

IAIA'04 Theme Forum and Concurrent Session Reports

Impact Assessment for Industrial Development – Whose business is it?
24th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment
24 – 30 April, 2004, Vancouver, Canada

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	1	Achieving Sustainability: the role of impact assessment	J. Ashley Nixon

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- different approaches to sustainability assessment include EIA driven integrated assessment, objectives – led assessment following triple bottom line thinking and assessment against following triple bottom line thinking and assessment against criteria. We need to explore these to select best approaches criteria.
- that all players in sustainability assessment /EIA need to be reflexive – that is challenge their views and assumptions
- that land and resource planning must improve by incorporating greater participation
- that all players in the business of impact assessment – must collaborate to seek out and create enhanced and mutual benefits from development

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Achieving Sustainability	1.1	Approaches to Sustainability Assessment (1)	J. Ashley Nixon/ Jenny Pope

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Sustainability in industry must be conducted in conjunction with business and profitability drivers
- Sustainability and social responsibility must be core business considerations in our increasingly complex world
- Different levels and types of assessment are appropriate at different types in a proposed development eg. Strategic assessment, SEA, sustainability appraisal
- Consultation is the key to incorporating sustainability into a “Plan, Do, Check, Review” model

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- Trade-offs in sustainable assessment must be transparent and some decision-making process should be applied in

order to determine which trade-offs are most acceptable (two different approaches presented)

- There is a need for further guidelines as to which assessment tools should be applied in different situations and how they relate to each other
- Debate around the limitations of the triple bottom line conceptualisation of sustainability in comparison with a principles based approach

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Achieving Sustainability	1.2	Approaches to Sustainability Assessment (2)	Monique de Wit

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Integrate sustainability assessment in governance framework
- Difference in interpretation of tools given different outputs/ misuse
- Combine various technology assessment tools in one computer program to make uniform and comparable
- For ecological sustainability divide total biophysical resources (land, water, air, sea) over all users.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- Discussion on how and whether social can be incorporated in a computer based tool
- Challenge on double counting when allocating land resources to supplier- manufacturing distribution

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Achieving Sustainability	1.3	Impact Assessment Systems and Sustainability	J. Ashley Nixon/ John Curry

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- linking SEA to financing planning at a municipal level
- need to change organizational culture/ corporate culture to make SEA acceptable to doing business in private and public sector

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- municipal level SEA

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Achieving Sustainability	1.4	Application of sustainability assessment in port, water, forestry and international recreation developments	J. Ashley Nixon/ Meera Nathwani

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- means of achieving sustainability very specific not just to project, but project location or country. Definition of what project sustainability means and its objectives and just as specific.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- stakeholder input for defining objectives of sustainability

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Achieving Sustainability	1.5	Quality and capacity considerations in sustainability assessment	J. Ashely Nixon/ Brenda Kenny

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- in order to improve IA, companies need to move beyond technical standards and management systems to a culture of partnership with stakeholders
- the biggest challenges are qualitative and cultural rather than quantitative
- the biggest mistakes occur in the project design stage and most often due to a lack of communication and a rejection of new approaches

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- building capacity for EIA can be enhanced through training courses and networks
- decision makers and EIA project managers often lack the knowledge to do a good job

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	2.0	Impact Assessment of Trade	Thomas Gillmore, Bernice Goldsmith, Clive

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What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Key messages:

- Impact assessment of trade continues to evolve as an important and extremely useful tool for understanding the effects of trade
- Impact assessment of trade should shape policy, not just assess outcomes
- Partnerships, collaboration and capacity building are essential elements to the continued success of impact assessment of trade in an international context

Key challenges:

- stakeholder participation is central to success of impact assessment of trade
- there is a clear need for **partnership** among governments, international and national organizations, and the public in the process
- it is important to seek new and innovative approaches to impact assessment of trade to ensure rigorous analysis, policy coherence and public engagement
- need to clarify messages, improve communication with stakeholders

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment of Oil and Gas Industry	3.1	Lessons Learned I	Todd Zimmerling

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- identification of all issues as soon as possible is important to allow process to flow smoothly.
- projects must be capable of adapting to required changes (regulatory or biophysical)

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

Change management is an important consideration. A change management system should be developed for each project, because changes will occur.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment of Oil and Gas	3.2	Community Impact and Traditional Knowledge	Kathy Preston

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- traditional knowledge is important
- involve community early on
- ensure they understand the environmental and social impact assessments
- there are also social cumulative effects
- need to incorporate an understanding of the history of the community

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- look at economic benefits of projects not just mitigating social impacts

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Oil and Gas	3.3	Social Impact Assessments and Lessons Learned II	Todd Zimmerling

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Need early issue identification
- Need well planned consultation

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- coalbed methane currently has no formal review process in Alberta or British Columbia

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Oil and Gas	3.4	Advances in Impact Assessment Process I	Kathy Preston

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- EIA report – the proponents view of significance of effects and their proposal for mitigation

- 'constraints' mapping may be useful beyond just the application/ EIA process
- Shell does integrated environmental, social, and health impact assessments (ESHIA's)
- Shell's "do no harm" HIA mandatory wherever EIA/SIA on human health concerns
- Effectiveness of EIA to promote sustainable development constrained by oil and gas sectors narrow definition of sustainable development.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- major Air quality issues in the oil sands: SO₂ and NO_x and acid deposition
- low NO_x technology required for truck shovel mining methods in oil sands
- also concerns about secondary pollutants, O₃ and PM₅ (particulate matter)
- protection of fresh groundwater a concern during mine development and in situ bitumen recovery
- constraints map equals graphical representation of land suitability for construction purposes - to avoid "no go" areas – a key planning tool to avoid ecologically and culturally sensitive area
- benefits of constraints map: dynamic tool – can update with new information to use for later phases of project – reduces EIA into one figure
- medicine and health care versus difference concepts – physicians do not get training in HIA – not always knowledgeable about health as it includes wellness/well-being
- need for more water quality database in Africa.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Oil and Gas	3.5	Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment	Todd Zimmerling

What were the key "industry and impact assessment" messages from your sessions?

- community consultation must start early

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

Development of regional EAs offshore Canada's East Coast

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Oil and Gas	3.6	Advances in Impact Assessment Process II	Kathy Preston

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you can have two of the following 3 things from your consultant: better, faster, cheaper - water management is a big issue in Oil Sands – keeping clean water separate from dirty water

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can you really fast-track the NEPA process in the USA - current administration in US wants to fast track energy projects – Rocky Mountain Energy Council can do EA rather than EIS same approx. 6 months - use rapid biological assessment techniques - web-based environmental monitoring and management including section of EA - recommend continuous local community liaison - under CEAA – if an effect is significant but not likely the project can still go ahead, if it is significant and likely then a social / political decision has to be made - hydrological model that allowed assessment of water quality and thereby effects on fisheries - so modeling has to be done first - challenge of EIA in Oil Sands: project engineering design occurs in tandem with EA – change of design can mean you have to re-assess

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	5.0	Voluntary Environmental Initiatives	Kathryn Harrison

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that industry is increasingly taking the initiative in assessing and mitigating its own impacts voluntarily

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	6, 6.1, 6.2	Application of Impact Assessment to Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry	Patrick Duffy Bruce Lesson (moderator) – 300 attendees Tom Boivin – full attendance (6.1, 6.2)

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What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<p>Main Issues for industry and stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EIA has enormous potential to avoid the colossal as well as the smallest errors and impacts in these sectors. Current applications and surrogates are not turning around the chronic degradation of the land and aquatic ecosystems. Industry and society continue to be at significant risk. - Lack of training is the Achilles Heal

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?
There will be an IAIA session formed on this topic.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	8.0	Industry perspectives on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment	Heidi Klein

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining biodiversity gives you a licence to operate i.e., positive public perception. 2. Gives you a competitive advantage. No protection of biodiversity equates to delays and increased costs. 3. Integrate biodiversity principles / direction in all levels of decision-making. 4. Need a regional response to biodiversity. Project by project may not be the best approach. 5. Guidelines exist for integrating biodiversity into impact assessment and for the inclusion of traditional knowledge and cultural information. 6. Need to report what works and what doesn't work i.e., report on effectiveness of guidelines and other direction provided. Need to bring experience to the table and share. 7. Need to bring together biodiversity, impact assessment and the human environment. 8. Need an unbiased approach to benchmarking the implementation of the biodiversity convention given the number of means for doing so i.e., biodiversity assessment framework. A good way of comparing responses and approaches to biodiversity conservation and offering a fair appraisal of the approach.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

1. Need to bring experience to the table.
2. Need a fair means of appraising methods for implementing all components of the biodiversity convention including genetic diversity.
3. Implementing the biodiversity convention is just good business.
4. A regional approach may prove more effective than project-by-project evaluations.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Biodiversity	8.1	Biodiversity Impact Assessment Principles	Bernt Rydgren

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- 1) Corporate reporting and transparency is forcing the development of quantitative assessment of biodiversity, whether we like it or not and;
- 2) The mining sector is now making a concerted industry-wide effort to establish corporate responsibility standards regarding biodiversity impact management

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Theme Forum	9	Infrastructure Development: an opportunity to advance sustainability	Malcolm Smith Mary Ellen MacCallum

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

1. Think outside the box
2. Create a vision, and then go for it!
3. Develop a safety net for Bogart (you had to be there to get the significance of this point)

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Infrastructure	11.1	Impact Assessment of Infrastructure Projects	Malcolm Smith

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Increasing consultation among government agencies on infrastructure planning is leading to better EIA outcomes (fewer impacts in construction and operation)
- Integration of EA with other government planning tools is improving ability to manage infrastructure related environmental impacts

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- New methodologies for assessing health impacts associated with air quality / air contaminants
- EA requirements associated with government funding are influencing construction practices in non-EA projects in some cases

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Infrastructure	11.2	Impact Assessment of Infrastructure Projects	Wendy Bertrand-Bolton

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Assurance of water supply for health, industry, environment and water for sustainable development
- Cumulative impacts should be mandatory (S. Africa presentation)
- World class legislation, but implementation weak (S. Africa)
- Re-vegetation of native plants (GVRD)
- Plant salvage (GVRD)
- Sustainable approach (GVRD)

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

Balancing recreational issues and environmental issues (wildlife issues, bird studies)
 Extensive public meetings with all stakeholders
 Building relationships between communities, NGOs and government

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
11.3	11.3	Impact Assessment of infrastructure Projects	Wendy Bertrand-Bolton/ Malcolm Smith

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- “Infrastructure” development can be very broadly defined – telecommunications, road, sewer, eco-tourism infrastructure etc.
- EA capacity at the local/ municipal level not always well developed yet (in Canada) increasing EA requirements

- Need for education of proponents, regulators etc in order to expedite EA

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- EA can provide a good opportunity for inter-governmental dialogue (i.e. Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Local government)
- In the absence of information, cannot make an EA decision (conflicting discussion)
- Making such decisions for the “greater good” with imperfect information
- Cumulative effects assessment is not equally advances in all jurisdictions

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment and Decision Making	14.1-14.5	Impact Assessment and Decision Making	Hans De Bruyn / Wil Thiessn

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- rich pictures of impact assessment (still) poor pictures of decision-making context
 - not one decision maker, one decision, one decision making moment and process
 - decision making is a dynamic, ongoing, often poorly structured process we have to accept and adapt to
 - the decision-making (DM) context allows for positive contributions (sometimes unintended shadow effects), but possibilities depend on the context
- Step 1: increased awareness of importance of context among professionals
- we doubt whether the dynamics of the decision-making process will allow for development of explicit guidelines

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- little if any research has been done in the past on the interface of IA and decision-making
- but we note increasing interests and ongoing efforts in research in this field
- great interest and large attendance and active participation in the sessions

(Only one no-show in 21 presentations!)

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment and Transportation	15.1 – 15.4	Impact Assessment and Transportation	Mary Ellen Mac Callum

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Dynamic sector with things happening at every level from individual projects to system wide policies:

- On-going practice of good science and development of new technologies
- On-going development of new methodologies for improving the quality of project level assessments and for considering alternative modes of transportation
- Implications and applications of SEA to transportation policies and systems

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- 1) Sessions underlines the importance of communities early and often across the assessment, design and engineering team (e.g. proponent/ impact assessment studies) to ensure optimal route alignment and project design. - key word “Constraint Mapping”
- 2) Looking across the papers we see important points of connection/ interaction among various actors: proponents, Impact Assessment consultants, regulatory agencies, academic institutions and research institutes

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Tourism, Recreation and Impact Assessment	17.1,17.2	Special Events	Bette Beswick

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Environmental assessment can contribute meaningfully at many “insertion points” in a project:

- at the planning, objective-setting stage to establish overall parameters for how an activity will proceed
- as a project-specific planning tool to incorporate mitigations into a project
- as a mechanism to establish the parameters that guide monitoring of project activities
- as a response to existing environmental damage to resolve issues and create guidelines that can be applied retroactively, or used to plan future activities

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

Environmental assessment in the recreation/tourism sector is not seen as a regulatory hoop – the central attitude appears to be focused on the use of environmental assessment as a mechanism to develop and operate this industry in a sustainable fashion. It is integral to developing consensus between various stakeholder interests.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment Follow-up	19	Impact Assessment Follow-up	Jill Baker, Angus Morrison-Saunders, Jos Arts

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Follow-up should ensure that what was intended is realized
- Industry, regulators and community all benefit from follow-up, and all have a stake in follow-up
- International best-practices principles for follow-up are needed

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- Fantastic case studies from around the world
- Represented by all stakeholders in the impact assessment world
- Active networking throughout all sessions
- Great learning and information-sharing opportunities between participants
- a strong indication of increased capacity in various sectors and sections of the world with respect to impact assessment follow-up

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Stakeholder Involvement and Risk Management	22	Stakeholder Involvement and Risk Management	William McMillan

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Stakeholder involvement a critical part of the environmental impact process because it is action that the public can see. Without involvement, involvement, EIA results in reports that communities often do not support. Trust building is as important as environmental assessment and deserves as much investment, skill-building and commitment. Often impact assessment focuses on the negative consequences and fails to identify the positive consequences. There is no “one size fits all” approach that can result in effective stakeholder communication in all situations. Initial

profiling of the situation and the affected communities is critical to success.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Management Systems	23.1	Environmental Management Systems	Debra Zanewich

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- EMS is an effective tool to manage risks and assets
- EMS is a valuable tool for implementing and continuously improving follow-up policies and programs
- EMS can be a proactive approach to supporting corporate social responsibility
- EMS can assist with the identification and evaluation of environmental and social aspects.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- International finance institutions such as the IFC are promoting project sponsors to implement a comprehensive EMS that addresses conformance to the elements of the EMS, AND compliance with legal requirements. The IFC will then use the findings of the EMS audits to help with evaluation of project implementation and project performance.
- As part of an EMS, an environmental management plan can be used to address biophysical and social components of environmental performance
- An environmental management plan can be used to enhance and/or protect sensitive areas.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Management Systems	23.2	Environmental Management Systems	John Foster

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- government funded incentive programs can drive environmental changes but inspection and follow-up is important
- Iso141001 certification in developing countries helps exports
- Industrial countries have a “Development Culture” not a “sustainable development culture” this is hard to change
- EIA is only one of the many measurement and monitoring tools that must be applied throughout the life of any project

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- voluntary audit programs may be ignored if there are no penalties
- even in developed countries most government staff would not recognize sustainable development
- ISO 14001 / EMS not easy to apply to green spaces
- Need to follow through after EIA – get leverage through financial institutions to monitor performances
- A complex organization must have a complete EMS

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Management Systems	23.3	Environmental Management Systems	Debra Zenawich

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- capacity building up and down the organization contributes to commitment and understanding of the EMS and its objectives.
- EMS can be used to drive operating procedures and monitoring programs
- EMS can reduce environmental compliance burden cost.

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- independent audits can verify corporate findings
- EMS can utilize SEA, EIA, Integrated EA, environmental management planning
- Aid agencies can use EMS to contribute to Sustainable Development

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health Impact Assessment	24	Health Stream Report See the Health Stream Report at the end of this document.	Lea Den Broeder

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health Impact Assessment	24.3	Joint Workshop of HIA and SEA	Carlos Dora

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- There are huge opportunities for HIA to participate in formulating various industrial policy, such as energy policy, agricultural policy and urban policy, especially through the dynamics of institutional contexts both in each sectoral policy and IA legislation (SEA directives)
- However, the capacity and institutional frameworks for HIA practices determine how well HIA can grasp these opportunities and keep in track with dynamic institutional and policy changes
- Understanding policy framework is key analysis towards more effectiveness in influencing public policy
- The integration of impact assessment can be very good point for HIA to mobilize knowledge and resources from various fields of study

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

International, national and sectoral policy and institutional frameworks are very complex and dynamics and they offer opportunities as well as shape the ways we make HIA
The capacity building is crucial to make HIA more effective in terms of policy - making

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health and Impact Assessment	24.4	Health and Impact Assessment and HIA Evaluation	Roy Kwiatkowski

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Consultation is important to improve effectiveness of HIA as it is for SIA, CIA, or SEA etc. Results from evaluations should be used to determine strategic directions in capacity building in HIA and in HIA integration with other IAs

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

HIA Evaluation is very important. Process of HIA is often evaluated (and done well); outcomes are either not evaluated or poorly done.

Need to learn from proactive and be interactive. Changing behavior is extremely difficult. Need constant interaction or lessons learned are quickly forgotten.
Still need capacity building as well as the tools for effective capacity building.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health Impact Assessment	24.5	Workshop on Developing HIA Evaluation Frameworks	Lorraine Taylor

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- HIA is a developing area and the concern from stakeholders is that credibility needs to be established through evaluation activity. HIA is learning from other impact assessment areas and from practice
- The key message for industry is that health issues need to be integrated into their thinking activities through properly evaluated HIA

. What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions? (Be succinct.)

Sessions clarified synonyms for evaluation and moved onto ? practice in terms of why evaluation would take place and whether it had clear objectives, who would do it, how they would do it and disseminate. The key was to “move” forward in developing HIA evaluation and the action plan was for an “evaluation sub group” to develop an “Evaluation Cookbook” over the next 6 months – to be debated prior to IAIA’05 and delivered for further development.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health Impact Assessment	24.6	Workshop on Evidence	Jennifer Mindell

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- presenting a project on building an assessment tool criteria for critical appraisal of available evidence by HIA practitioners. It is one of the first steps of doing HIA, but often for time constraints practitioners do not critically appraise the evidence, which may result in predicting impacts based on “bad” evidence. The criteria are scientific accountability of design methods, “generalizability” etc. but also criteria relating the evidence to the specific HIA case, population etc.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Strategic Environmental Assessment	25.5	Strategic Environmental Assessment Theory	Olivia Bina

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Corporations should move beyond management systems to integrate environmental concerns
- Public authorities should learn from corporations to be more strategic in their approach to environmental management
- Follow-up must include management and learning, as well as monitoring and evaluation

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

SEA should be applied with the long-term purpose of structural and cultural change through organizational learning from individual projects, plans and policies assessments
SEA performance criteria and SEA systems must be shaped according to the country context
SEA needs to converge with land use planning so as not to be perceived as merely a procedural hurdle to development planning.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Strategic Environmental Assessment	25.8	SEA in Development Co-operation	Jean-Pierre Pelletier

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- a) Small islands development and protection of natural resources
- b) Poverty of data and lack of means to “fight” big industrial companies
- c) Attitude changing is a long process, especially when politician are concerns
- d) SEA as a community driven process as opposed to a regulated procedures
- e) How to make sure that interest from large group (several thousands) can be taken into account
- f) Can SEA be used for poverty alleviation program?
- g) SEA in regional planning without a reference framework

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- a) There was confusion in defining SEA
 - b) The SEA was talk about; however few speakers told us on the implementation
- Too many speakers (5) for a short session of 90 minutes. Some questions were left out.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Urban Impact Assessment	26.1, 26.2, 26.3	Urban Impact Assessment	Markus Eggenberger

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- The presentations showed the wide range of issues, which come to the fore in an urban context
- Different aspects of urbanization are relevant: urban sprawl; (infrastructure) impact on urban form and function and on the communities; the ecological footprint of cities – each requesting different approaches and methods
- The role of the cities as economic motors of development versus increased impacts requires comprehensive planning approaches (national – local) and addressing trade-offs
- This applies also for the different levels of planning (and the respective planning documents), which should answer different sets of questions
- The dynamics of urban development need to be anticipated and taken into consideration (when planning and doing SEA/EIA)
- The limits of planners with regard to accepting that planning per se does not lead to expected (positive) results was remarked (difference between social objectives of the plan, and the impact of the plan on social aspects)
- The stakeholders (private, civil society / consumers, and government) have to be involved in the process and have to develop a common understanding of the planning issue and its consequences (in this context, the definition of sustainability is challenging)

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessments of Disasters, Accidents and Conflicts	27.1	Crises Management and Impact Assessment: Is there common ground?	Charles Kelly / Martin Peterson / Michel A. Bouchard

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

Need to include disaster impact in normal impact assessments.
 Link between peace and war.
 Process of establishing capacity to manage environmental problems in post conflict situations can be complicated.
 War results in significant negative social and environmental impacts.
 Need to go beyond limited EIA to consider social impacts.
 Need to connect pre and post disaster assessments.
 Need for pre-disaster impact assessments.
 Consider placement of impact assessment process in sustainable development time line.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Legislation, Policies and Institutions	28.1	Environmental Legislation, Policies, Institutions and Industrial Development	Susan Waters

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

- Environmental Assessment information from regulatory information requirements is critical. Access to this information from country to country
- Global Reporting Initiative is an appropriate institution for environmental assessment transparency and accountability. Greater uptake of this initiative in countries is needed
- Regulatory initiatives are key to spurn technological advances
- Adequate legal framework requiring mandatory environmental impact assessment is key for developing countries

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- Recognition that key factors such as mandatory environmental assessment processes, access to information, necessary components in a sound legal environmental assessment framework

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Legislation, Policies and Institutions	28.2	International, Regional and Comparative Contexts	Susan Waters

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional frameworks are necessary to implement the Espoo Convention especially in difficult areas such as the Caspian Sea. This is key for orderly and efficient assessment of the oil and gas sector. - Comparative analysis of California and Ghana EIA legislation is useful for promoting and facilitating effective implementation of both regimes - Training is a critical component for successful implementation of EU directive and EIA legislation in Turkey

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?
- Further resolution of international and regional agreement is necessary for successful implementation of these agreements at the country – specific level

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Legislation, Policies and Institutions	28.3	Environmental Implementation at the Municipal Level Legislation, Policies and Institutions	Martin de Jong

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?
<p>UK EIA practice complies with UK law, but is less than generous in its attention for public consultation. As a consequence local authorities feel free to deviate from EIA statements produced by consultants</p> <p>EIA has been in placed in Turkey since 1992, but the process of training and empowering authorities these is still going on. Implementation should comply with EU law, but get a specific Turkish flavour to fit its cultural and institutional environment.</p>

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Environmental Legislation, Policies and Institutions	28.4	Implementation and Reform	Susan Waters

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public participation and access to information should be incorporated holistically in EIA legislation - Require the right balance of science and technical requirements to be embedded in legal requirements

- The best legislation will not necessarily lead to more effective environmental impact assessment, necessary to have enforcement, capacity and public scrutiny
- Many of the mistakes in EIA legislation are common throughout many jurisdictions

What were the most significant impact assessment happenings in your sessions?

- Recognition that many jurisdictions share the same weaknesses in the design and implementation of their environmental impact assessment legislation. There is a need to share experiences and work together towards effective solutions.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Social Impact Assessment	30.1, 30.2, 30.3	Social Impact Assessment	Jose Manuel Palma-Oliveira

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

One of the distinctive features of these sections on SIA was the unusual quantity of follow up studies that tested the consequences of applying, or not, the recommendations and methodologies of our discipline. All that studies show a consistent picture where the lack of application of those principles and conclusions impose a heavy burden on communities that can be avoided.

It was also stressed that sometimes industries or the local and national governments are not ready to apply those methodologies or the findings of SIA. For a larger quantity of projects it is important that both industry and government bodies have a consistent position and understand that, at the long run, the social empowerment has the most appropriate strategy to follow and SIA have now a consistent and recognized set of common methodologies.

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Impact Assessment and the Mining Industry	34.3	Impact Assessment and the Mining Industry	Sanchez and Ross (Andrew Thrift summary)

What were the key “industry and impact assessment” messages from your sessions?

Mezzalama – EIA and ecological risk assessment can be successfully integrated for Brownfields projects

Session:	No.	Title	Chair
Health Impact Assessment	24	Health Stream Report	Lea Den Broeder

Health stream at IAIA 2004: an HIA 'kaleidoscope'.

*What technical means do we have to carry out Health Impact Assessment?
How do we communicate with policy makers, with the public, or other stakeholders?
How can we mainstream health in other Impact Assessments?
What quality criteria should be applied to Health impact assessment?
How can we evaluate product, process, and impact of HIA?
And... What do we really mean when talking about health impacts?*

*These are just some of the many topics discussed in this year's IAIA health stream. In eight sessions papers were presented and workshops were run. The average number of participants in sessions was 30.
Some impressions:*

Basics in HIA were central in the workshop on 'International Principles and Practice of HIA'. Carlos Dora of the WHO has co-ordinated the drafting of a paper, which was discussed in the health stream. The results of the discussion will be valuable input for further development of this work.

An interesting presentation concerned the 'Health Counts' project. Jonathan Mathers explained how indicators were developed that link up to how communities define health and how they perceive the main determinants of health. One of the methods applied was to compare citizen's definitions with those expressed by professionals. The set of indicators developed can be called 'community based'. Interestingly enough, the definitions given by citizens, although often worded very differently, were in many cases not essentially different from those given by professionals.

This qualitative approach contrasted with the 'hard' methods applied, in a risk assessment of an industrial wastewater treatment plant in Oklahoma City. Freddie Hall explained how in this assessment air dispersion modelling was used to determine the risk for the surrounding communities. Although this was a very technical exercise, communication with the community was an important -and well-organised- aspect of the project.

Integration of different Impact Assessment disciplines was a central topic. An example was Decharut Sukkumnoeds presentation about integrating HIA and economic impact assessment. Very often combining the two boils down to translating health gain or damage into monetary terms. If we wish to truly integrate we face a number of challenges, such as: replacing 'willingness to pay' by 'willingness to listen and learn', and reconciling the importance of long-term and irreversible health impacts with discounting commonly applied in Economic Impact Assessment.

Integrating HIA in SEA was seen as an opportunity for progress: Suphakij Nuntavorakarn argued that HIA is usually project-based and can therefore do little to change underlying broader policies, while SEA takes place on exactly this policy level. Moreover, SEA is a legal requirement and can therefore be very helpful to put health on the policy agenda, said presenter Ben Cave.

In some cases there is a legal basis for HIA. However, this does not mean that in such cases the life of an HIA practitioner is easy. Reiner Bankens presentation about HIA institutionalisation in Quebec showed that good negotiation and communication skills are still necessary for effective HIA application. It is helpful if there are HIA 'champions' under the policy makers. An example was the HIA on agricultural policies following EU membership in Slovenia, presented by Karen Lock. Without the enthusiasm of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the HIA would have been much less successful.

Besides enthusiasm, expertise is needed for HIA implementation. An overview of WHO-led HIA training activities in the European region was given by Marco Martuzzi. His presentation led to the initiative to spend an 'indaba' session on discussing how training activities can be better co-ordinated.

One whole session was spent on the evidence base for HIA. Participants discussed the content, format and presentations of guidelines for conducting systematic and rapid reviews of evidence for use in HIA.

Last but not least, evaluation was a health stream topic. Jayne Parry told us about a European project to develop evaluation criteria. These criteria are derived from the 'Gothenburg' definition of HIA and relate to: information (informed decision-making), prediction (evidence basis), participation, and influencing policies/projects.

Besides developing criteria, we need to think about ways to implement evaluation. In his presentation, Rob Quigley told us that in the UK, evaluation is often not carried out well. This is often due to circumstances such as high workload or a lack of funding. Therefore the matter is how to change these circumstances. A strategy could be to make evaluation an integral part of the HIA work plan.

In the workshop on evaluation, led by Lorraine Taylor, Rob Quigley, and Marleen Bekker, participants discussed how they carried out evaluation in practice:

- Process evaluations: what worked and what did not work?
- Effect evaluations:
 - * What effect did the HIA have on health?
 - * What effect did the HIA have on the policy or project?
 - * Did stakeholders (especially decision-makers) change opinions or attitudes due to the HIA?

The workshop led to the plan to draft a 'cook book' for HIA evaluation.

These are just a few examples of the many interesting contributions in the health stream. Moreover, health section members did not remain within their 'own' stream. They also presented their papers in other streams, such as the stream on decision-making and the 'oil and gas' stream, or visited other stream's sessions. In many cases this resulted in an interdisciplinary exchange from which both sides could learn.

The health section looks back on a successful IAIA 04 and looks forward to an inspiring IAIA 05!

Lea den Broeder, May 2004