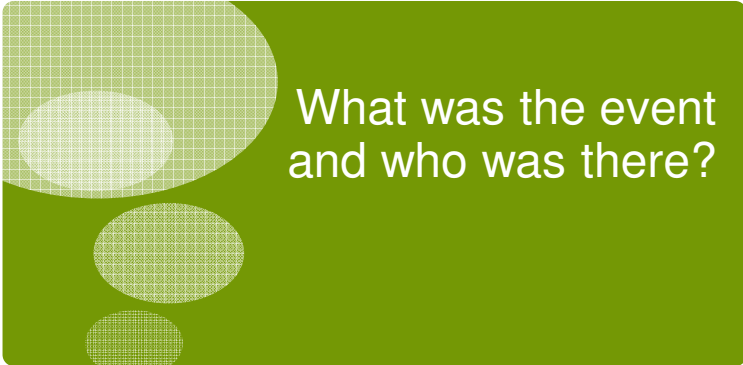




**Key messages from the Special  
Symposium on Climate  
Change and Impact Assessment,**  
25-26 October 2010, Aalborg, Denmark

Lone Kørnøv, Martin Lehmann and Tim Richardson



What was the event  
and who was there?

## Pressure on IA community to act



No space for bystanders

Uncontrolled experiment



- Continuation of a high emission-based economy
- Neglecting adaptation
  - ...which can be a matter of sheer survival

## Reflective and responsive handling in focus



- What should be our collective response and priorities regarding climate change?
- What is needed in relation to sharpening our understanding, our tools and the governance landscape?

## Themes and delegates



1. Water and Climate Change
2. Embedding Climate Change in Professional Impact Assessment Practice
3. Social Impact Assessment
4. Landscapes and Ecosystems Services
5. Urban and Regional Strategies for Climate Change
6. Health Impact Assessment
7. Scenarios and Future Thinking
8. Assessing Impacts of Climate Change and Infrastructure
9. Waste Management Strategies
10. Carbon Calculators
11. Climate Change and Development Cooperation
12. Decision Making and Governance



## Keynotes



**Ross Marshall**

*On the changing role of the IA practitioner*



**Nicholas Stern**

*On the context of the climate change challenge*



**Eric Berlow**

*On complexity versus complication*



**Viriato Soromenho-Marques**

*On the science-policy interface*



**André Jol**

*On vulnerability and adaptation in Europe*



## Some of the discussion points

### Field of practice is emerging



- No common standards
  - Exploratory work going on
  - Different approaches in different sectors
  - Assembled a partial overview in Aalborg
- IA has a role to play!
- IA represents a significant opportunity to ensure that climate change objectives are effectively factored into public plans, as they are prepared.
  - Reflective IA practice is necessary and urgent

## Adaptation



- Different questions and challenges to mitigation
- Handled differently in IA practice
- A more holistic perspective comprising both mitigation and adaptation is required
  - Synergies and trade-offs between these
- Climate change adaptation is a *“new concept for the EIA/SEA Directive”*

*(Vaidotas Kuodys  
DG Climate Action, EC)*



## Complexity and uncertainty

Uncertainty avoidance is taking place in IA

- Involving strategies like ignoring and postponing handling



**Viriato  
Soromenho-Marques**

*“Certainty is for kids – not  
mature scientists”*



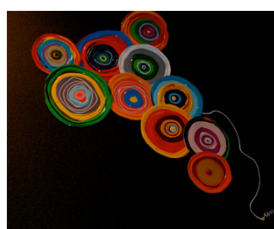
**Eric Berlow**

*“We need to zoom out  
and embrace complexity  
– and pass the discomfort  
period”*

## Guidance development



- A range of guidance is present with integration of CC into
  - IA
  - Planning and decision-making
- Reasoning expressed
  - Lack of focus on climate change in practice requires more guidance
- Critical edge to the discussion on future guidance development
- Why?
  1. We have limited experience with practical application and usefulness
  2. The character of CC (with long-term perspective and high uncertainty) might involve other guidance than otherwise seen



## Communication and dialogue

Lord Nicholas Stern



*"The social side of it and the way we work together as communities - the way we understand things is absolutely fundamental."*

Role of IAIA

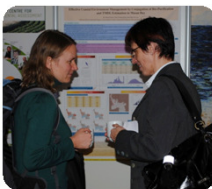


IAIA can play a role as hub for communication – and maintain dialogue with climate change experts.

## Critical agency and leadership



- A way forward as critical agents involves for example...
  - Securing a holistic perspective comprising both
    - Mitigation and adaptation
    - Climate change impacts and other environmental and social objectives
    - ...and synergies and trade-offs between these
  - Acknowledging uncertainty
    - Hinder uncertainty avoidance and non-handling
    - Secure openness and transparency about uncertainty
  - Being proactive
    - Identify decisions and policies significant for climate change – and actively turn to relevant stakeholders



*With best wishes for an enjoyable and productive symposium in Washington DC*