

Branch of the



International Association
for Impact Assessment

IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATTERS: IAIA IRELAND-UK BRANCH NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2007

Contents

1. [INTRODUCTION](#)
2. [BRANCH NEWS](#)
 - [Next Branch Meeting in Edinburgh Castle, April 2007](#)
 - [Joint RTPI North West/ IAIA Branch Liverpool Event](#)
 - [IAIA and Potential Branch Award Schemes](#)
3. [IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS](#)
 - [Law Lords back European Court of Justice ruling on EIA](#)
 - [Barker Review of Land Use Planning: Threat to EIA?](#)
 - [Evidence Review of Scoping in Environmental Impact Assessment](#)
 - [IEMA Specialist Interest Group: Environmental Assessment](#)
 - [Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change](#)
 - [Consultation: Impacts of Development on Climate Change](#)
 - [Statutory Design Statements to help make development greener](#)
 - [The Impact of Development on Flood Risks](#)
 - [Public Participation Directive amends EIA Regulations](#)
 - [Consultation: EIA Regulations for Marine Works](#)
 - [Consultation: EIA for 'stalled' reviews of old mineral permissions and periodic reviews of mineral permissions in England](#)
 - [Consultation: Implementing the Environmental Liability Directive](#)
 - [Re-structuring of the Environment Agency's SEA Guidelines](#)
 - [SEA & Transport Planning Newsletter](#)
 - [Appropriate Assessments: New Guidance for Plans](#)
4. [QUERIES FOR MEMBERS](#)
 - [Reviewing Biodiversity Aspects in Environmental Impact Statements](#)
 - [Consultations in EIA](#)
 - [Implications of Aarhus Convention for Regional Radiation Emergency Planning](#)
5. [OTHER EVENTS](#)
 - [UCD Diploma in EIA & SEA Management](#)
 - [Planning for Climate Change](#)
 - [SEA: Sharing Good Practice](#)
 - [How sustainable is sustainability?](#)
 - [PPS25: Managing Flood Risk through Planning – Making it Work](#)
 - [IEMA - SEA Practitioners Forum](#)
 - [SEA: Implementation in practice](#)

- [IEEM 2007 Spring Conference](#)
- [IEMA - Scottish Conference](#)
- [CIWEM - Health Impact Assessment](#)
- [EvAluation of SustainabilitY: EASY-ECO Training, Romania, May 2007](#)
- [Sustainable Regional Development: From Rhetoric to Practice](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear IAIA Ire-UK Branch Members,

Welcome to the IAIA Ireland-UK Branch Newsletter 'Impact Assessment Matters' for January 2007. This newsletter brings together news from the Branch, a wealth of news items relevant to impact assessment in Ireland and the UK and announcements of other future relevant events, as well as some queries for members to respond to. It has been put together with inputs from the new Branch Committee (as announced by Mat Cashmore, previous Chair, in October), and we hope it is informative and useful.

We report on a successful Branch event in Liverpool at the end of October, held jointly with the Royal Town Planning Institution's North West England region, and look forward to the next event in Edinburgh in April.

It is a tale of two Barkers this month - one will succeed in changing UK law to potentially require more EIAs are undertaken in the UK, and the other is calling for less. On the latter, we would like to coordinate a response from the IAIA Ireland-UK Branch ('the Branch') to the Barker Review of the English Land Use Planning System, which discusses EIA in rather harsh terms. See [below](#), and please email ie_uk@iaia.org if you can help contribute to the response.

The IAIA website www.iaia.org is shortly to be redesigned, and the Branch webpage is also being developed - so please contact the Branch Committee at ie_uk@iaia.org with any information you would like to see added there.

Just a reminder that the **27th IAIA Annual Conference 'Growth, Conservation and Responsibility', in South Korea on 3-9 June 2007**, has a deadline for abstracts of presentations to be submitted for consideration by **31 January**. Please follow submission instructions at <http://12.15.58.163/modx/index.php?id=250>. If online submission is not possible, contact IAIA Headquarters (jen@iaia.org) for assistance.

For the next and future newsletters we need Branch members to send contributions - so please include any news items, announcements, queries, and any other ideas for Branch activities, to ie_uk@iaia.org by 12th February, with 'IAIA Branch news' in the subject line. Please also let me know also if you would like any more urgent items circulated before then.

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

[Back to top](#)

2. BRANCH NEWS

Next IAIA Ire-UK Branch Meeting in Edinburgh Castle, April 2007

The next IAIA Ireland-UK branch meeting on EIA and SEA will take place in Edinburgh Castle (Queen Anne Room) on **Friday 27 April 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. Further information about registration and the day's programme will be forwarded to members when available.

Joint RTPI North West/ IAIA Branch Liverpool Event

On 31 October 2006, the Department of Civic Design of the University of Liverpool, represented by Thomas Fischer and Paola Gazzola, organised and hosted the first joint Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) – North West Region, and IAIA Ireland-UK Branch conference on Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The event, held at the University of Liverpool's Foresight Centre and partly sponsored by the Environment Agency, BDP, Taylor Young, the NWRA and the University's Department of Civic Design, was attended by 108 delegates, including regional and local government representatives, consultancies and academia. Through a British Academy grant, Prof Xu He of the SEA Centre of Nankai University in China was also able to attend.

The day was divided into two parts; a morning session with paper presentations, and an afternoon session, in which RTPI delegates were involved in practical exercises, and IAIA delegates attended PhD students' presentations and held a Branch members meeting. A summary and conclusions of the presentations (including useful weblinks), discussion sessions and the Branch meeting, is circulated with this newsletter and is also available to members (please log in first) at the current Branch page at http://www.iaia.org/Members/Affiliates%20and%20Branches/affiliates_index.asp

IAIA and potential Branch Award Schemes

The Branch Committee is currently considering the potential for implementing award schemes within Ireland and the UK for the best MSc dissertation and/or PhD thesis on impact assessment, and for best impact assessment practice, as discussed at the Liverpool event afternoon meeting. Any such schemes would need the approval of the IAIA Board before implementation. Please email the committee at ie_uk@iaia.org with any contributions to these potential awards, and if you could offer potential sponsorship.

As you may know, the IAIA gives awards which recognise contributions both to IAIA and the environmental management profession / impact assessment community generally. The **IAIA Awards Committee** is responsible for making nominations for the awards to the IAIA Board, and award ceremonies are held in conjunction with each year's annual international conference. The IAIA is currently seeking an Ireland-UK Branch member to represent the region on the IAIA Awards Committee, to ensure Branch input to the Awards process. Please contact IAIA HQ (rita@iaia.org) if you would like to join the Awards Committee, or for further details.

[Back to top](#)

3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS

Law Lords back European Court of Justice ruling on EIA (The Barker case)

The UK House of Lords has ruled that a planning authority which failed to carry out EIA before granting outline planning permission for a multiplex cinema and decided not to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at the reserved matters stage had misdirected itself. The Lords judgement is in line with that given in May 2006 by the European Court of Justice (ECJ), which argued that the way the EIA regulations had been implemented in the UK was flawed. The current EIA Regulations for planning applications in the UK do not allow EIA to be required for 'reserved matters' once outline planning permission is granted. The ECJ ruled that the EIA Regulations overlooked the fact that development consent might be a multi-stage process. In the light of this, where it did not become apparent until a later stage that the project was likely to have significant effects on the environment, an EIA would be required at the reserved matters stage before consent was given for the development. For further information see weblinks below:

<http://www.lawreports.co.uk/WLRD/2006/HLPC/dec0.2.htm> (summary)

and <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKHL/2006/52.html> (full judgement)

Thanks to Anne Harrison, Associate (Barrister), Clarks Legal, and to Lawtel, for the news. We now expect consultations on amendments to the UK's EIA Regulations to fully implement the EIA Directive by allowing EIA to be required at the 'reserved matters' stage of outline planning permissions, later in 2007.

Barker Review of Land Use Planning: Threat to EIA?

Kate Barker's report to Her Majesty's Treasury on the Land Use Planning System in England ('the Report'), published early December 2006, argues the case for making the planning system more efficient and responsive to economic concerns within the context of sustainable development. News headlines concentrated on the proposed independent planning commission (for decision-making on the more major and controversial projects such as power stations, reservoirs, motorways, airports and ports), and a relaxation of Green Belt policies. Ministers have promised to respond with a white paper in Spring 2007. See

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/barker_review_land_use_planning/barkerreview_land_use_planning_index.cfm

The report also calls for the Government to, as a matter of priority, work with local planning authorities and other bodies to reduce substantially the information required to support planning applications, with the principle of moving towards a 'risk-based and proportionate' approach to information requests. The short section on EIA (s4.36-37) will be of most interest to IAIA members, as it questions whether EIA is needed at all, as '*The information submitted with a planning application should make it quite clear what the environmental impact of a proposal would be, and should not require separate environmental statements ..., although they are only required for a relatively small number of applications...*'. The Report then complains of the extent of information required in EIA, and the costs and delay arising to developers, and calls for a reduction in the number of ESs prepared, through revision of the thresholds which trigger EIA. The Report acknowledges that there are limits as how the number and length of Environmental Statements (ESs) can be reduced, due to EIA arising from EU Directives, but concludes that '*given the scale of costs that can be imposed, regulations setting out the thresholds which trigger the requirements to produce*

ESSs should be re-examined' in order to 'limit the paperwork associated with Environmental Statements'.

Surprisingly, the Report does not include an appreciation of the recognised value and benefits of EIA in principle, such as for environmental protection, informing and involving communities, predicting and managing the implications of development, or to developers in helping improve the quality and acceptability of planning applications. It is also not clear how planning application submissions, in the absence of EIA, would make it quite clear what their environmental impact would be. There are, however, also calls from impact assessment practitioners to improve EIA (and SEA) practice in order to provide better scoped and more effective, timely and efficient assessments of impact.

The UK Government is requesting feedback on the Barker Report by **5th March 2007** at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504875>.

We would encourage IAIA members, as impact assessment practitioners, to respond to the Barker Report. The Branch Committee intends to prepare a response on behalf of the IAIA, in conjunction with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), and **contributions from IAIA members** to this response are vital to the response - please send any ideas, evidence and comments to ie_uk@iaia.org.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is expected to finalise the revision of its EIA guidance later in 2007, after consultation in 2006 (see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500995>).

Evidence Review of Scoping in Environmental Impact Assessment

In December 2006, the Department of Communities and Local Government (England) published a research study which aims to set out the level of current EIA scoping activity and consider the extent to which scoping opinions contribute to and improve the effectiveness of EIA. The study focused on scoping procedures for EIAs under the town and country planning system in England, but has also drawn on experience in Scotland, Northern Ireland and other consent systems. The research was commissioned to take stock of current scoping activity in order to inform future policy discussions. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505403>

IEMA Specialist Interest Group: Environmental Assessment

On the 19th October 2006, the first meeting of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)'s Steering Group for their new Specialist Interest Group (SIG) on Environmental Assessment (EIA and SEA) was held in London, chaired by Barbara Carroll. Branch Committee members Adam Boyden and Josh Fothergill attended as members of the Steering Group. The SIG is one of three set up by IEMA to increase membership involvement in areas of their work, and operates principally as a web-based discussion forum. The short term aim is to get people to actively use the website as a discussion forum, and from that generate brief notes on particular issues of interest. IEMA members can join the SIG for free, you just have to register and login at <http://www.iema.net/sigs>. In the longer term the aim is to hold events, provide or assist good practice guidance, issue periodical newsletters, and respond to consultations. Currently there are posts on 13 topics in the discussion forum on various aspects of SEA, EIA scoping, Sustainability, the Barker Review, traffic impacts, Appropriate Assessment and more.

Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change

The world has to act now on climate change or face devastating economic consequences, according to a report compiled by Sir Nicholas Stern in November 2006 for the UK government. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/s_ternreview_index.cfm

A key message is that the costs of mitigation (making the transition to a low-carbon economy) will be small relative to the costs and risks of climate change if left unabated by 'business as usual'. See also the BBC's analysis: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6098362.stm>

Consultation: Impacts of Development on Climate Change (England)

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is consulting on a draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 'Planning and Climate Change'. The PPS sets out how planning, in providing for new homes, jobs and infrastructure, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now widely accepted as inevitable. The DCLG invites responses no later than **8 March 2007**.

Also launched in December 2006 were the final Sustainable Buildings Code, consultation on Buildings Regulations, and the draft Water Efficiency in New Buildings strategy. These documents have implications for Environmental Impact Assessments and Sustainability Appraisals. All documents are linked here <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503251>

Statutory Design Statements to help make development greener (Wales)

The Welsh Assembly Government has signalled proposals to require statutory design statements for planning applications which will set out how new development will demonstrate it will be sustainable.

Secondary legislation covering this new requirement will be published by ministers in 2007. See

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115314694938.htm> for details.

The Impact of Development on Flood Risks (England)

New Government planning policy for England and Wales was published in early December to help provide clarity for regional and local planners and other stakeholders on preventing and managing flood risk in new developments. Planning Policy Statement 25: '*Development and Flood Risk*' (PPS25) aims to strengthen and clarifies policy that flood risk should be taken into account at all stages of the planning process. It directs councils to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and is published alongside a Flooding Direction, which provides for greater scrutiny of major developments in flood risk areas. PPS 25 replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 and will have implications for the way the water-related impacts of development are assessed. Work is currently underway by the Construction Industry Research & Information Association (CIRIA) to produce a Practice Guide to provide the practical guidance and examples required to translate the policy into practice. A 'living draft' of the guide will be published on the DCLG website early in 2007. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504639>

Public Participation Directive amends EIA Regulations (UK)

At the end of December 2006, the UK government issued 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 in Wales (Statutory Instrument (SI) 2006 No. **3295**; Welsh SI 2006 No. **3099**)
- forestry projects in England and Wales (SI 2006 No. **3106**) and Northern Ireland (Statutory Rule (SR) 2006 No. **518**)
- agricultural water management projects in England and Wales (SI 2006 No. **3124**) and in Northern Ireland (SR 2006 No. **483**)
- agricultural projects in Scotland (Scottish SI 2006 No. **582**)

Similar regulations were issued earlier in 2006 for:

- projects requiring Transport & Works Act 1992 consent (SI 2006 No. **958**)
- the decommissioning of nuclear reactors (SI 2006 No. **657**)

The amending regulations can be found in the links below by using the SI or SR numbers above:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si-2006-index.htm> (England/England & Wales SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/w-2006.htm> (Welsh SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi-2006-index.htm> (Scottish SIs)

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr-2006-index.htm> (Northern Ireland SRs)

Further regulations are expected to follow early in 2007 to complete the amendments.

Consultation: EIA Regulations for Marine Works (UK)

The UK Government is proposing new Regulations that would apply Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to various regulated activities in the marine environment. DEFRA is undertaking the consultation exercise on behalf of DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales with the aim of making UK Regulations.

The works to which the proposed Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 will apply are activities already covered under existing legislation. The Regulations will transpose the EIA Directive so that the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment is considered within a statutory framework when permission is sought for the removal or disposal of substances or articles, and the construction, alteration or improvement of certain works within the UK marine area. It is proposed that this will be achieved by making Regulations covering activities under Part II of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and, for Great Britain only, activities under Part II of the Coast Protection Act 1949. The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations will also replace Part II of the Harbour Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 in Great Britain. The deadline for responses is **16 March 2007**.

See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marineworks/index.htm>

Consultation: EIA for 'stalled' reviews of old mineral permissions and periodic reviews of mineral permissions in England

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (England) is consulting on a proposal to amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 ('EIA Regulations 1999') in relation to England. The proposed amendments would put beyond doubt the application of the provisions of the EIA Regulations 1999 and of the EIA Directive to applications for the review of old minerals permissions submitted before 15 November 2000 but not yet determined, including the potential suspension of operations. The Government invites comments no later than **12 March 2007**. See

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505253> for details.

Consultation: Implementing the Environmental Liability Directive

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, are consulting on proposals to implement the European Environmental Liability Directive in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scottish Executive is also conducting a parallel consultation. The proposed Environmental Liability Directive is aimed at the prevention and remedying of environmental damage - specifically, damage to habitats and species protected by European law, damage to water resources, and land contamination which presents a threat to human health. The deadline for comments is 16 February 2007. See links below for details:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/env-liability/index.htm

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/envandcouncurrcons/1000780/?lang=en> (English version)

www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/local_environmental_issues/environmental_liability.htm

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/04155835/0>

Re-structuring of the Environment Agency's SEA Guidelines

The re-structuring of the Environment Agency's (England and Wales) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines, available at: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/seaguidelines is the first phase of a project to update this web-guidance. It aims to provide better access to information and advice on SEA via the Environment Agency's website. The new structure is designed around different users. Those wanting to learn the basics and background to SEA can visit the SEA Overview, and those wanting to learn about the Agency's roles in SEA can now get direct access to this information. All advice on SEA has been placed into a more coherent structure. The second phase of the project is now underway to update the site, particularly the case studies and links to other web-based SEA advice. If readers of the newsletter wish to contribute with case studies / summaries of SEA good practice research for consideration please contact Josh Fothergill at josh.fothergill@environment-agency.gov.uk

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.

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

Appropriate Assessments: New Guidance for Plans (England)

Advice for English authorities on how to carry out 'appropriate assessments' under the 'Habitats Directive' (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora), of the implications of plans (including land use plans) on sites of international nature conservation importance, has been prepared by Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Land Use Consultants, Scott Wilson Consultants and Treweek Environmental Consultants. See <http://www.levett-therivel.fsworld.co.uk/> under 'appropriate assessments'.

Since September 2006, amended regulations now requires Appropriate Assessments of Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Documents, and alterations or replacements of 'old style' land use plans (e.g. Unitary Development Plans).

[Back to top](#)

4. QUERIES FOR MEMBERS

Reviewing Biodiversity Aspects in Environmental Impact Statements

Pádraic Fogarty, attending an MSc course in Environmental Protection in Sligo Institute of Technology, has a query that members may be able to help with: *"I am a masters student and I am researching how EIA has been protecting (or not!) biodiversity in Ireland. To date I have not found any study in the EU that has looked at this area (although there are a couple of papers from the US and Israel). I am wondering if anybody out there has attempted this before and if so I'd be very interested in knowing the methodology that was employed. So far, I am adapting the Lee & Colley review package - but have yet to put it to the test! thanks a lot, Pádraic"* Pádraic can be contacted at padraic@openfield.ie

Consultation in EIA

IAIA member Thomas Fischer received a request on consultation in EIA from a German colleague. The reason for this was the preparation of a voluntary preliminary environmental consultation report for the potential 20 km long trans-boundary bridge/tunnel over the Fehmarnbelt between Germany and Denmark. Within a 6-week consultation period, they received 64 comments. He has the following questions:

1. He has heard that a preliminary (i.e. before the preparation of a final environmental statement) 'environmental consultation', including the consultation of the general public is a standard procedure in the UK (he's heard that this is at least the case in Scotland). The results of that preliminary consultation are supposed to be considered in the final environmental statement. Now, there is of course the requirement to consult statutory bodies – but the general public? Is there a lot of voluntary practice out there? Has anyone a good example available, where an environmental statement is doing a good job of showing how comments from consultation were included in/considered by the final statement?
2. Would 64 comments (16 from Denmark, 48 from Germany) be considered a lot here for a major 6B Euro project (in preliminary consultation)?
3. There is a 14 day period for response of statutory consultees of the final ES. – Is the period for the response of the preliminary report also specified?
4. To what extent is the www used in this context?

Please forward any comments to Thomas Fischer at fischer@liverpool.ac.uk

Implications of Aarhus Convention for Regional Radiation Emergency Planning

Dr Deiniol Jones at the University of Leeds is initiating some research on the implications of the Aarhus Convention for regional radiation emergency planning (Anglo-Irish) and would be interested to hear from any members who have any experience in this area - please contact Dr Deiniol Jones, Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds D.L.Jones@leeds.ac.uk

[Back to top](#)

5. OTHER EVENTS:

UCD Diploma in EIA & SEA Management, Dublin 12 January - 25 May 2007

Branch Committee member John Fry writes: "University College Dublin's 16th annual Continuing Professional Education Diploma in EIA & SEA Management course starts this coming Friday (12th January). This part-time short-duration intensive course runs for 20 days between then and 25th May. I am expecting a full complement of 30 participants, drawn from all aspects of the process (planners, developers, consultants). The fact that it's run in a pub rather than on campus only serves to ensure that we have good food and ample parking!"

Please contact John Fry for details at
School of Biology & Environmental Science,
Agriculture & Food Science Centre,
UCD Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

+353 1 716 7730 (phone)

+353 1 716 1102 (fax)

john.fry@ucd.ie

Planning For Climate Change

22 January 2007, City Hall, London

One year on from the TCPA's influential 'planning for climate change' conference the scientific and political landscapes have changed considerably. This conference will bring you up to date on recent and forthcoming changes that will see climate change placed firmly at the heart of planning policy- and decision-making.

Speakers include: Yvette Cooper MP, Minister for Housing & Planning, DCLG;

Baroness Sally Hamwee, Deputy Chair, London Assembly; and Tony Juniper,

Executive Director, Friends of the Earth England

To download your booking form please visit

www.iema.conferences/noniemaevents. Alternatively, call Nancy Parry, Education & Events Manager on 020 7930 8903 or email nancy@tcpa.org.uk.

Sharing Good Practice: SEA

30 January 2007, 9.30am - 4pm, Battleby Conference Centre, Perth, Scotland

Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and SEPA, in association with the Scottish Executive, are organising a one-day workshop which will be of interest to public sector staff and consultants involved in undertaking SEA in Scotland.

The objective of this event is to review issues to do with both the technical side of SEA implementation and the management of the SEA process (as identified at the Sharing Good Practice SEA event held in November 2005) and to share the experience gained since the introduction of SEA legislation in July 2004.

Participants should have SEA experience to attend this workshop as they will be asked to table issues they have encountered, for discussion. The day will be

focused around two seminars and three participative workshop sessions led by representatives from the Scottish Executive, the SEA Consultation Authorities, and experienced practitioners. For full details and to book a place, contact: Karen Smith, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW
Tel: 01738 458556 Fax: 01738 458612 E-Mail: karen.smith@snh.gov.uk

David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability: Launch and Annual Lecture: "How sustainable is sustainability?"

21 February 2007, 6.00-7.30pm, Court Senate Suite, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

"It is 20 years since the publication of the Brundtland Report which included the most commonly-used definition of sustainability, yet almost a generation later, in the early years of the twenty-first century, we seem scarcely any nearer to achieving the laudable goals inspired by the authors. Why is this? This lecture sets out to explore this issue, examining the political, economic, scientific, technological reasons for the slow progress and also the nature of the definition itself. Should we be looking at sustainability in quite a different way altogether?"

Lecture by Professor Nick Tyler, Chadwick Professor of Civil Engineering and Head of Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University College London. Hosted by Dept of Civil Engineering, University of Strathclyde.

If you would like to attend, please send an email to: seminar.civeng@strath.ac.uk

CIWEM, CMS & DCLG Conference: PPS25: Managing Flood Risk through Planning – Making it Work

March 8th 2007, London

See <http://www.ciwem.org/events/>

IEMA - SEA Practitioners Forum

14th March 2007, Leeds Town Hall

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Implementation in practice

19-21 March 2007. Imperial College London and Collingwood Environmental Planning (CEP): A three-day professional training programme, aimed at responsible authorities who are implementing the SEA Directive, be that through commissioning consultants to carry out SEA and sustainability appraisal or by carrying out the appraisals themselves, as well as consultees, regulators and academics who will be commenting on SEAs. The programme has been designed to help provide an in-depth and practical knowledge of the SEA process and how to implement some of the more challenging aspects of the Directive's requirements. For further details please contact:

Ulrika Wernmark, Programme Manager

Centre for Professional Development

Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus

London SW7 2AZ

Tel: 020 7594 6886, Fax: 020 7594 6883, Email: u.wernmark@imperial.ac.uk

See also www3.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/courses/subject/environmental/sea for how to book and a registration form.

IEEM 2007 Spring Conference: 18 April 2007, London: Developing best practice in relation to both habitat and species survey and reporting. The IEEM Survey Methodology Guidance will also be officially launched. Further conference information will be posted on the IEEM website

<http://www.ieem.org.uk/Conferences.ht>

IEMA - Scottish Conference

18th April 2007, Glasgow

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

CIWEM - Health Impact Assessment

26th April 2007, Birmingham

Contact: sarahhickinson@aquaenviro.co.uk Tel: 01924 257891

EvAluation of Sustainability: EASY-ECO Training

16-25 May 2007, Brasov, Romania

The next EASY-ECO Training event is being hosted by the National Centre for Sustainable Development at Brasov in Romania from 16th to 25th May 2007, and is the third in the EASY-ECO 2005-2007 series of training conferences. These provide opportunities for young researchers to enhance their knowledge and competence in different forms of evaluation and impact assessment for sustainability, and to collect practical experiences from case studies. The deadline for application (as well as for EU grants) is **20th January 2007**.

See: Information about the EASY-ECO Brasov Training:

<http://www.sustainability.eu/easy/?k=training&s=romania>

Online application form : <http://www.sustainability.eu/easy/?k=application>

Sustainable Regional Development: From Rhetoric to Practice

Invitation to the Nordregio Academy Seminar, 26-27 March 2007, Nordregio, Stockholm, Sweden:

"As the field of regional sustainable development gradually moves from rhetoric to practice, we would like to welcome local and regional development actors, planners, researchers etc. with an interest in the interface between regional development, planning and sustainability to a 2-day seminar in Stockholm that will focus on topics such as:

- The mechanisms that promote or hinder change in implementing sustainable development in the regional development context
- Experiences from the use of different methods and tools in promoting sustainability
- Examples of practical approaches and work with sustainable development in selected Nordic regions
- Sustainable development and innovation
- Other challenges for practice and research in the field of sustainable regional development."

Arranged in co-operation between Nordregio, the Royal Institute of Technology and the EIA-Centre at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala

More information is available at: www.nordregio.se and the Swedish EIA Centre:

<http://mkb.slu.se/eiacentre>

[Back to top](#)

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