



*"It is not enough just to assess an installation's impact on the environment; one must also assess the impact of a changing environment on the installation. Then, as much as possible, the impact of that change must be integrated into planning and countered."*

*– Cleo Paskal, Columnist and Adjunct Professor  
Global Change, SCMS, Kochi, India*

- Are you an impact assessment (IA), urban and regional planning, or climate change professional who needs to know more about how the changing climate affects the environment, and vice versa?
- Are you an environmental specialist trying to figure out how to address climate change predictions and risks in impact assessments and strategic planning?
- Can you share your international experiences with professionals from Asia, the biggest contributor to the world economy and climate change?
- We invite you to join a two-day symposium bringing together international experts and practitioners in impact assessment and climate change. Together we will review the latest studies and work linking impact assessment and climate change.

# Impact Assessment and Climate Change

Special Symposium  
5-6 December | Beijing, China

**Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time.** International consensus has formed concerning the causes and impacts of the problem, but not the solutions. This special symposium will focus on the solutions and actions to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. It will also highlight how the impact assessment profession can contribute.

This Asian special symposium will involve key actors and stakeholders from all levels and sectors to foster a fruitful dialogue and provide a bridge for the climate change and impact assessment communities. Dialogue within as well as across groups and disciplines is the key to mainstream sustainability considerations in societal decision making.

But dialogue, however important, is only part of the necessary ongoing process. The aim of this conference is to foster better understanding and sharing of knowledge among international experts in impact assessment and climate change to guide the international community, government and other stakeholders toward the commitments, specific actions, innovations and investments that are needed to meet the challenges of adapting to and mitigating climate change.

The organizers hold a strong international position in the field of sustainability, planning and impact assessment. This has been achieved through a critical understanding of the technicality and methodology of impact assessment and an in-depth understanding of how institution set-up and decision-making process facilitate or hinder the inclusion of environmental assessment considerations.

The symposium will nurture innovative work, namely on methodological developments, institutionalization of assessment practices, innovations in regulatory frameworks, and building up of governance.

## Overview

Adaptation and mitigation measures are needed at the level of policies, programs and projects, locally, regionally and globally, because climate change is expected to:

- Affect the productivity of biological resources and ecosystems.
- Alter the emergence and distribution of infectious diseases in plants, animals, and humans.
- Increase the costs of extreme weather for transportation, trade, tourism, and other infrastructure—especially in developing nations.

This Symposium will emphasize, through impact assessment applied knowledge, practical examples and guidelines that are useful for planning, design and operational management associated with climate change impacts. The focus will be on urban areas, energy facilities, water supply and waste water treatment projects, roads and other transport, coastal projects, tourism facilities and other infrastructure likely to be affected by changes in water availability or extreme weather events as a result of climate change. The symposium will also explore the application of environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and cumulative effects assessment to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

*This is the third of a series of impact assessment and climate change symposia held by IAIA. The conclusions and recommendations from the first two symposia (Aalborg, Denmark, October 2010 and Washington, DC, November 2010) will be brought forward to this special climate change symposium in Beijing, hosted by Tsinghua University and the Appraisal Center for Environment and Engineering of the Ministry of Environmental Protection.*

## Themes to be developed

- Energy efficiency and clean energy in production and consumption
- Green economy and reduction of industrial emissions
- Urban sustainability and eco-city development
- Climate change and integrated water management
- Social aspects in impact assessment and climate change
- Green governance and regional sustainability

## Some key questions

- What effects will climate change have on the feasibility, viability and long-term sustainability of policies, plans and programs?
- Will climate change exacerbate the impacts of a project?
- To what degree does a project, program or policy or intervention promote reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- How can impact assessment assure flexibility in societal response to the impacts of climate change?
- How can climate change projections be applied to site-specific projects in impact assessment?
- What impact assessment tools are appropriate for understanding impacts, assessing risks and responding to climate change?

## Schedule of events

- 5-6 December:** Symposium  
**6 December:** Evening reception and dinner

## For more information



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