Partidario, Richard Morgan, Rita Hamm, Elvis Au and William Veerpkamp were just some of IAIA's representatives at the Bo'ao Forum. Photo courtesy of Elvis Au.

There were altogether five current and past IAIA Presidents giving talks on various subjects, including Richard Fuggle, Richard Morgan, William Veerpkamp, Maria Partidario and Elvis Au. The IAIA Board held its mid-term meeting before the Forum. Several current and past Board members also presented papers. The Forum was oversubscribed and attended by about 300 senior officials and professionals from all over China. The

Forum was regarded as a great success by all participants, and provided an excellent opportunity for in-depth exchange of experiences.

IAIA was privileged to be part of this important event to witness one of the most important milestones in the history of EIA in China. • Elvis Au • Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department • [elvis\\_au@hk.super.net](mailto:elvis_au@hk.super.net) and Rita Hamm • IAIA • [rita@iaia.org](mailto:rita@iaia.org)

### International experience and perspectives in SEA

A special thematic meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment

Hosted by The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and The Czech University of Agriculture

26-30 September 2005

Prague, Czech Republic

### SEA-Prague: Preliminary Program Now Available

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is applied in an increasing number of countries worldwide. This field has developed rapidly in the past decade and continues to diversify. International legal instruments are in place within the European Union and the UN Economic Commission for Europe region. New frameworks and areas of SEA practice are emerging, particularly within the lending and assistance activities of multilateral financial institutions and donor agencies. A number of developing countries have introduced SEA processes or informally use elements of this approach. More are expected to do so in the future.

The conference is being held to take stock of international experience with SEA. It will discuss all aspects of SEA development and review the status of the family of approaches, processes and tools that have evolved to date. For this purpose the conference is organized into five main streams:

- 1) SEA legislation and policy
- 2) SEA practice in key sectors
- 3) Linkages between SEA and other assessment or planning tools
- 4) Cross-cutting issues in SEA practice
- 5) Improving standards and building capacity for SEA

Contribution abstracts are now being accepted. See the IAIA web site ([www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > Conferences) for submission and registration information and to download the preliminary program.

## Global Award Winner Announced

James Gustave Speth, founder and past president of the World Resources Institute, co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, former advisor on environmental issues for US Presidents Carter and Clinton, former chief executive officer of the UNDP, and current dean and professor of environmental policy and sustainable development at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, is the 2005 recipient of IAIA's Global Award.

Gus Speth will be a keynote speaker at IAIA'05, an opportunity not to be missed. He exemplifies a lifetime commitment to the cause of environmental sustainability, both professionally and personally, bringing global attention to environmental concerns for over twenty-five years. His recent book *Red Sky at Morning* is a wake-up call to the international community, from multi-lateral institutions to governments to NGOs to individuals. For a taste of *Red Sky* and Gus Speth, download an afterword for the paperback edition of *Red Sky* at [www.redskyatmorning.com](http://www.redskyatmorning.com) (see left column, top, click on Afterword).

IAIA's Global Environment Award is given to a leading individual or institution that has made a substantial contribution to the practice of environmental assessment, management or policy at a global scale, or has otherwise made a major lifetime contribution to promoting environmental sustainability or environmental justice. The award was given for the first time in 2001 to recipient Maurice Strong.

## IAIA'05: A Celebration of Growth and Opportunity

"IAIA'05: Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment" affords us an opportunity to examine and debate issues of ethical conduct and standards of quality in impact assessment, and, as a practical matter, consider what the hallmarks of good assessment and ethical practice might be. The occasion of IAIA's 25th anniversary is an especially appropriate time for us to reflect and embark upon discussions of where we have been and especially the future direction of our profession over the next twenty-five years.

Continuing the tradition of "blockbuster" weeks of activity, IAIA'05 will present theme forums (which were wildly successful at their debut at IAIA'04), useful and enriching concurrent sessions, the informal and popular practitioners' forums, technical visits, training courses and more opportunities to enhance your professional development.

You will, however, need to save some energy for networking and social events. The fun run is tentatively being expanded to a triathlon this year, dine-out sheets will be posted for groups who want to venture into Boston for a literal taste of New England, and 25th anniversary celebrations are in the works as well.

Watch the IAIA web site for updates, and we'll see you in Boston-Cambridge!

### Boston-Cambridge History (In a Nutshell)

Called Trimountain (from its three hills) in its earliest days, Boston took its permanent name from the English town. The vanguard of English settlers, led by Reverend William Blaxton, arrived in 1624—less than four years after the Pilgrims arrived in nearby Plymouth.

The colony of Massachusetts Bay was established six years later in 1630, when the elder John Winthrop, official representative of the Massachusetts Bay Company, took up residence. From the beginning this was the centre of Puritan culture and life in the New World.

As the chief city in the region, Boston drew London's attention. When King George III and Parliament chose to burden the colonies with taxation without representation (from the colonist's point of view), the taxes were first levied in Boston. When resistance surfaced, it was in Boston. The Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party were signal events in the development of revolutionary sentiments, and the Battle of Bunker Hill solidified colonial resolve to declare independence from the British crown.

In the 20th century the city became more culturally diverse than ever before. The city's ethnic and economic profile had already been significantly altered by the 19th-century arrival of thousands of Irish immigrants, driven from home by devastating potato famines. The cultural mix grew more diverse with 20th century arrivals from Italy, the Ottoman Empire and Portugal.

Yet for all its ties to the past, Boston has always looked forward. The new millennium saw Boston entering a renaissance, thanks to the near-completion of the "Big Dig"—an ambitious public works project to place the Central Expressway underground. Wealthy young professionals are moving back to the city in droves and, since the demise of rent control in the mid-1990s, they are the only ones who can reasonably afford to live there! Affluent and comfortable, Boston remains at the centre of US intellectual life. • Source: <http://www.LonelyPlanet.com>



**IAIA thanks the following sponsors, whose generous contributions are helping to make IAIA'05 a success:**

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*Would your organization like to demonstrate its support of sustainable development and impact assessment?*

*Sponsorship opportunities remain. Contact Bridget John ([bridget@iaia.org](mailto:bridget@iaia.org)) at IAIA Headquarters for details.*

# ■ ■ ■ Conference News

## IAIA'05 Tips, Information, Invitations

### Cambridge...

There are college towns and then there are college towns—and then there's Cambridge. The double bonus of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) would make any burg's head swell.

Just across the Charles River from Boston, Cambridge is a mix of ivy-covered antiquity and nose-ringed youth. Ground zero is Harvard Square (actually a triangle) and the surrounding blocks, crammed with all the bookstores, cafes, restaurants and shops you'd expect to find in a town that caters to 30,000 university students. Among the school's several museums is the Museum of Natural History, where over 3,000 lifelike handblown glass flowers and plants are on display.

• Source: <http://www.LonelyPlanet.com>

**Registration.** The importance of pre-registration cannot be stressed enough! From savings on airline tickets to fast and convenient check-in, from arranging appropriate catering and venue space to ensuring the presenter you came to hear is on the program, early registration ensures a better and more enjoyable conference for all. See the final program for confirmed registration hours. You can avoid long lines by checking in the afternoon prior to the opening plenary; this also allows you time to read through the program, orient yourself to the meeting rooms, and rest from your travels before the busy days ahead. If you qualified for QuickPass, be sure to take your purple pass with you to the conference. Otherwise, it is helpful to have a printed ID with you, e.g., a business card or a receipt from IAIA. Pre-registrations will be accepted through 12 May. Registrations after 12 May will be accepted on-site only.

**Council meeting.** The IAIA Council serves as an advisory resource to the IAIA Board of Directors and meets directly after the closing plenary. The Council is comprised of the Board, all Committee chairs, representatives of Branches, the CEO and Headquarters representatives, and the Conference Program Chair(s) for the current-year conference and any future known conferences. However, Council meetings are open; all IAIA members and Affiliate members are encouraged to attend.

**Committees and Sections.** Much of the cutting-edge work of IAIA is the direct result of Committee and Section activity. See the IAIA web site for information about the many Committees and topical-interest Sections. The only chance for Committees and Sections to meet in person throughout the year is at the annual conference. If you are interested in serving on an IAIA Committee, please indicate your interest on the member information directory form mailed to you when you pay your membership dues. Section meetings are open to everyone. Join in! Meet new people! Check the program schedule for meeting times.

**Meet your friends and colleagues.** The conference hotel, Hyatt Regency Cambridge Overlooking Boston, has restaurants, a health club, and green space on the river where you can arrange to meet fellow attendees on arrival.

**Book share.** Bring one or two of your favorite environmental reference books, new or recycled, as a contribution to the book share table. The books are then available on a first-come, first-served basis to delegates who might not readily find such books in their own localities.

**Final program and abstracts.** The final program and abstracts volume are tentatively planned to be posted on the web site about mid-May and will be distributed at the conference.

### Tips for Effective Presentations

- Prepare a one-page bulleted outline of your presentation and include your contact information. Take about 30 copies with you to your session. This helps your audience follow along, especially those whose native language is not your own, and allows them to contact you after the conference for more information or to request a copy of your full paper.
- Get to the subject matter quickly.
- Within the first 2 minutes, tell why what you are going to say is important and how it will affect your audience.
- Be specific and concrete. Use numbers and examples.
- Stick to the time schedule.
- Look for audience participation and questions throughout.
- Be positive. Support the program and other speakers, and most of all, have fun!

(Adapted from "Effective Conference/Seminar Marketing" by Ralph Elliott.)

### Tips for Poster Presenters

- Preview/review: posters should be made up before you arrive. Put it up in your office conference room, view, discuss, and make changes before setting off for the conference.
- Content of posters: may be divided into sections, including introduction, problem definition or aims of the research, work summary, results and conclusions.
- Use large, easy-to read lettering. Posters should be legible from a distance of 2 meters.
- Include a heading label which includes the poster's title and the author's name and contact information (a tearoff sheet also works).
- Do not paste up typed pages of a written paper or clutter the poster with unnecessary details.
- See [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > Conference IAIA'05 Main Page > Poster Presenter Information for more tips and information.

## International Association for Impact Assessment - Western and Northern Canada Scholarship Established in Honor of Dr. Bill Ross

A scholarship has been established by the International Association for Impact Assessment-Western and Northern Canada Affiliate (IAIA-WNC) in honor of the exemplary leadership provided by past Chair of IAIA-WNC, Dr. Bill Ross of the Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary. His role as program chair made the 2004 Conference one of the most successful ever undertaken by IAIA.

The scholarship will be open to students who at the time of tenure are registered full-time in a program leading to a Master's degree in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. Students will have completed the first year of their program. Selection will be based on academic merit and a demonstrated interest and aptitude in any sector in the field of impact assessment.

Preference will be given to students who have been living and/or working in the Yukon or North West Territories. The total amount of \$7500 (Canadian) will be disbursed in a three-year term at one \$2500 scholarship per year. • Richard Roberts • Praxis • roberts@praxis.ca

## International Approaches to Impact Assessment: Practical Applications for Ontario

Inspired by IAIA'04 in Vancouver, the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA) is planning their annual meeting around the theme of improving EA practice by learning from international experience. Co-sponsored by OAIA, the Ontario Society for Environmental Management and the University of Toronto's Institute for Environmental Studies, the conference is scheduled for 11-12 May 2005. The conference will provide an opportunity to hear what is happening internationally and thus promote knowledge transfer to local practice. An expert panel and follow-on workshop will help identify learning opportunities and assist in planning for future events aimed at continuous improvement.

Also, in anticipation of a report by an Ontario government panel commissioned in 2004 to review EA legislative reform and address sector specific issues (waste, transportation and energy), a third day (13 May) is expected to be added to the conference to review the report and formulate comments in response. • Pamela Hubbard and Lee Doran, Ontario Association of Impact Assessment • phubbard@lura.ca



### IAIA'05 Boston: Fun Fact

#### ▼ Why is Boston called "Beantown"?

▼ In colonial days, a favorite Boston food was dried beans baked in molasses for several hours. Today, Boston baked beans is something of a rarity—there are no companies in the city making it and only a few restaurants serve it.

• Source: <http://www.Boston-online.com>

## IAIA Seeks Translation Partners

The question of translation has now been debated for some years within IAIA. The issue is complicated: 98% of current IAIA members communicate in English on a professional level, IAIA seeks to outreach potential members who are non-English-speaking, which languages to target, cost, how to phase it in, its place in conferences, and need for resources are just some of the factors that must be considered.

At its meeting in Bo'Ao, China, the IAIA Board of Directors decided to move forward on the issue by taking the approach most feasible at this time.

Volunteer partners are being sought for translation of priority documents such as the membership brochure and special publications. Most documents will be produced only in PDF and posted online.

The documents will be clearly dated and will note that they have been developed in limited cooperation with identified partners.

If your organization is interested in becoming a translation partner, please contact Rita Hamm, IAIA CEO • [rita@iaia.org](mailto:rita@iaia.org).

*Please contact IAIA HQ if your Affiliate or organization is interested in becoming a translation partner*

### Boston-Cambridge What to see...

**The Freedom Trail:** a 2.5-mile red line in the sidewalk that links 18 historic sites downtown and in Charlestown.

**Quincy Market:** known as a large festival market with street comedians and musicians, and a gazillion types of food.

**Harvard Square:** the place in the Boston area for serious people watching—from skate punks to tweedy professors.

**Newbury Street:** Boston's chic shopping street. Expensive boutiques at one end, funkier shops (such as Newbury Comics) at the other. Numerous outdoor cafes.

**The North End:** the most European neighborhood in the most European of American cities.

**Beacon Hill:** elegant brownstones, gaslights, and cobblestones. It's across from the Public Garden, where you can take a ride on a person-powered Swan Boat and pet the statues of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings.

• Source: <http://www.Boston-online.com>

# ■ ■ ■ Professional News

## **Integrated strategic assessment for the water sector**

A two-year study was conducted by the World Bank's Agriculture and Rural Development Department on the impacts of drainage interventions in 6 countries. The main outcome of the study was a Drainage Integrated Analytical Framework (dubbed *Drainframe*) to assess agricultural drainage from an integrated natural resources management perspective. The framework guides discussion and negotiation of trade-offs among natural resources functions and values influenced by water resources management interventions. It is therefore applicable to natural resources management in general rather than to drainage only. It is a tool for integrated analysis and assessment, embedded in a participatory planning process. The instrument has already been field-tested in integrated strategic assessments of three WB funded projects in Egypt and Pakistan.

The original report and country studies are available at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) (through Topics in Development > Agriculture & Rural Development > Publications). Further information on cases and training modules is available through Safwat Abdel-Dayem ([sabdeldayem@worldbank.org](mailto:sabdeldayem@worldbank.org)) or Roel Slootweg ([sevs@sevs.nl](mailto:sevs@sevs.nl)). • Roel Slootweg



Photo courtesy of Roel Slootweg.

## **Australian government strategic assessment of major military exercises**

The Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage has announced a Strategic Assessment of the Australian Department of Defence's environmental management processes, procedures and systems governing the conduct of major military training exercises. The assessment will be carried out under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Draft Terms of Reference for the Strategic Assessment have been made available for public comment until 18 April 2005.

Comments made will be taken into account in finalizing the Terms of Reference for the assessment. The Department of Defence will then prepare a report that addresses how environmental impacts associated with major military exercises are managed. The report will be released for public comment before it is considered by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. Further information on this and other Strategic Assessments is available at [www.deh.gov.au/epbc/news/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/news/index.html) or by contacting Nick Gascoigne, Department of Environment and Heritage, at [nick.gascoigne@deh.gov.au](mailto:nick.gascoigne@deh.gov.au). • Nick Gascoigne

## **Measuring mitigation**

The ProVention Consortium of international agencies promoting natural disaster mitigation has published a research report on the effectiveness of project appraisal and design methodologies in assessing natural hazard risks to projects, and the net benefits of disaster mitigation measures. The study covers the main methods currently used by international development agencies: economic appraisal, EIA and SEA, vulnerability and social analysis (including SIA, HIA and sustainable livelihoods frameworks), risk assessment and logical framework analysis. It finds that many of the standard tools can be used to assess risks from natural hazards and the potential returns from mitigation initiatives, but this issue is largely neglected in practice. It recommends more explicit guidance on applying the tools to incorporate natural hazards and related vulnerability: a second phase of the project will produce such guidelines.

For copies of the report: [www.proventionconsortium.org/projects/methodology\\_assess.htm](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/projects/methodology_assess.htm). For additional information: John Twigg, University College London [j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk). • John Twigg

## **RTPI Environmental Planning and Protection Network to launch SEA task groups**

The Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Environmental Planning and Protection Network is about to launch two task groups on SEA. The first, an accreditation task group, to explore university course modules on SEA, accreditation of SEA trainers and recognition for planners who contribute to the delivery of successful SEA. The second, a quality control group, to address SEA quality, starting from awareness raising, contract specifications, tender evaluations and possibly review systems.

Task Groups are open, free of charge, to anyone who registers for RTPI Environmental Planning and Protection Network membership. The Task Groups' focus is on the UK, but international contributions to help inform the work of the Task Groups is most welcome.

For additional information visit <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk> (you can join online if you are an RTPI member) or contact Trish Cookson at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk), 01262 605972, or at RTPI, 41 Botolph Lane, London, EC3R 8DL. • Paul Tomlinson • Leader Environmental Planning & Protection Network, RTPI • [ptomlinson@trl.co.uk](mailto:ptomlinson@trl.co.uk)

# Professional News & Resources ■ ■ ■

## Strategic Environmental Assessment for Transport Plans and Programmes Guidance Available

The UK Department of Transport has released the following guidance “Strategic Environmental Assessment for Transport Plans and Programmes” on its Transport Analysis Guidance website. This has been released to provide guidance on how to carry out the assessment and is available on [www.webtag.org.uk](http://www.webtag.org.uk). (Document link to [http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/2\\_Project\\_Manager/11\\_SEA/index.htm](http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/2_Project_Manager/11_SEA/index.htm)). For further details contact [karen.raymond@erm.com](mailto:karen.raymond@erm.com).

• Karen Raymond • ERM

## Austria’s implementation of EU SEA Directive

Like other European Union (EU) Member States, Austria is making progress in implementing requirements of the EU Directive on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). To date (mid-March 2005), the following legislation has been amended or adopted according to the SEA Directive: Federal Water Management Act, Federal Waste Management Act, Spatial Planning Act of Salzburg Province, Spatial Planning Act of Styria, Spatial Planning Act of Lower Austria, Carinthian Environmental Planning Act, and Tyrolean Environmental Assessment Act. Additional legislation is in various stages of preparation toward compliance with the Directive: Federal Clean Air Act, Federal Act on Strategic Assessment of Transport Plans, Spatial Planning Act for Upper Austria, Viennese Building Code, and Viennese Waste Management Act. Further implementation activities are expected to be forthcoming.

• Ralf Aschemann, Austrian Institute for the Development of Environmental Assessment • [office@anidea.at](mailto:office@anidea.at)

## Position Available

The Department of Natural Resource Sciences of McGill University and the McGill School of Environment invite applications for a tenure track position in environmental assessment (EA).

For a detailed position description, see [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)  
> Members > Training, Professional Resources & Networking > Job Postings.

## Shell Promotes Contractor Competence; Input Sought

Impact assessment in Shell integrates EIA, SIA, and HIA. Recent developments include an updated guide to Impact Assessment, a competence framework for Health Impact Assessment, and an HIA training course. Demand for quality HIA is not always matched by supply. The supply pool is small. We are training our staff to recognise appropriate HIA competence and we encourage potential contractors to supply it. We would like to hear about the constraints they experience in matching our requirements. We will meet with major contractors to discuss these issues.

Consultants may wish to acquire HIA competence by attending any recognisable training course and acquiring recognisable experience. There are no international standards or accreditation agencies as yet. Shell’s own course is one option among others.

Contact Martin Birley ([martin.birley@shell.com](mailto:martin.birley@shell.com)) for more information or to comment.

## Draft Review of International Experience and Practice in Sustainability Appraisal Available; Input Sought

Over the past year, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has undertaken a review of international experience and practice in sustainability appraisal. This study is an input to the work programme of the SEA Task Team of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

A first draft of this review, prepared by Barry Dalal-Clayton and Barry Sadler, is now available on the IIED website ([www.iied.org/spa/sa.html](http://www.iied.org/spa/sa.html)).

The aim of the review is to benchmark recent progress in sustainability appraisal as a first step to ground and re-focus further debate. But it is still very much “work-in-progress” that IIED aims to further develop in the coming months. We would welcome any comments and suggestions, offers of further information and contacts details of institutions and individuals

working on sustainability appraisal.

This draft report is a companion volume to *Strategic Environmental Assessment: A Source Book and Reference Guide on International Experience* by the same authors, also available on this website and due for publication by OECD, UNEP and IIED in collaboration with Earthscan in April 2005.

For further information or to provide input, contact Dr. Barry Dalal-Clayton, Director for Strategies, Planning and Assessment, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD. +44 207 388 2117. Fax: +44 207 388 2826. [Barry.dalal-clayton@iied.org](mailto:Barry.dalal-clayton@iied.org) • Barry Dalal-Clayton

# ■ ■ ■ Announcements & Resources

## New Publications by IAIA Members

### ■ *Mining Environmental Policy: Comparing Indonesia and the United States*

Michael S. Hamilton (University of Southern Maine) is the author of *Mining Environmental Policy: Comparing Indonesia and the United States*, to be published in July 2005 by Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., UK. The first scholarly treatment of the degree of integration between mining regulatory policies and environmental assessment requirements in any two countries, analysis of the determinants of policy effectiveness during implementation reveals cultural, political and institutional factors that shape environmental assessments in Indonesia. The role of mining in sustainable development and the impact of recent laws decentralizing environmental functions to local governments in Indonesia are analyzed. Conclusions drawn from this analysis lead to practical recommendations for improving environmental assessment policy in Indonesia. • Michael S. Hamilton • University of Southern Maine • [mshamilt@usm.maine.edu](mailto:mshamilt@usm.maine.edu)

### ■ *Quantifying Environmental Impact Assessments Using Fuzzy Logic*

As stated in the introductory notes, *Quantifying Environmental Impact Assessments Using Fuzzy Logic* sets out three objectives: 1) "to document how environmental impact assessments have been conducted and to explain when and why contention develops"; 2) "to justify the use of fuzzy sets, fuzzy logic and approximate reasoning to provide decision makers with the ability to make well-informed decisions; ones that are technically sound and legally defensible"; and 3) "to illustrate the use of computational intelligence techniques presented in objective 2 for environmental impact assessment." The book may be ordered from <http://www.springeronline.com/>. 2005, XVIII, 211 p. 42 illus., Hardcover ISBN: 0-387-24398-4. US\$99. • Richard B. Shepard • Applied Ecosystem Services, Inc. • [rshepard@appl-ecosys.com](mailto:rshepard@appl-ecosys.com)

## Getting Around Boston-Cambridge

Boston is a city enjoyably covered on foot. There are numerous walking trails through urban heritage districts and nature zones. If you tire of walking, you're best off catching the "T," the oldest subway in the country and one of the best. The T serves most areas of Boston and Cambridge. Ferries cross Boston Harbor, but that is more an excursion than an option for getting around.

• Source: <http://www.LonelyPlanet.com>

## Resource

### AAFC Releases Version 3.0 of "Soil Landscapes of Canada" for Agriculture

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has just completed a three-year project updating the "Soil Landscapes of Canada" (SLC) to meet new demands for information about the environmental performance of agricultural regions in Canada. Version 3.0 of the SLC is now available from AAFC's web site of the Canadian Soil Information System, or CanSIS (<http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis>).

SLCv3 is the national database and series of digital soil maps, at a scale of 1:1 million, for all of Canada's agricultural soils. This version has the degree of detail and the complexity of information that older versions of the soil map series do not have. SLCv3 was created largely as a response to the requirements for a national greenhouse gas and soil carbon accounting system and for national agri-environmental indicators. • Sharon Ramsay • Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada • [sramsay@agr.gc.ca](mailto:sramsay@agr.gc.ca)

## P O S I T I O N A N N O U N C E M E N T



Hobbs International is currently seeking Sustainable Development and Social Impact Assessment Consultants with experience in the Energy, Transportation, Oil and Gas, and Mining sectors. Candidates should have expertise in: project preparation and management, resettlement planning, risk assessment and mitigation, and local level institutional capacity building. Experience in Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and South East Asia is an asset.

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email: [knippels@hobbsinternational.com](mailto:knippels@hobbsinternational.com)  
web: [www.hobbsinternational.com](http://www.hobbsinternational.com)

# Announcements & Resources ■ ■ ■

## Calabash Program—Improving Civil Society Participation in Environmental Governance

Information and resources on the Calabash web site continue to develop. Recent additions include the Calabash Case Studies Report, which contains a Model of Best Practice for Public Participation and Environmental Assessment, Case Analysis for the 6 projects and Document References and a handbook on public participation, *A One Stop Participation Guide: A Handbook of Public Participation in Environmental Assessment in Southern Africa*, which contains a PP Review Template that can be used during the review or planning of a PP programme and a series of template letters which civil society can use to ensure that their voices are heard and respected in a respective public participation process. Also included on the website is an electronic directory of over 250 public participation and environmental assessment resources and methodologies from the SADC region, the rest of Africa and internationally; as well as newsletters; a Chat Forum and a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper analysis tool to determine how well environment is being integrated into the PRSP process.

Upcoming Calabash Products include a set of template Terms of Reference for Public Participation Programmes, an “Opportunities for Civil Society Participation” handbook for the SADC region, and a 2-day pilot training course on EIA/PP which will be held in Windhoek 24-25 May 2005.

The Calabash website address is <http://www.saiea.com> (click on Calabash Project). For an expanded version of this article, see [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > Members > News. If you have any questions about Calabash, please contact Peter Croal, Program Manager for Calabash—Improving Civil Society Participation in Environmental Governance, [Peter.croal@saiea.com](mailto:Peter.croal@saiea.com).

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

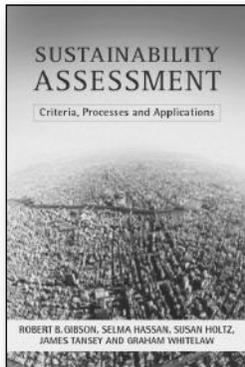
### Sustainability Assessment

CRITERIA, PROCESSES AND APPLICATIONS

By Robert B. Gibson

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- The first book to tackle the complexities of sustainability assessment and provide practical solutions.
- Comprehensive analysis, guidance and criteria for impact assessment professionals and policy makers at all levels and in all circumstances.
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**Sustainability Assessment** covers all aspects of the core requirements of sustainability including the creation of basic criteria, handling trade-offs, practicalities in application, implications for process design and uses in decision-making, as well as examining the range of tools and innovative examples available to assist implementation of sustainability assessment.

Paperback 1-84407-051-4 ~~£22.95~~ **£19.49** July 2005

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# ■ ■ ■ From the President

## From the President (continued from page 1)

*I believe that impact assessment professionals have a primary allegiance to the accuracy of the information they disseminate and must be regarded as information professionals rather than service professionals.*

problem is not as easily resolved. Consider, for example, the dilemma facing a medical professional with a promiscuous client who has the HIV virus and who stipulates that no one should be informed. By serving and honouring the client's wishes, the professional will not be acting in the best interest of society. Yet in the absence of legislation requiring disclosure of the condition, the medical professional is expected to place the individual client's needs first. This is the case in most professions: unless there are laws that apply, generally the individual client's need must be paramount.

The question arises whether the practitioner undertaking impact assessments is in a different position to other professionals with respect to satisfying a client's interests. The considerations already discussed all apply. There are personal interests to be balanced against client interests and client interests to be balanced against societal interests.

The term "sweetheart report" has been used to categorise impact assessments that are deemed favourable to a developer's interest at the expense of societal interests. And since the inception of environmental impact statements—as mechanisms to inform decision makers as to the likely consequences of proposed actions, so that decisions can be taken in society's best interest—sweetheart reports have been a problem. Conventional wisdom is that "he who pays the piper calls the tune," so no matter how impartial an impact assessment practitioner attempts to be, this perception persists. It is not without substance. It is illogical for the proponent of a project to appoint a professional who will not add value to the activity. This added value might be through avoiding costs by "planning with nature," by optimising project design and performance, by reducing public opposition to a project, or by reducing bureaucratic delays due to missing data. Most impact assessment practitioners seek to give their clients value in one or more of these ways. It

is clearly in their own interest to do so, as professional commissions are unlikely to be awarded to professionals deemed to be a hindrance rather than a help to a client's plans. The net result is that very few impact assessments are made public that are hostile to the development to which they relate. This feeds the "sweetheart report" perception.

Various mechanisms have been proposed to ensure that impact assessments are fair and unbiased. One that has not found favour is that the proponent of a project should not appoint the professional team undertaking the impact assessment. Project proponents reject this approach on the purported grounds that this undermines the client-professional relationship and that it is not conducive to trust and openness. The generally favoured mechanism is that of third party review of an impact assessment before it is passed to the relevant decision maker. This, in turn is not without its problems. Who appoints the reviewers? Who remunerates them? What professional competency should they have? Practice varies in different countries. In some, environmental professionals in government agencies undertake review, sometimes with and sometimes without the public having sight of the report being reviewed. In others review consultants are appointed by government agencies and the costs recovered from the project proponent. In developing countries a wide variety of variations occurs. In the worst cases, impact assessments are not reviewed at all, or are reviewed only by officials with no professional competence or experience. An improvement is review by independent professionals appointed by the proponent, together with release of the report for public review. In very few cases is review undertaken by independent professionals appointed by the decision making authority in order to distance the reviewer(s) from the initial study. The wide variation that is occurring around the world with respect to review of impact assessments is unfortunately not conducive to public trust.

It is clearly in the interest of all impact assessment practitioners that mechanisms be sought to assure decision makers and the public that "sweetheart reports" are neither acceptable to the profession nor the norm. Unfortunately many countries fail to regulate the quality (as opposed to the content) of impact assessments.

Until the "rules of the game" for impact assessment practitioners are established, individuals are faced with the ethical problem of balancing personal, client and societal interest when undertaking impact assessments. All impact assessment professionals need to remember that the profession grew out of social demands that environmental parameters need to be considered alongside technical and economic factors when decisions which will affect communities are made. Accountability to society as much as to client is thus implicit in our professional activities. I believe that impact assessment professionals have a primary allegiance to the accuracy of the information they disseminate and must be regarded as information professionals rather than service professionals.

Practising personal integrity and ensuring that professionally competent impartial reviews of environmental evaluations are undertaken should be the norm for all environmental professionals. It needs to be clear to the uninitiated that impact assessment practitioners are not craftsmen intent on producing good-looking reports made to regulatory specifications. Neither are they traders making money through their knowledge of the network of supply and demand for impact assessments. Greater attention must be given to promoting the professionalism of impact assessment practitioners. The IAIA'05 meeting in Boston with the theme of "Ethics and Quality Assurance in Impact Assessment" will provide an opportunity for members of IAIA to indicate whether and how this matter should be pursued by the Association. ■■■

## Board of Directors Highlights

### Mid-term meeting 2004-2005 Highlights from Bo' Ao

The IAIA 2004-2005 Board of Directors met in Bo' Ao, China, 11-12 December 2004.

The meeting was held just prior to the 1st China Forum on Environmental Impact Assessment, in which many Board members participated. Major Board discussion took place on:

- a tiered fee structure
- approval of the 2005 budget
- approval of proposed Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Section
- decision to seek translation partners for development of key documents

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



### In Memory

Gill-Chin Lim, a former IAIA member and Dean of International Studies and Programs at Michigan State University who specialized in strategic planning, policy analysis and governance, passed away in February 2005. Lim published and lectured on topics of comparative development, housing, environment, planning and decision making theories, and global education. He was the co-editor of the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* and an international adviser for the *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* as well as a contributor to KSEIA and IAIA. He will be missed by his colleagues and friends worldwide. • Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment (KSEIA/IAIA-Korea)

## IAIA Board Adopts Tiered Membership Fees

After discussing the practical advice and positive feedback provided by members to the proposed membership fee structure and with review of financial outcomes based on various scenarios utilizing the proposed structure, the Board of Directors approved a regular individual membership rate of \$100 US, beginning in July, with 20% discounts for individuals from non-OECD countries and a 50% discounts for LDC individuals and students. These discounts will not be automatic; requests will be considered as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Discounts will be credited to individuals who voluntarily donate extra funds at the time of their membership applications or renewals.

## Crystal Cummins Joins Headquarters Staff

If you contact IAIA about your membership or conference registration, you will likely be communicating with Crystal Cummins. Crystal replaces Ana Hallstrom as IAIA's membership clerk. Crystal holds a B.A. in Political Science and before joining IAIA in February was most recently involved in Americorps/Habitat for Humanity projects. She brings fresh enthusiasm and a positive attitude to IAIA HQ, and we are very pleased to have her on board. Crystal will be part of the IAIA team in Boston, so those of you attending IAIA'05 will have a chance to meet her. Crystal can be reached at [info@iaia.org](mailto:info@iaia.org).

## 2005-2006 Election Results Announced

Ballots for the offices of President-Elect and three Directors were tabulated 1 April 2005.

*President-Elect*

**Ross Marshall**

*Director*

**Alan Kwok**

*Director*

**Angus Morrison-Saunders**

*Director*

**Jaâfar Boulejiouch**

IAIA expresses its deepest appreciation to IAIA members Richard Morgan (Past President), William Jones (Director), Marcel Baglo (Director) and Yasmin von Schirnding (Director), whose three-year terms are coming to a close.

Good luck to those of you taking on new roles in IAIA, and many thanks those volunteers who stood as nominees.



## Before You Hit the Boston Tourist Trail

### For history fans

- *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*, Ester Forbes
- *Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families*, J. Anthony Lukas
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride"

### For architecture fans

- *Cityscapes of Boston*, R. Campbell & P. Vanderwarker

### Recommended movies

- *The Perfect Storm*
- *Good Will Hunting*

Source: Marie Morris, *Frommer's Boston 2004*, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2003, p. 39-40.

## Calendar

- 7 April  
**World Health Day**
- 22 April  
**Earth Day**
- 22 May  
**International Day for Biological Diversity**

## Professional News Index

Mitigation: Measuring mitigation .....	6
SEA: Australian government SA of major military exercises .....	6
SEA: Transport plans and programmes guidance available .....	6
SEA: RTPI to launch SEA task groups .....	7
SEA: Austria's implementation of EU SEA Directive .....	7
Tools: Integrated strategic assessment "Drainframe" framework.....	6

## Welcome!

**New IAIA members 16 December 2004 - 15 March 2005**

**Stephen O. Abah**, Nigeria; **John Amah**, Nigeria; **Kim Andersson**, Sweden; **Ilse Aucamp**, South Africa; **Juan Azcarate**, Sweden; **Daniel G. Bates**, USA; **Sarel Booyens**, Mozambique; **Charles M. Borkowski**, USA; **Alain Bozet**, Belgium; **Rachel Brazier**, Australia; **Kathryn Burch**, USA; **Kathlene Butler**, USA; **Pierre Castegnier**, Canada; **Lertchai Charerntanyarak**, Thailand; **John Choi**, Canada; **David Cordero**, Spain; **Donald Couch**, New Zealand; **Miguel Coutinho**, Portugal; **Colette Claude Cowey**, USA; **Amzi S. Crenshaw**, France; **William M. Cross**, USA; **Samuel Dambiau**, South Africa; **Graham Esson**, UK; **Robert Federico**, Canada; **Herbert Felix**, Canada; **Doug Feremenga**, USA; **Marianne Fernagut**, Norway; **Arlene Fleming**, USA; **Arne Marius Fosse**, Norway; **Melissa French**, USA; **Broderick Green**, USA; **Nestor Gutierrez**, Colombia; **Olir Halldorsson**, Iceland; **Robert Hargrove**, USA; **Wendy Haydon**, USA; **Katina Henderson**, USA; **Michelle Hendricks**, The Netherlands; **Richard Henning**, USA; **Jaimie Herring**, Canada; **David Hickie**, England-UK; **Shawn Hicks**, Canada; **Reidar Hindrum**, Nepal; **Robin Hirsch-Simons**, USA; **Bruce Hull**, USA; **Karol I. Ibidoja**, Nigeria; **Uraiwan Inmuong**, Thailand; **Tomas Israelsson**, Sweden; **Ramzy Kanaan**, USA; **Christa Kempenar**, The Netherlands; **Paul KishchUK**, Canada; **Alwin B. Kool**, The Netherlands; **Denis V. Lachance**, Canada; **Christian Lamptey**, Germany; **Jure Leben**, USA; **Jonathan P. Lilien**, USA; **Stephen Lines**, Canada; **Tomas Lofgren**, Sweden; **Jon M. Loney**, USA; **Ioannis D. Manariotis**, Greece; **Eric Markus**, Sweden; **Joao Martins**, Portugal; **Luis Martins Dias**, The Netherlands; **Michael McDonald**, England-UK; **Shawn Miller**, USA; **Noel Millson**, Canada; **Margaret Mondlane**, South Africa; **Lynda Diane Mull**, USA; **Elke Nickel**, Germany; **Sara Nielsen**, USA; **Shyam Nokta**, Guyana; **Sylvia Novoligak**, Canada; **O'Raye Dicta Ogisi**, England-UK; **Joel Page**, Canada; **Antonius Pascale**, France; **Filin Pavel**, Russia; **Ingvar Persson**, Sweden; **Merrell Ann S. Phare**, Canada; **Frederik Pischke**, Germany; **Jamie Reschny**, Canada; **Joseph Reser**, Australia; **Robert Roddick**; **Johanna Sandwall**, Sweden; **Walter Silva**, Brazil; **Kadri Sirg**, USA; **Tarja Soderman**, Finland; **Wanda Webster Stansbury**, USA; **Allison Stoddart**, Canada; **Mark Stoughton**, Japan; **Terence Clifford Thackwray**, South Africa; **Kathy Thrun**, USA; **Taimaleleagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalav**, USA; **Karlette Tunaley**, Canada; **Amanda L. Tyrrell**, USA; **Cristina Usubiaga**, Canada; **Hilde Van Vlaenderen**, France; **Telli Van Der Lei**, The Netherlands; **Joon Van Der Linde**, South Africa; **Vancouver Airport Authority Library**, Canada; **Jan Veeken**, The Netherlands; **Stacy Basham Wagner**, USA; **Esther Wolff**, England-UK

## IAIA Calendar of Important Dates & Deadlines

Subject to change - watch for updates

### April 2005

7 ..... Newsletter mailed

### May 2005

1 ..... IAIA'05 deadlines: requests for inserts in delegate bags, raffle, hotel conference rates  
 1 ..... Training course instructor agreements due  
 1 ..... Board action items due  
 1 ..... Annual reports due  
 1 ..... Annual General Meeting action items due  
 12 ..... IAIA'05 Pre-registration cutoff (all registrations after this date should be made on-site)  
 31 May - 1 June IAIA'05

### June 2005

3 ..... Council meeting  
 ..... Board meeting  
 15 ..... Newsletter articles due

### July 2005

1 ..... Newsletter, IAIA'06 Call for Submissions mailed

### September 2005

26-30 .SEA-Prague



If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research, would it?

• Albert Einstein •



**IAIA'05:  
Ethics & Quality**  
 31 May - 3 June 2005  
 Boston-Cambridge,  
 Massachusetts, USA

### International Experience and Perspectives in SEA

26-30 September 2005  
 Prague, Czech Republic

### IAIA Newsletter

**Next issue:** July 2005

**Submission deadlines:** 1 June Professional News  
 15 June General News

**Professional practice articles** should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions by 1 March to professional practice news co-editors Richard Fristik (richard.fristik@usace.army.mil) and Bram Noble (b.noble@usask.ca), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

**General interest articles** should be a maximum of 500 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to IAIA Headquarters by 15 June. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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