

# IAIA'04 Conference Review



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# IAIA'04 Conference Review

- Selected observations from session chairs
- Chair reports to be included in conference CD proceedings
- Conference Attendance
- Theme forum observations
  - Please complete the evaluation forms

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- Core business decisions can and should properly include sustainability and the use of SEA to determine optimal business strategy as well as EMS to implement these strategies or to follow through on EIA and to manage risks
- Corporations are more strategic in their approach to environmental management. Public sector should learn from the private sector – more use of SEA

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- Developing means to do HIA evaluations. The action plan is for an “evaluation sub group” to set out an “Evaluation Cookbook” over the next six months – to be debated prior to IAIA'05 and delivered for further development.
- Criteria needed for critical appraisal criteria: HIA evidence, sustainability, SEA ...

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- Follow up is an overarching lesson coming from many sessions and many aspects of impact assessment: SEA, HIA, SIA, sustainability, ...  
This aspect of impact assessment is rapidly strengthening. Need for principles to be extracted from international best practices
- Partnerships with stakeholders is a key to good practice of many forms of impact assessment.  
Building trust with communities is a crucial role of impact assessment

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- Impact assessment of trade continues to evolve as an important and extremely useful tool for understanding the effects of trade
- Capacity building important for several aspects of impact assessment (training, networks) [Isn't this what IAIA conferences do?]
- Need for “change management” – changes in projects, in regulatory processes, in understanding of the environments, etc.

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- Biodiversity, SEA and HIA have developed rapidly and are major professional impact assessment tools today, especially developed and used in various ways by industries. (e.g., HIA in infrastructure assessments with air quality)
- Sustainability assessment requires great creativity (challenging of views and assumptions, collaboration with others, especially industries)

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- Traditional knowledge and indigenous inputs are increasingly important in impact assessments
- Formation of a new IAIA section on agriculture, forestry and fisheries (proposed)
- Great interest in impact assessment and decision making (needs more work for greater effectiveness)
- Impact assessment is being productively applied for tourism projects and for transportation projects



# IAIA'04 Conference Attendance

- 840 participants
- From 78 countries

# IAIA'04 Theme Forums

- Intended to demonstrate integration of various aspects of impact assessment
- Each delegated to a team of chairs, who organised the sessions
- Really excellent speakers