

Branch of the



IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATTERS: IAIA IRELAND-UK BRANCH NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007

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 - International Health Impact Assessment Conference, Dublin

[Click on the titles above for links to the text below]

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear IAIA Ire-UK Branch Members,

Welcome to the IAIA Ireland-UK Branch Newsletter 'Impact Assessment Matters' for February/March 2007. This newsletter has been put together with inputs from the Branch Committee and other members, and we hope it is informative and useful.

In particular we look forward to the next Branch event in Edinburgh, to the relaunch of the IAIA website and a new webpage for the Branch, and a possible follow-up to the International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment, which presents a major opportunity for members to get involved.

Next newsletter due: May 2007

For the next and future newsletters we always need Branch members to contribute – it is much better for it. Please include any news items, recent research, new publications, announcements of events and training, any queries members may be able to help with, and any other ideas for Branch activities, to ie_uk@iaia.org by **early May 2007**, with 'IAIA Branch news' in the subject line. You can also circulate any more urgent items to Branch members by sending an email to ie_ukbranch@iaia.org.

IAIA Board of Directors Election Ballots due 1 April 2007

The IAIA Board of Directors Election ballots are due **1 April 2007**. Please return your completed ballot to IAIA HQ via fax (+1 701 297 7919) or post (to IAIA International Headquarters, 1330 23rd Street South, Suite C, Fargo, North Dakota, ND 58103, USA). The actual numbers voting always tend to be low, so it would be good to get more members involved. It is also important that the incoming President and Directors have a firm basis of member support.

IAIA07 • Seoul Korea • 3-9 June 2007

Where else can you gather to hear perspectives on impact assessment from 70+ nations all in one place?

Come to IAIA07 and network with 600+ impact assessment professionals from over 70 nations. Explore current best practice principles, recent tools, and techniques whilst presenting your work and receiving international feedback. With numerous and diverse training courses, theme forums, technical visits and over 30 sessions, IAIA07 is not to be missed! The **registration deadline for IAIA07 presenting authors** has been extended to **31 March 2007**. Visit www.iaia.org (Conferences: IAIA07) for complete conference information.

Been Forwarded this newsletter? Why Not Join The IAIA

With IAIA you will join a membership network of over 2,500 members residing in over 100 countries. You will be part of the leading global network on best practices in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making policies, programs, plans and projects. Enjoy membership benefits, professional resources, valuable subscriptions and publications, and join us for our annual conferences across the world. See www.iaia.org for details.

Best Wishes,
Adam Boyden
Chair, IAIA Ire-UK Branch, on behalf of the Branch Committee

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2. BRANCH NEWS

Next IAIA Ire-UK Branch Meeting in Edinburgh Castle

The next IAIA Ireland-UK branch meeting on EIA and SEA which will take place in Edinburgh Castle (Queen Anne Room) **has been postponed until 6th or 13th July 2007**. The theme of the event will be 'EIA and SEA as Design Tools'. The event is being organised by Amanda Chisholm (Historic Scotland) and Elsa João (Senior Lecturer, University of Strathclyde) in collaboration with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). Please email William.Kidd@scotland.gsi.gov.uk if you are interested in attending and to find out more about the event. Further information about registration and the day's programme will be forwarded to members shortly.

IAIA & Branch Website Update

The IAIA website www.iaia.org has been relaunched with a new design, and includes a new webpage for the Branch (via 'Affiliates and Branches' at the bottom of the webpage). Please contact the Branch Committee at ie_uk@iaia.org with any information you would like to see added there. We will shortly add SEA and EIA Weblinks lists to the website - a draft of these will be circulated to members shortly for comment.

International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment

A major International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment was undertaken in the mid-1990s, sponsored by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in collaboration with the IAIA, with the assistance of a great many organisations and individuals. The final report, prepared by Barry Sadler, was published in 1996 and can currently be found here http://www.iaia.org/Non_Members/EIA/EAE/EAE_10E.PDF

Barry Sadler (based in Canada, and an advisor on Environmental Assessment to a number of international organisations) and others are now actively considering a follow-up '10 years later' review of the effectiveness of environmental assessment, and discussions have been held with a number of organisations and potential supporters. Barry would welcome the active involvement of the Ireland-UK Branch and its members in this work, including perhaps taking a lead responsibility for one of the areas of the study framework), or assisting with critically revisiting and shoring up its policy and methodological foundations. Table 1 below shows the themes of the previous Study. These will be amended and focused as part of a critical revision of the Study framework, but serve for now as an aide memoir. If you would like to know more and potentially help with the Study, please email ie_uk@iaia.org. This is a major opportunity to contribute to international research on impact assessment, and we look forward to hearing from members!

| Table 1. Themes of the international study of EA effectiveness (1996) | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>1. Guiding Values and Principles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose and orientation of EA • basic requirements for an effective process • key values, objectives, and principles of approach • procedural and methodological frameworks • effectiveness criteria and measures <p><u>2. Application of Sustainability Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature and implications of sustainability concepts • translation into operational guidelines and rules of thumb • incorporation into EA policy and practice • adjustments to procedures and methods <p><u>3. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rationale and potential of SEA • linkages to project EA and other policy and planning instruments • recent approaches and arrangements for the conduct of SEA • institutional and methodological constraints and opportunities <p><u>4. Cumulative and Large-Scale Effects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions and requirements for addressing cumulative effects • project-oriented ecosystem approaches • frameworks for planning and monitoring • relationships to product assessment life cycle analysis and environmental audit <p><u>5. Relationship to Decision Making</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utility of inputs to decision-making process • importance of evaluation of alternatives • EA documentation and quality review • implementation of terms and conditions | <p><u>6. Integrated Approaches to Impact Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "best guess" science paradigms and practices • traditional knowledge • user-friendly tools, techniques, and information technologies • relationship of socio-economic, bio-physical, health, and risk components <p><u>7. Public Participation and Dispute Settlement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conflict resolution in the EA process • provisions for public scrutiny and involvement • forms of participation and negotiation • relationship to decision-making powers and responsibility <p><u>8. Follow-up and Post-Project Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requirements for follow-up of EAs • experience with effects monitoring and impact management • use and results of EA audits • ex-post reviews for process development <p><u>9. Total Process management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managing for quality, integrity, and innovation • coordination of EA processes with other policy, planning, and regulatory instruments • coherence of EA systems, including protocols and procedures for transboundary EA • information and communication media <p><u>10. Capacity Building, with Particular Reference to Developing Countries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needs and demands • training, networking, and cooperation • research, development, and pilot projects • EA skills and competencies for the 21st Century international standards <p>This component to be taken forward under the IAIA Capacity Building proposal</p> |

IAIA Branch & IEMA Response to the Barker Review of Land Use Planning in England

The Barker Review of Land Use Planning in England, published early December 2006 by Her Majesty's Treasury, argued the case for making the planning system more efficient and responsive to economic concerns within the context of sustainable development. The Review made the news headlines as it proposed a new independent planning commission to determine major infrastructure projects, and a relaxation of Green Belt policies. Ministers have promised to respond with a Planning White Paper in Spring 2007.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/barker_review_land_use_planning/barkerreview_land_use_planning_index.cfm

The Review contained criticisms of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and recommended that the Government "examine the potential to raise the thresholds for EIA applications and limit the paperwork associated with Environmental Statements (ESs)". The Review also recommended "streamlining of Sustainability Assessment processes including removing or reducing requirements where a related higher tier policy has already been subject to SA and exploring how SA requirements can be streamlined for Supplementary Planning Documents".

As a result, a number of IAIA members and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA) joined forces and submitted a joint response to the Government on the Barker Review. The response included:

1. comments on the general approach to the Review, including the timing, terms of reference, evidence base, and understanding of EIA;
2. specific comments on aspects of the Review:
 - a. Criticism of the lack of full consideration given by the Review to sustainable development.
 - b. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment:
 - Existing guidance and legislation already provides the basis for addressing much of the Review's concerns.
 - A fear of legal challenge and inexperience may be more at fault.
 - The benefits of good practice SA/SEA in delivering more sustainable plan-making should not be overlooked.
 - c. Environmental Impact Assessment:
 - The value of EIA in aiding sound decision-making, informing communities, and helping developers improve and reduce the impact of their proposals, has been ignored.
 - The criticisms of the delays and costs to projects from EIA were challenged. Reasons for these, and why good practice EIA can also save time and costs, were discussed.
 - Raising EIA screening thresholds may result in projects that have significant environmental effects not undergoing EIA. Any review of thresholds must be based on the significance of effects.
 - Guidance already promotes scoping and concise reporting in ESs, to avoid requiring information not relevant to decision-making.
 - Alternative recommendations to address the Review's concerns were proposed. These include improving and increasing use of formal scoping, an EIA code of conduct for practitioners, and a statutory EIA review system.

The full response is accessible on the Branch website (see page 3 above) and will be at www.iema.net in due course. If you would like to obtain a copy please email ie_uk@iaia.org.

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3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS

2020 Vision: Protecting and Improving Ireland's Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has **prepared a draft strategy entitled** '2020 Vision: Protecting and Improving Ireland's Environment'. "We need to know what environmental priorities the public would like to see addressed and what steps might be taken to address them" - Dr. Mary Kelly, Director General, EPA. The six main environmental issues that the draft strategy identifies are:

- Clean Air
- Clean & Plentiful Water Resources
- Protected Soil & Biodiversity
- Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (waste management)
- Limiting & Adapting to Climate Change
- Integration & Enforcement

The draft strategy can be downloaded from the EPA website <http://www.epa.ie/NewsCentre/2020Vision/>

UK's Draft Climate Change Bill

On 13 March 2007 the UK Government's blueprint for tackling climate change was announced by the Environment Secretary. The draft bill is the subject of public consultation alongside pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament. The closing date for responses is **12 June 2007**.

See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070313a.htm>

UK Heritage Protection White Paper

The UK Government's recent White Paper is largely focused on reforming the system of heritage protection in England and Wales, and also contains UK-wide proposals for developing an improved system of marine heritage protection. The deadline for responses to the consultation is **1 June 2007**. See http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/hpr_whitepaper07.htm

UK Marine Bill White Paper

The UK Government's proposed new approach to protecting and using the marine environment was set out in *A Sea Change*, a Marine Bill White Paper, published on 15 March 2007. Five key issues are covered: planning in the marine area; licensing activities in the marine area; marine nature conservation; modernising marine fisheries management; and a new marine management organisation. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are seeking views on the proposals until **8 June 2007**.

See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marinebill-whitepaper07/index.htm>

Commission recommends statutory Health Impact Assessments

While the means to improve the urban environment already exist much more needs to be done to encourage their employment, according to the latest Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) report: 'The Urban Environment'.

Urban areas contribute disproportionately to a number of environmental problems such as carbon emissions and excessive water use. Issues of air pollution, traffic congestion, urban drainage and poor housing quality are also highlighted. While Government policy is moving in the right direction, it is currently too timid and needs an urgent, and extensive, overhaul if the environmental impacts of cities are to be addressed.

One of the key recommendations is that a new urban environmental contract be established to forge partnerships between local and central government and the private and voluntary sectors, to deliver the urban areas in which people will want to live and work in the future. The report also makes a number of important recommendations in relation to the use of impact assessment tools to deliver improvements to the urban environment, including that the Government and devolved administrations should:

- apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to all major public sector policies, plans and programmes including at the national level; provide a

- mechanism for exchanging experience and developing best practice guidance on SEAs; and ensure that SEAs are subject to independent review;
 - incorporate Health Impact Assessments explicitly in Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments;
 - develop a statutory framework for including Health Impact Assessments in the planning process, accompanied by appropriate guidance;
 - assess the phasing, environmental and health impacts of the transport infrastructure required by development plans promoting housing growth;
 - assess implications of development plans for water supply and management;
 - require new developments to take all appropriate opportunities to use low carbon technologies, renewables, microgeneration and Combined Heat and Power;
 - ensure that sustainable drainage systems are incorporated wherever feasible in all new urban drainage schemes;
 - review the environmental impacts of brownfield development policies.
- See: <http://www.rcep.org.uk/urban/report/urban-environment.pdf>

RSPB launches 'SEA: Learning from Practice'

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has launched a new publication entitled 'Strategic Environmental Assessment - learning from practice'. The booklet features examples of SEA provided by practitioners from around the UK. These case studies show how SEA and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are being approached in various sectors to help improve the environmental sustainability of public plans and programmes. Each of the case studies demonstrates, in the RSPB's view, an aspect of SEA / SA that has been carried out to a good standard. The booklet also includes the RSPB's advice for carrying out effective SEA / SA.

The booklet can be downloaded from the RSPB's website at http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/planningpolicy/s_e_a.asp. Hard copies are available on request - please contact **Lisa Palframan** at lisa.palframan@rspb.org.uk. A bilingual (Welsh) version will be available shortly. Any feedback on this publication would be very welcome - please contact Lisa with your views.

ECJ rejects Commission's case on EIA against UK

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has taken the unusual step of rejecting a case brought by the European Commission over the way the UK implemented legislation from the European Union on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Commission had claimed that the UK was failing to coordinate national planning and pollution control rules to ensure the EIA Directive was being implemented properly, after complaints about the burning of waste-derived fuels in cement kilns. However, the Court threw out the Commission's case because it was "founded on contradictory arguments". See [http://curia.europa.eu/juris/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=Rechercher\\$docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-199/04&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=Rechercher$docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-199/04&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100)

High Court Judge Dismisses SSSI Case Against Countryside Council For Wales

Western Power Distribution Investments Ltd brought a Judicial Review of CCW's decision to notify and confirm the Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoir Embankments as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), after their importance for Waxcaps (species of grassland fungi) was identified during the Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed housing development at the site. The Judge ruled that

the case against CCW should be dismissed, countering the claim that CCW failed to ensure that all proper information was taken into account before reaching a decision. See:

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?action=Press&ID=903&lang=en>

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2007/50.html>

Public Participation Directive further amends EIA Regulations (UK)

The UK government and devolved administrations have issued various new regulations to apply the requirements of the EU Public Participation Directive (Directive 2003/35/EC) and UNECE Aarhus Convention to the EIA system in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They introduce further minor additional requirements to publicise EIAs and decisions, and to increase public access to information, and make various other amendments. Regulations issued at the time of writing apply to:

projects requiring planning permission in England and Wales:

- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 3295)
- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 3099)

projects requiring planning permission, and land drainage, trunk road, forestry and marine fish farming projects, in Scotland:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006 (SSI 2006 No. 614)

forestry projects in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 3106)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (Statutory Rule (SR) 2006 No. 518)

projects requiring Transport & Works Act 1992 consent in England:

- The Transport and Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 958)

agricultural water management projects in England, Wales and N Ireland:

- The Water Resources (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 3124)
- The Water Resources (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No. 483)

agricultural projects in Scotland and Wales:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (Scottish SI 2006 No. 582)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated Land and Semi-natural Areas) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No. 203 (W.17))

decommissioning of nuclear reactors:

- The Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 657)

fish farming projects in marine waters, Northern Ireland:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Fish Farming in Marine Waters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR 2007 No. 23)

The amending regulations can be found in the links below using the statutory instrument/rule numbers above:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm> (England/English & Welsh SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/w-stat.htm> (Welsh SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/s-stat.htm> (Scottish SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/northernireland/ni-srni.htm> (N. Ireland SRs)

Weblinks to all existing and new legislation will be included in the EIA Weblinks document on the Branch webpage shortly.

The Impact of Development on Flood Risks (England): Practice Guide

Planning Policy Statement 25: *'Development and Flood Risk'* (PPS25) for England was published in early December 2006 to help prevent and manage flood risk in new developments. A 'living draft' Practice Guide, offering guidance and good practice case studies on how to implement PPS25, was published on the DCLG website in February 2007. Comments are invited on it by **20th August 2007**. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504639>

Scottish Executive consult on SEA of Agriculture Strategy

The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) have published an Environmental Report of the voluntary, retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment of their 'Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Next Steps' (March 2006). The report is presented for consultation until **28th March 2007**, and any subsequent additional information arising during the consultation should help inform the actions of the Agriculture Strategy Implementation Group and provide a basis for future reviews, where SEA can be integrated from the outset of the strategy development process. See: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/29131428/0>

Appropriate Assessment of 24th Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round

The Department of Trade and Industry has published the report of its Appropriate Assessment (AA) undertaken under the regulations implementing the Habitats Directive for offshore oil and gas licensing. See: http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/downloads/AA_24th_Round_January_2007.pdf

EIA Guidance for Wales

CL-10-06 Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006:

Interim guidance to local planning authorities which provides an explanation of the changes made to the 1999 EIA Regulations and of the new and expanded interpretations included in the 2006 Regulations. Welsh Assembly Government Circular Letters can be found here:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc/epcpublications/PlanPubs/CircularLetters/?lang=en>

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Guidance on EIA Regulations for Uncultivated Land and Semi-Natural Areas in England

The EIA (Agriculture) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 guard against possible negative environmental effects on uncultivated land and semi-natural areas from agricultural work and the restructuring of rural landholdings. Natural England has issued guidance for farmers and other land managers who may be affected, and is keen to receive feedback on the guidance. See

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/land-use/eia/pdf/guidance-regs06-rev070213.pdf>

Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Wales

There is hope on the horizon for Wales' Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Although only a third of Welsh SSSIs are currently in a favourable condition, nearly half of them are now being managed in a way that will, given time, care for their outstanding wildlife and geological features. And, by giving priority to SSSI landowners who want to join the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme, there is real hope that even more sites will be sensitively managed in the future.

http://www.ccw.gov.uk/Images_Client/Reports/SSSIs_Report.pdf

IEMA Specialist Interest Group: Environmental Assessment

As discussed in the January Branch newsletter, the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)'s Specialist Interest Group (SIG) on Environmental Assessment (EIA and SEA) has a web based discussion forum for members which is increasingly used to debate issues of relevance to the Branch. Current topics include:

- Perils of Mitigation
- Traffic Impact Assessment in EIA
- Appropriate Assessment
- Barker Review of Land Use Planning

IEMA members can join the SIG for free, by registering and logging in at <http://www.iema.net/sigs>. (this website assisted the joint Branch/IEMA response to the Barker Review of Land Use Planning above).

The Chair of the SIG, Barbara Carroll, an IAIA member, is calling for "more integration with the planning practitioners in LPAs who are carrying out most of the significant SA/SEAs - can we organise more joint events for sharing and transfer of experience/expertise. I think that impact assessors and plan makers are still working separately." Further initiatives to address this would therefore be welcomed.

PENTA – Promotion of European Education on Environmental Assessment for Third Country Audience

The Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool is the UK partner in an EC funded Erasmus Mundus co-operation project on the 'Promotion of European Education on Environmental Assessment (EA) for Third Country Audience – PENTA'. Other partners include the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava (Ingrid Belcakova) and the Austrian AN!DEA Institute/University of Graz (Ralf Aschemann). The project has already produced an SEA textbook, which will be published by Earthscan in **July 2007**.

Furthermore, an EA curriculum is currently being written for a Bologna process based masters degree programme, based on the evidence provided by EA related

masters in a wide range of EU countries. In this context, a workshop was held in Bratislava on 20 February 2007 with representatives from various European education institutions. Two conferences will be held for third country audiences, one in Graz, Austria, in **April** 2007 and one in India in **September** 2007. Further information on the project can be found at www.penta-eu.net/index.html

If you have any opinions on a EA curriculum for a masters degree programme which you would like to share with us, you can contact either me at fischer@liverpool.ac.uk, Paola Gazzola at gazzola@liverpool.ac.uk or Urmila Jha-Thakur at urmi@liverpool.ac.uk.

4. CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SNIFFER: Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidance for Practitioners

The Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER) is calling for expressions of interest for the following proposal: UKCC09 - Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidance for Practitioners. Interested parties should complete and submit the expression of interest form by 12 noon on **12 April 2007**. This research project seeks to provide detailed guidance for SEA practitioners on how to consider air, water and soil. This work will be published in the form of detailed guidance to practitioners on each of these topic areas, which builds upon guidance already available to support the legislation. Although the research will focus on Scotland and Northern Ireland, the work will also need to be UK relevant and use UK-wide best practice.

See <http://www.sniffer.org.uk/search.asp> under SNIFFER Code 'UKCC09'.

5. OTHER NEWSLETTERS

Earthscan e-alerts

Earthscan publishes an extensive range of books on, and of relevance to, impact assessment. If you would like to be kept up-to-date with their latest publications or receive their monthly newsletter visit:

<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/article.aspx?art=23>.

SEA & Transport Planning Newsletter

The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and TRL Limited jointly publish a free SEA and Transport Planning Newsletter. The Newsletter contains short articles to identify new publications and share experiences of relevance to Transport SEA practitioners. The next newsletter is due shortly.

<http://www.sea-info.net/newsletters/default.asp?pid=225>

6. QUERIES FOR MEMBERS

Evidence that alternative sites are evaluated in the Environmental Statement for an electricity generating station

IAIA member Thomas Fischer received the following query from Takashi Shimizutani, PhD student at the Department of Environmental Science and Technology Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Tokyo

Institute of Technology. "Professor Harashina is seriously looking for an evidence that alternative sites are normally examined in the EIA process for a Thermal Power Station in the UK. If you have any ideas about it, would you please provide us with the information? What we are looking for is "specific evidence". Professor Harashina is currently working hard on the Japanese SEA guideline establishment. The draft SEA guideline is now open for the public comments. One of the big concerns he is now facing at is that electric power station plan by a private company is not likely to be subject to the SEA guideline. In Japan, evaluating alternatives including Zero option is above EIA, and a part of SEA, which might be equivalent with the EIA in the UK. If you know any examples of the EIA dealing with alternative sites for the thermal power station. We would appreciate it, if you could inform us of the evidence quickly."

If you can help respond to this query, please contact Thomas at fischer@liverpool.ac.uk or Takashi Shimizutani directly at shimizutani.t.aa@m.titech.ac.jp, Tel: +81-45-924-5550, Fax: +81-45-924-5551

Responses to previous queries

Consultations in EIA: Lothar Zilling and Thomas Fischer were able to use feedback gained from a few members on the issue of consultations in EIA, in an article on the consultation process for the construction of the potential 20km bridge/tunnel over the Fehmarnbelt between Germany and Denmark. The article will appear in German publication UVP Report shortly. A summary of the article will be circulated to members.

Reviewing Biodiversity Aspects in Environmental Impact Statements: Padraic Fogarty had a 'fantastic' response from IAIA members in response to his query, and was delighted with the information members sent as it allowed him to confirm to his tutors that the work he is doing is novel.

So, thanks to members for your responses. Please send an email to ie_uk@iaia.org if you have a query that you would like members to help with.

7. OTHER EVENTS:

Sustainable Regional Development: From Rhetoric to Practice

Nordregio Academy Seminar, **26-27 March 2007**, Nordregio, Stockholm, Sweden. Please see www.nordregio.se and the Swedish EIA Centre: <http://mkb.slu.se/eiacentre>

Appropriate Assessment of Plans, and Screening, Scoping and ES Review 27 March, 25 April 2007, Oxford Brookes University

Two one-day courses on the Appropriate Assessment of Plans (on 27 March) and Screening, Scoping and ES Review under the 1999 EIA Regulations (on 25 April 2007) are taking place at Oxford Brookes University.

See [www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/planning/shortcourses/!](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/planning/shortcourses/)

Contact: Karen Hughes, Short Course/In-House Training Coordinator School of Built Environment Department of Planning
Oxford Brookes University
tel: 01865 483560
email: khughes@brookes.ac.uk

Sherkin Island Marine Station's 23rd Annual Environmental Conference: Enforcement of Environmental Regulations

29 - 30 March 2007, Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co Cork

"Environmental enforcement in Ireland is still in its infancy. Over the past 50 years we have paid lip service to problems in the environment. With the establishment of the EPA and strict regulations from the EU in Brussels, progress is being made. However, this is mainly in waste management. The speakers at the conference are from Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland, US, the UK and Ireland. They will highlight many of the issues that need addressing in Ireland, with the international speakers giving an insight into enforcement in their own countries. We believe our programme will provide interesting and informative debate on the subject, from which we all can learn."

See www.sherkinmarine.ie

IEEM Workshop: Evaluation and Impact Assessment in Ecology

29 March 2007, Stafford, W Midlands

See <http://www.ieem.org.uk/Workshops%2007.htm>

IEMA - Scottish Conference

18 April 2007, Glasgow

See <http://www.iema.net/conferences>

Masterclasses on SEA/ Sustainability Appraisal

20 April and 19 October 2007, London

The Royal Town Planning Institution (RTPI) is holding a one day masterclass on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal on 20 April 2007, and again on 19 October 2007. Led by Dr Riki Therivel, a visiting professor at Oxford Brookes University's School of the Built Environment and partner of Levett-Therivel, the masterclass is designed for planners, sustainability officers and planning consultants. It will explain how to fulfil the latest legal requirements, and how to use the SEA/SA processes to help improve plans. For further information see:

<http://www.hawksmereltd.co.uk/rtpi/event.php?event=25186>

IEEM Workshop: Ecological Impact Assessment

26 April 2007, Plymouth, Devon

See <http://www.ieem.org.uk/Workshops%2007.htm>

CIWEM Conference: Health Impact Assessment - Planning and Building Healthy Communities

26 April 2007, Birmingham

See http://www.aqua-enviro.net/calendar_detail.asp?id=61

CIRIA Training: Environmental Good Practice on Site

10 May (London), **15 May** (Birmingham) and **22 May 2007** (Runcorn)

Construction activities will always have an impact on the surrounding environment and neighbours. Good environmental practice ensures that these impacts are managed positively. Clients, their advisers, contractors and the whole construction supply chain all have responsibilities for environmental management. Based on the 2nd edition of the Construction Industry Research & Information Association (CIRIA)'s Environmental Good Practice Site Guide, the aim of this course is to provide practical guidance about managing construction sites to control environmental impacts.

See <http://www.ciria.org/workshops.htm>

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment training course, Belfast
21-23 May 2007, Belfast

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland is organising a three day course in Health Impact Assessment, in Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast. The closing date for this is **30th March**. This course aims to increase participants' knowledge and skills in order to be better able to plan and conduct HIA across a range of settings. See <http://www.publichealth.ie/index.asp?locID=145&docID=309> or contact tara.burke@publichealth.ie for further information.

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment training course, Liverpool
4 – 8 June 2007, Liverpool

IMPACT, the International Health Impact Assessment Consortium at University of Liverpool, are organising a 5-day course training at the Foresight Centre on the University of Liverpool campus. For other information about IMPACT, or to download a copy of the flyer and application form, see www.ihia.org.uk. To attend, return your application form to, or contact impact@liverpool.ac.uk or by telephone 0151-794 5004. Courses are also planned for November 2007 and June and November 2008 for which course organisers would be happy to take provisional expressions of interest.

IEMA - Annual Conference 2007

12-13 June 2007, Manchester

Includes workshop sessions on EIA and SEA.

See <http://www.iema.net/conferences>

RTPI Planning Convention 2007

14-15 June 2007, London

<http://www.hawksmereltd.co.uk/rtpi/event.php?product=1636&type=public#45269>

IEEM Workshop: Introduction to the Environmental Effects of Windfarms

11 July 2007, Newtown, Powys, Wales

<http://www.ieem.org.uk/Workshops%2007.htm>

International Conference on Environmental Planning and Management

5-10 August, Berlin

The second International Congress on Environmental Planning and Management follows on from the first congress held in Brasilia in 2005. For further information, please see <http://www.urbenvironcongress.tu-berlin.de/>

CIWEM Annual Conference 2007 – The Global Environment

9-11 October 2007, The Oval, London

Email: Justin@ciwem.org, see www.ciwem.org/events

International Health Impact Assessment Conference, Dublin

15-17 October 2007, Dublin

Healthy Public Policy – Is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone?

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland is delighted to announce the 8th International HIA Conference. This will take place in Dublin Castle, Ireland on 16th-17th October 2007, with pre-conference workshops on 15th October.

This conference aims to provide an international forum to debate different perspectives in Health Impact Assessment and explore its role across a range of sectors. Dr Ross Marshall, current IAIA President, has been invited to give the keynote address. It will:

- Provide practical opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding of HIA

- Showcase the HIA work being undertaken in Ireland and internationally
- Consider and demonstrate the evidence regarding the effectiveness of HIA
- Provide opportunities to network with international delegates and speakers

See www.publichealth.ie/hia. For further information or to request a hard copy registration or abstract submission form, please contact Tara Burke on +353 1 478 6300 or email hia2007@publichealth.ie.

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This newsletter is for members of the IAIA within the Ireland & United Kingdom 'region', who automatically become members of the Ireland-UK Branch on joining.

Adam Boyden

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