

A Welcome from IAIA

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About IAIA

- Our vision and mission....
 - Promote the use of IA where appropriate
 - Promote, and work to support, better practice
 - ...for more informed, enlightened decisions
 - within a framework of principles and values....
- IAIA International
 - plus a dozen Affiliates, one Branch, etc
 - permanent HQ, plus a Board, committees, sections...
 - Journal, newsletter, web site, email lists, etc.
 - annual meeting...

Two key features of IAIA...

- First, IAIA as a **resource base**...
 - largest pool of IA thinking and competencies
 - marked by its range and diversity, and institutional neutrality...
 - materials, e-lists, meetings, training, etc.
 - provide support for emerging IA professionals
 - as individuals or in groups
 - resource base for other organisations, companies, etc.

- Second, IAIA as a **proactive organisation...**
 - IA advocate (e.g. WSSD; WTO)
 - standard setting
 - Principles and Practice Series: expanding...
 - capacity development....two examples:
 - Marrakech Declaration and Action Plan
 - Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment

Marrakech Declaration, and Action Plan

■ IAIA'03 Morocco

➤ Declaration on IA Capacity Development for Developing Countries

- recognised the need for IAIA and partners to co-ordinate capacity development initiatives
- more cost-effective, better standard of IA, etc...

➤ Action Plan drafted for IAIA'04

- facilitated by Jean-Roger Mercier, Boulejiouch Jaafar, Peter Leonard

The Action Plan...

- Envisions a role for IAIA “in building more and better capacity for in-country environmental and social assessments...”
 - With specific outputs...
 - ...and linked activities...
- If adopted, profound implications for IAIA
 - an organisation that does more than just preach good practice...?
 - much debate still to come about how much change is realistic...
 - ...but some degree of change is likely



CBBI A-IAIA



Promoting biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment

Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA)

- A proposal developed by the Biodiversity & Ecology Section of IAIA
 - half-funded by a Dutch Government grant
 - three year project, now 6 months old....
- Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.
 - use IA as a major tool in protecting biodiversity
 - improve the way biodiversity issues are addressed in impact assessment

- The Programme is underway....
 - Steering Committee, chaired by Helen Byron
 - Programme staff:
 - Jo Treweek, Tech Programme Manager
 - Napoleon Tiapo, Prog Administrator
- Provisional workplan, outputs such as:
 - network of trained professionals in pilot countries...
 - capacity building activities, materials, etc.
 - guidance materials for pilot countries
 - case studies, good practice examples, etc.
- Senior staff from selected countries/agencies are helping to refine the workplan

Business and IA

- IAIA is a forum for all stakeholders in IA
 - in truth, industry is probably under-represented (some notable exceptions...)
- We'd like to use this meeting to build stronger ties with business/industry
 - more complete picture of the IA process...
 - develop practice principles that industry will be comfortable using
- Contact me or the CEO (Rita Hamm)

A warm welcome to IAIA'04

- Please...use the meeting
 - to further your **understanding** of the complexities of IA and business activities....
 - to build your **networks** among the very diverse groups of stakeholders represented here...
 - to renew your **enthusiasm** for promoting IA in your own country, your own workplace, your own community.....
 - to get **involved** with IAIA activities