

IAIA IRELAND-UK BRANCH COMMITTEE 2006-08

Adam Boyden (Chair)
Pilar Clemente-Fernandez
Josh Fothergill
Shane Larkin
Ross Marshall (IAIA Past President 2006-07)

Mat Cashmore (past Chair)
Lianda D'Auria
John Fry
Elsa João

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COMMITTEE ELECTION STATEMENTS, OCTOBER 2006

Adam Boyden

I have 11 years environmental planning experience, and work to achieve more sustainable developments. As an active member of the Branch interim committee I have suggested Branch activities, drafted the Members Survey, and helped publicise the launch. I am an IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner, contributed to the government's draft revised EIA guidance as RTPI Environmental Planning & Protection Network representative, am on IEMA's new EIA/SEA Specialist Interest steering group, and am a member of CIWEM and IES.

My vision is for the Branch to take an active role in both Ireland and the UK becoming centres of excellence in impact assessment, by promoting: high standards in impact assessment and development implementation; an active and increasing membership; regular events and additional member services; links with relevant professional organisations; and a high profile in the wider community. If elected to Committee I would work with others to try and realise this vision!

Mat Cashmore

I am a lecturer in the School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, where I have provided EIA and SEA training at the MSc level for the last 8 years. I have been actively involved with the interim Branch committee and organised the launch event for the Branch. I would like to see the Branch consolidate its organisational structure, develop initiatives to expand in size, and foster the development of a vibrant and connected membership. My aspiration for the Branch is that it becomes recognised as a respected and influential authority on impact assessment within the UK.

Pilar Clemente-Fernandez

I am an environmental scientist working as a consultant within Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) in the UK and overseas. Within PB, I have been involved in EIAs, SEAs, environmental due diligence surveys and other related studies for a variety of different development types at the national and international level. EIA/SEA projects on which I am currently involved include: (i) SEA for the development of Cwmbran town centre; (ii) EIA of an integrated solid waste management project in South Sinai (Egypt); and (iii) Environmental and Social feasibility studies for the expansion of the Panama Channel (Central America). Before joining PB, I worked for the Italian Public Sector where I collaborated in the implementation of Local Agenda 21 and the development of regional guidelines and procedures for EIA of wind farms. I also have environmental development cooperation experience with the United Nations in Latin America.

I would like to contribute to the development of a vibrant IAIA community in Wales. As a relatively young member of the IAIA, I bring with me enthusiasm, energy and new ideas.

Lianda d'Auria

I would like to be involved with the IAIA Ireland-UK branch at a committee level, as I believe this organisation has a lot to offer both countries individual, collectively, and at an international setting.

Since the IAIA Ireland-UK branch is already established as a visible and informed organisation, one future direction lies in establishing priority of needs and being an advocate for programs and services to meet these needs (perhaps through collaborations and education).

As a professional and expert organisation other directions could be to facilitate and enhance quality and standards within the IAIA Ireland-UK branch and to increase its membership across various sectors.

I have an appreciation of the 'behind-the-scenes' commitment and work required to make such an organisation even more successful. Presently I am the secretary for the Hunt Museums Trust. In the past I have also served as Joint Chair Person for the Recycling Committee in Trinity College Dublin and was the Coordinator of the Geographical Perspective Evening Course in University College Dublin.

Josh Fothergill

I am a strategic environmental assessment expert with experience of practice across private, local authority and government agency SEAs. My current role with the Environment Agency places me in a position to promote good practice in SEA both within the organisation and externally, for example via our SEA good practice web-guidance. This is complemented by my position on steering group of the IEMA EIA/SEA special interest group. If elected to the Branch Committee, I would use these skills to aid the development of good practice in the SEA field, helping to address the fields of strategic scale thinking, relevance and significance that are challenging the effectiveness of assessments across the Branch Area. I believe, through workshops and seminars to aid practitioners, the Branch could further enhance its profile and the technical skills of its members, across the UK and Ireland.

John Fry

I want an active local branch system that recognises the geographical realities and strong economic inter-connectedness of these islands, rather than the shallower political divisions. I would like the grouping to encourage networking between local members, and develop skills and confidence in younger practitioners. With that in mind, I would ideally see my involvement in the committee as short-term, with some of the new blood providing the future dynamic.

The experience and skills I would bring include IAIA membership since 1998 and attendance at all annual meetings (ironically, sometimes as the only 'Irish' representative!). I have provided training in environmental management and impact assessment at MSc and continuing professional development levels for the last 16 years. That includes facilitating 350 Irish diplomats in EIA & SEA Management - in what is the only specifically dedicated qualification in that subject area on the island.

Elsa João

Elsa is a renowned academic who works in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, at the University of Strathclyde. Her research and teaching focus primarily upon SEA and GIS and she has published widely in these fields. Elsa is co-organising the next Branch event, which will take place in Scotland. She wishes to contribute to the further development of the IAIA community in Scotland, and the rest of the UK. Known for her energy and enthusiasm, Elsa feels she can make an important further contribution to the development of the Branch.

[Drafted on Elsa's behalf due to a technical problem!]

Shane Larkin

I would like to put my name forward for election to the Ireland/UK Committee as I believe my skills of having worked in Ireland and now in the UK would prove very invaluable to the committee. I have 6 years experience in environmental planning predominantly in EIA. I am a Chartered Environmentalist and Registered EIA Practitioner with membership of IEEM and IEMA.

If elected, my aspiration is that we form a robust alliance between the different geographical areas within Ireland and the UK and demonstrate the advantages of participating in such a forum for environmental and social practitioners alike. This will be achieved predominantly through the organisation of regular events and networking of professionals with the overall aim of providing continuous professional development opportunities to the members.

Ross Marshall

My aspiration is for an active and vibrant Irish-UK IAIA branch, which allows for much greater networking and debate on IA related issues within this region. If South Africa and New Zealand can have 600 & 300 branch members why cannot Ireland & the UK at least quadruple the existing member numbers.

The skills base I bring includes; current Board membership of IAIA and an a strong understanding of the IAIA network and organisation; established links with IEMA and a desire that these tow organisations work in tandem to a greater extent to the benefit of IA practitioners; and the management and resources of the Environment Agency which is keen to support the development of best practice groups for IA (EIA/SEA et al) in the UK.