



# **International Ireland-UK Branch (Association for Impact Assessment with IEMA NW region)**

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Changing Climates for Environmental Assessment,  
University of Manchester

Adam Boyden

Associate, Nicholas Pearson Associates,  
Chair, IAIA Ireland-UK Branch Committee 2006-08

# **Background to IAIA**

**Founded in 1980, nearly 1,500 members in 120 countries**

**A network of Practitioners and Users (Industry & Consultants, Academics, Government) of various types of Impact Assessment (IA)**

**An International forum for advancing innovation and to advance the practice and science of IA in applications ranging from local to global**

**Annual International Conference**



# Aims & Objectives of IAIA

**IAIA seeks to:**

- **Develop approaches and practices for comprehensive and integrated impact assessment**
- **Improve assessment procedures and methods for practical application**
- **Promote training of impact assessment and public understanding of the field**
- **Share information networks, timely publications, & professional meetings**



# IAIA Annual conferences

1999: Glasgow ...

2002: Netherlands ...

[2005 SEA, Prague] ...

2006: Stavanger, Norway

2007: Seoul, South Korea

**2008: Perth, Australia**

**2009: Ghana**

**2010: UK ?**



Training courses, theme fora, presentation sessions,  
technical visits, networking with 600+ impact assessment  
professionals from around the world

# IAIA member services (1)

## Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal

is a quarterly publication, comprising of a variety of peer-reviewed research articles by members, professional practice reports, and book reviews of recently published titles. **IAPA** provides a one-source link to the latest ideas in the wide-ranging field of impact assessment.



**The IAIA newsletter** is published four times a year, provides members with current information concerning activities and events as well as professional news



# IAIA member services (2)

- **IAIA E-newsletter**, monthly newsletter by email
- **IAIA Website** – [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)
- **IAIA Special Publications**, including best practice principles and guidelines (EIA, Biodiversity in IA, Public Participation, Social Impact Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, EIA Follow-up, SEA), International EA Effectiveness Study (1996)



# IAIA Sections & Listservs

## ■ Share experiences and ideas on:

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Biodiversity & Ecology
- Climate Change
- Disasters and Conflict
- Environmental Management Systems
- Health Impact Assessment
- Law, Policies & Practice
- Indigenous People
- IA of Trade-Related Policies
- Public Participation
- Social Impact Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Urban Governance
- Students & Early Professionals



# Ireland - UK Branch

- Pilot Branch launched in December 2005:
- An Ireland-UK based forum for practitioners interested in international practice
- A networking opportunity outside the main IAIA Conference
- A forum to integrate the wider IA communities (Environmental, Health, Social) within Ireland & the UK
- Promotion of Ireland-UK Best Practice & IA interests

*Branch of the*

**IAIA**

International Association  
for Impact Assessment



# Ireland-UK membership

**Universities**

**Government**

**Members of other institutes: IEMA, IEEM, CIWEM, RTPI**

**Consultancies**

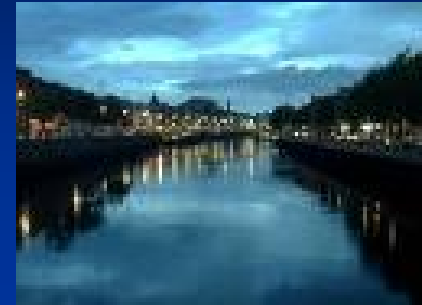
**Industry**

**International Agencies**



# Ireland-UK Branch: Events

- UEA, Norwich Dec 2005
  - UC Dublin March 2006
  - Liverpool Oct 2006
  - Edinburgh July 2007
  - Manchester Oct 2007
- 
- Future events across the region



Collaborations: RTPI NW (Liverpool), ICE (Edinburgh),  
IEMA (Manchester)

# Ireland-UK Branch: activities

- **Branch e-newsletters and bulletins** including Branch & impact assessment news, events listings, members' queries.
- **IAIA Website** – dedicated Branch webpage.
- [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > Affiliates and Branches > Ireland-UK Branch
- [www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354](http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354)



# Ireland-UK Branch: activities

- **Influencing Government and profession**
- Consultation responses: in collaboration with IEMA:
  - Barker Review of Land Use Planning (March)
  - Planning White Paper for England (August)

# Branch activities

- Members' input to EU Evaluation of EIA Directive research
- Aim for 'permanent' status in 2008:
  - Vision
  - Annual Events Programme
- Role in new International Study of Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment 10 Year Review:

# International Study of the Effectiveness of EA: 10 Year Review

- 10 year retrospective review of progress in environmental assessment
- Update and extend 1996 study
- Critically examine international and national experiences
- Is EA effective: ‘what difference does it make?’:
  - better decisions?
  - better environmental outcomes?
- Framework for study: based on 1996 and updated

**Table 1. Themes of the international study of EA effectiveness (1996)**

1. Guiding Values and Principles

- 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

2. Application of Sustainability Concepts

- 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

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 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

4. Cumulative and Large-Scale Effects

- 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

5. Relationship to Decision Making

- utility of inputs to decision-making process
- importance of evaluation of alternatives
- EA documentation and quality review
- implementation of terms and conditions

6. Integrated Approaches to Impact Analysis

- "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

7. Public Participation and Dispute Settlement

- conflict resolution in the EA process
- provisions for public scrutiny and involvement
- forms of participation and negotiation
- relationship to decision-making powers and responsibility

8. Follow-up and Post-Project Analysis

- 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

9. Total Process management

- 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

10. Capacity Building, with Particular Reference to Developing Countries

- needs and demands
- training, networking, and cooperation
- research, development, and pilot projects
- EA skills and competencies for the 21st Century international standards

This component to be taken forward under the IAIA Capacity Building proposal

# International Study of the Effectiveness of EA: 10 Year Review

## Possible Ireland/UK involvement:

- Workshop/ think-tank/s
- Survey of views: status of EA practice & methodology:
  - Priority issues for study?
    - SA/SEA experience
    - Climate change and SEA/EIA
  - Summary of:
    - What works well?
    - What needs (most) work to improve?
- Lead one or more themes
- Members inputs
- Collaborate with IEMA (lead on quality assurance?) and others



# Social Impact ?



[www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)

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**IAIA**  
International Association  
for Impact Assessment

**IAIA**

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT