



"It is not enough just to assess an installation's impact on the environment; one must also assess the impact of a changing environment on the installation. Then, as much as possible, the impact of that change must be integrated into planning and countered."

– Cleo Paskal, Columnist and Adjunct Professor, Global Change, SCMS, Kochi, India

IAIA International Association for Impact Assessment

ClimateC hange and Impact Assessment

Special Symposium

Aalborg, Denmark 25-26 October 2010

- *Are you a climate change, impact assessment (IA) or planning professional who needs to know more about climate change adaptation or mitigation?*
- *Are you an environmental specialist trying to figure out how to address climate change predictions and risks in impact assessments?*
- *Do you need the advice and opinion of professionals who have done this?*
- *Can you contribute your advice and experience?*
- *We invite you to join us for a two-day symposium bringing together international experts and practitioners in impact assessment and climate change. Together we will review the latest studies and work linking impact assessment and climate change.*

Setting the agenda

Climate change may be the biggest environmental challenge of our time. International consensus has formed around the problem, its causes and impacts but not the solutions. This special symposium will deal with solutions and actions to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

This European special symposium will involve important actors and stakeholders from all levels and sectors to help foster a fruitful dialogue and bridge gaps among climate change and impact assessment communities. Dialogue within as well as across groups and disciplines is key in the effort to build sustainability in societal decision making.

But dialogue is only a precondition! The true aim is commitment, specific action, innovation and investments necessary to adapt to and mitigate climate change. This symposium will highlight practical steps already taken and ways to move further.

Aalborg University holds a strong international position in the field of sustainability, planning and impact assessment. This is achieved by a critical understanding of the technical aspects of the methodologies and an understanding of how institutions and different types of decision making processes support or hinder the inclusion of environmental assessment.

Innovative work on methodological developments, the institutionalisation of assessment methodologies, the construction of regulatory frameworks, and governance perspectives will be brought to the fore during the symposium.

The outcome will be an array of proven and possible actions to be taken and started right now.

The conclusions will be brought forward to the special climate change symposium in Washington, D.C., 15-16 November 2010.



Overview

Adaptation and mitigation measures need to be addressed at the level of policies, programs and projects, locally, regionally and globally, because climate change is expected to:

- Affect the productivity of biological resources and ecosystems.
- Alter the emergence and distribution of infectious diseases in plants, animals, and humans.
- Increase the costs of extreme weather for transportation, trade, tourism, and other infrastructure—especially in developing nations.

This Symposium will emphasize practical examples and guidance useful for planning, design and operational management associated with climate change impacts. The focus will be on urban areas, energy facilities, water supply and waste water treatment projects, roads and other transport, coastal projects, tourism facilities and other infrastructure likely to be affected by changes in water availability or extreme weather events as a result of climate change. The symposium will also explore the application of environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and cumulative effects assessment to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Themes to be developed

- Climate change, water systems and biodiversity.
- Infrastructures, urban areas and climate change.
- Human health and climate change.
- Tools and resources for building assessment capacity.
- Climate change governance.

Key questions

- What effects will climate change have on the feasibility, viability and long-term sustainability of policies, plans, programs or projects?
- Will climate change exacerbate the impacts of a project?
- To what degree does a project, program or policy or intervention promote reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- How can flexibility in responding to the impacts of climate change be assured through impact assessment?
- How can impact assessment apply climate change projections to site-specific projects?
- What tools does impact assessment offer for understanding, assessing risk and responding to climate change?

Schedule of events

24 October

Evening reception

25–26 October

Symposium

27 October

Nordic Research Day

Following the special symposium, a Nordic Research Day will be held at Aalborg University.

This day provides an opportunity for Nordic researchers and others to meet and exchange research results and ideas with a focus on the Nordic context.

For more information

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