

International experience and perspectives in SEA

26-30 September 2005
Prague, Czech Republic

Preliminary programme and registration materials

A Global Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment
organized by the
International Association for Impact Assessment



Hosted by
**The Regional Environmental Center
for Central and Eastern Europe**
and
The Czech University of Agriculture

Venue
Ceska zemedelska univerzita
Studijni a informacni centrum
Kamycka 129
160 00 Praha 6 - Suchbátov

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Organizing committee	Vladimir Zdrazil, Co-Chair Martin Smutny, Co-Chair Vaclav Votruba Ivana Kasparova
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International advisory committee	Miroslav Martis, Chair Hussein Abaza Virginia Alzina John Ashe
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The preliminary program has been prepared with input from an international advisory committee, which has now completed its work.

IAIA and the conference organisers would like to thank all the members of this committee for their valuable contribution to the development of the programme ideas.

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Overview of events

26 September	World Bank Day
27 September	13:00 Conference opens 13:00-14:30 Opening plenary 15:00-18:30 Concurrent sessions
28 September	9:00-18:30 Concurrent sessions
29 September	9:00-18:30 Concurrent sessions
30 September	8:30-12:00 Concurrent sessions 13:00-14:30 Key issues plenary 15:00-16:30 Closing plenary

About the host institutions

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The center fulfills this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making. For more information, please visit www.rec.org.

The Czech University of Agriculture

The Czech University of Agriculture in Prague (CUA) has historically been a natural center of agricultural education in Bohemia. Nowadays it is a prime educational institution that offers theoretical and applied research, training of young scientists and advisory services in Agriculture and Forestry. The University is a temporary home for 6,000 students and 1,000 staff members. For more information, visit www.czu.cz/english/index.html.

Welcome by the Czech Minister of Environment

The IAIA SEA Prague 2005 Conference is the first global meeting of experts, decision-makers and representatives of civil society on strategic environmental assessment. Experience from the integration of environmental concerns into plans, programs, and policies demonstrates that SEA is a particularly needed and useful tool for sustainable development policy. It is our great honor that Prague has been selected as a venue for a debate that will take stock of the SEA experience and look into future development of this instrument.

The Czech Republic has fully recognized the value of SEA and so far applied this tool to more than fifty plans, programs and policies at the national and regional levels. Thanks to the global promotion of SEA by IAIA, we have been able to regularly compare our experience with the SEA practices in other countries of the world. We hope that our experience also contributes to the global debate about the possible shapes and forms of SEA in different decision-making systems.

Just now in this region, SEA is a particularly important instrument. The countries of central and eastern Europe are passing through a deep economic transition and developing forms of civil democracy that reflect their specific systems of governance. The role of SEA in reforms in decision-making frameworks will undoubtedly be considered within this IAIA Conference. We hope to gain further valuable inspiration for the enhancement of rapidly-evolving SEA systems and their application as tool for sustainable development.

I sincerely invite you to Prague, a city that has always been a crossroads of cultures and views, the city offering a thought-provoking and creative environment that fosters mutual understanding, enrichment and search for common values. I look forward to welcoming you in September with a hope that this conference will represent a new impetus for further improvement of SEA not only in our European context but in other regions of the world as well.



Libor Ambrozek

Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Conference theme and format

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is applied in an increasing number of countries world-wide. This field has developed rapidly in the past decade and continues to diversify. International legal instruments are in place within the European Union and the UN Economic Commission for Europe region. New frameworks and areas of SEA practice are emerging, particularly within the lending and assistance activities of multilateral financial institutions and donor agencies. A number of developing countries have introduced SEA processes or informally use elements of this approach. More are expected to do so in the future.

The conference is being held to take stock of international experience with SEA. It will discuss all aspects of SEA development and review the status of the family of approaches, processes and tools that have evolved to date. For this purpose we have organized the conference into five main streams:

- A SEA legislation and policy** will review the institutional frameworks that are in place in different countries, regions and institutions and the experience gained in their implementation.
- B SEA practice in key sectors** will address developments and issues related to the use and application of SEA in agriculture, energy, transport, water and other sectors, focusing on lessons of good practice.
- C Linkages between SEA and other assessment or planning tools** will explore synergies and differences among the extended family of SEA instruments, looking for ways of strengthening their application as part of more integrated approaches to decision-making.
- D Cross-cutting issues in SEA practice** will address aspects and challenges of SEA that are common to all areas of application and bear directly on the quality and effectiveness of current practice.
- E Improving standards and building capacity for SEA** will consider the research, training and information and knowledge networks that can help to develop the standard of professional practice internationally.

Under each stream, a series of topics provides the focus of working sessions. The summaries that follow indicate the type of contributions and inputs that are sought by the session leaders. Position papers for each topic will be posted on the conference web page (www.iaia.org > Conference > SEA Prague Main Page) as they become available.

The Prague Conference is intended to be an interactive forum that will engage participants in framing the SEA agenda. Most sessions are expected to feature a combination of panel discussions and facilitated group work structured around the issues addressed in the position paper and informed by the other proposals submitted by participants. Some sessions may enable presentations of selected papers or case studies that *directly* address the issues and areas identified for the specific topic.

Contributions that cannot be included in sessions can be presented through posters. Referring participants to posters does not mean that the proposed inputs are of lesser quality. It indicates only that they cannot be accommodated into a session because of its specific format or because of the chosen focus of the discussion. Posters will provide contributions equally as important as the topic-related sessions and will be displayed for the entire length of the conference.

By taking this approach, we hope to both focus the work of the conference and encourage wider debate of the issues.

Please plan to join us in Prague. We look forward to welcoming you there.

IAIA Programme Committee

Jiri Dusik (Co-Chair)
Barry Sadler (Co-Chair)
Ralf Aschemann
Thomas Fischer
Maria do Rosario Partidario
Urszula A. Rzeszot
Rob Verheem

Executive Secretariat to the Programme Committee

Ausra Jurkeviciute
Simona Kosikova Sulcova

Overview of conference topics

Stream A SEA legislation and policy

- A1 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Africa
- A2 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Asia
- A3 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific
- A4 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Newly Independent States
- A5 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Europe
- A6 SEA in Latin America
- A7 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Canada and the U.S.
- A8 SEA in development cooperation
- A9 Transboundary SEA

Stream B SEA Practice in key sectors

- B1 SEA in Poverty Reduction Strategies
- B2 SEA practice in transport planning
- B3 SEA practice in energy management
- B4 SEA practice in water management
- B5 SEA practice in coastal zone management
- B6 SEA of agriculture, food policy and rural issues
- B7 Application of Regional-Sectoral Assessments (RSA) to extractive industries
- B8 Application of SEA to Policy or Institutional Reforms

Stream C Linkages between SEA and other assessment or planning tools

- C1 SEA and sustainability appraisal
- C2 Integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development
- C3 SEA and environmental planning and management
- C4 SEA in spatial planning
- C5 SEA and landscape planning
- C6 SEA practice and biodiversity
- C7 SEA and EIA tiering: the missing link?

Stream D Cross-cutting issues in SEA practice

- D1 Data and scale issues in SEA
- D2 Public participation in SEA
- D3 Addressing health in SEA
- D4 Assessment of cumulative impacts in SEA
- D5 SEA follow-up
- D6 SEA review

Stream E Improving standards and building capacity for SEA

- E1 Professional and institutional capacity building for SEA
- E2 SEA theory and research
- E3 Developing SEA guidance
- E4 Institutional frameworks for SEA: searching for appropriate organisations
- E5 Operating SEA knowledge centres
- E6 Distance learning and e-learning in SEA
- E7 Capacity Development Manual for the implementation of the Protocol on SEA

Coordinated by Jiri Dusik, Barry Sadler, and Urszula A. Rzeszot

Key issues to be addressed by this stream:

- What are the main trends in SEA legislation and policy?
- What are the key features of SEA arrangements that have been established in different countries?
- What lessons can be drawn from experience with SEA implementation (e.g. main strengths and weaknesses of the process)?
- What are the main outputs and outcomes of SEA implementation (e.g. has it made a difference to decision-making or to the quality of the environment)?

The following information summarizes the key issues to be addressed in individual sessions. For more information, please read the full position papers (as available) on www.iaia.org > Conferences > SEA Prague Main Page.

A1 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Africa

Michelle Audouin, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

A commitment has been made by most countries in Africa to achieving sustainable development. This commitment has been made through, for example, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. SEA as a tool to integrate the concept of sustainability into policies, plans and programmes, therefore has the potential to play a key role in implementing the vision of NEPAD and other commitments to sustainable development. Although the implementation of SEA in Africa has been limited, increasingly policy and legal frameworks are being developed for SEA or for strategic planning processes that incorporate certain elements of SEA.

For example, reference to the assessment of policies and programmes is made in environmental legislation in countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Djibouti, Senegal and Mozambique. In addition, there are several examples of SEA or SEA-type processes that have been undertaken or which are currently in progress. These include an SEA of the Caprivi Sugar Project in Namibia, the SEA for the Port of Cape Town in South Africa and the SEA of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy. Guidelines for SEA have also been produced for example, those published by the African Development Bank in 2003 (called Strategic Impact Assessment Guidelines) and those published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in South Africa in 2000.

The question arises as to how SEA can be further developed in Africa, to more effectively contribute to addressing current problems and to meeting the vision set by Africa's leaders for the future of the continent. To initiate discussion on this topic, the session will focus on the following consideration:

- What role can SEA perform in addressing the key concerns in Africa?
- What broad approach to SEA is most appropriate to decision-making processes in Africa? Should an EIA-based approach be followed, or is there an approach that is more suited to decision-making on the continent?
- What type of policy and legal frameworks would most effectively facilitate the implementation of SEA in the various countries of Africa?

Participants who wish to contribute to this debate may propose posters, papers or short presentations. The session will enable presentation of selected contributions and will be closed by a panel summarising key lessons learned.

A2 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Asia

Kiichihiro Hayashi, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Japan

Young-il Song, Korea Environmental Institute, Korea

Elvis Au, Environmental Protection Department, SAR Hong Kong

Several Asian countries have already introduced national level of SEA systems, for example, in Hong Kong, Korea

and Japan. More and more Asian countries have been introducing and revising their SEA systems. However, collaboration on implementation and establishment of SEA systems is weak in Asian regions.

To establish better SEA systems in each country, information exchange, human exchange, sharing experiences and discussion of lessons learned on good SEA within Asian countries must be contributed to the development of good national SEA system. Participants in the IAIA SEA Conference will have the opportunity to exchange information and discuss good SEA.

The following key issues are raised for the IAIA SEA conference in Prague as discussion topics. Anyone who has an interest can submit a short abstract addressing at least one topic among the following.

- What are the characteristics of national and local SEA systems in each country in Asia?
- What are the similarities and differences of Asian national and local SEA systems?
- What is the lesson learned from an Asian country's experiences?
- Is there a need or possibility to strengthen any weak standardization or framework in Asian national SEA systems? If so, what can we do or what do we have to do? If not, what is the future of collaboration for those of us in Asian regions?

A3 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

John Ashe, Australia

Australia's federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 includes explicit provision for discretionary strategic assessment of actions that may be carried out under a proposed policy, program or plan. It also contains specific provisions for the strategic assessment of Commonwealth-managed fisheries. Under the National Environment Protection Council Act 1994, SEA-type assessments are also required for proposed National Environment Protection Measures, for example, those relating to ambient air quality and controlled waste. At the State and Territory level, there is provision for SEA-type assessments in several jurisdictions.

In New Zealand, the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) integrates EIA with the planning system, with planning and decision-making occurring mainly at the local and regional level. Although it does not include an explicit SEA requirement, the RMA requires a rigorous approach to policy and plan formulation under the Act, including the consideration of alternatives and the assess-

ment of benefits and costs. The RMA is seen by some as providing only a weak mandate for SEA, best characterised as a form of environmental policy appraisal. Others have, however, proposed that SEA, as a process with "para-SEA" elements rather than a formal system, is alive and well. Initiatives arising out of the recent review of the RMA, and the incorporation of sustainability requirements into legislation, are also seen as favourable to SEA.

EIA procedures in the Pacific are in varying stages of development. International aid agencies, including AusAID and NZAID, use SEA procedures in the development of country strategies and in the formulation of policies, plans, programs and regional and sectoral strategies. SEA may also be an element of large cooperative regional projects.

The session will discuss lessons learned from development of SEA in the region through presentation of selected contributions and facilitated discussion. Contributions on the following issues are particularly encouraged:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the current SEA legislative and policy regimes in the region.
- Lessons to be learned from experience in applying current legislation and policy in the different jurisdictions (including consideration of case studies).
- Linkages between SEA, land-use planning and other environmental protection mechanisms.
- The use of SEA in development assistance programs in the region and regional cooperative programs.
- Implications of developments in legislation and policy to promote sustainable development, including potential or actual use of SEA as a tool for sustainability assessment.

A4 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Newly Independent States

Aleg Cherp, Central European University, Hungary

Most of the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union (also referred to as Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian (EECCA) countries) have formal systems providing for environmental evaluation of strategic activities. These include State Environmental Review (SER) and, in some countries, Assessment of Environmental Impacts (OVOS). However, these systems largely lack specific procedural and documentary requirements for SEA and/or mechanically transform project-level EIA procedures to the SEA level.

Now that some of the NIS signed the UNECE Kiev SEA Protocol (2003) and expressed their intention to harmonise their environmental legislation with the Euro-

pean Union, they face a task of reforming their SEA systems. In addition to the above-mentioned weaknesses, the NIS may have particular difficulties in achieving their objectives because their project-level EIA systems—which could provide the institutional basis for the introduction of SEA—are not universally compatible with international standards. The traditionally highly sectoralised and technocratic planning systems which allow for little public participation and inter-sectoral coordination (e.g., with health or environmental authorities) may be considered as an additional obstacle to introducing effective SEA systems.

The session will consider various approaches and practical experiences of overcoming these challenges, including the outcomes of the UNDP/REC project on strengthening SEA capacities in the NIS. In particular, the session will discuss SEA legal models appropriate for the NIS, approaches to fostering understanding and acceptance of SEA among environmental, health and sectoral authorities as well as NGOs and the general public, training experts in SEA and strategic planning, creating networks of SEA practitioners, officials and academics, initiating research of SEA models compatible with existing planning structures and last, but not least, ensuring continuous learning from both domestic and international SEA experience.

A5 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Europe

Ursula Platzter, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

David Aspinwall, European Commission – DG Environment, Brussels

The workshop will concentrate on the legal and policy framework in Europe for SEA. The main driving force for SEA in Europe is Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive). The SEA Directive is an important tool at EU level for integrating environmental considerations into programmes and plans. The SEA Directive was to be implemented by the Member States by 21 July 2004. Another important tool is the UN-ECE Protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (SEA Protocol).

The objective of the Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Directive determines a minimum environmental assessment framework, which would set out the broad principles of the environmental assessment systems and leave the details to the 25 Member States, having regard to the principle of subsidiarity. The Directive's requirements should either be integrated into existing procedures in Member States or incorporated in specifically established procedures. The UN-ECE Protocol is some ways wider than the Directive, it explicitly covers policies, legislation, as well as programmes and plans but with rather different requirements for policies and legislation. The SEA Protocol follows in principle the approach of the Directive in providing a framework for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes and, to the extent appropriate, policies and legislation. The Protocol is not in force yet. Therefore the workshop will have its main focus on the Directive.

The session will try to give an overview of the implementation of the Directive, its linked legal and policy frameworks and related problems concerning its effectiveness, practical examples of ways of applying its requirements, methodological and procedural issues based on practical examples, and lessons learned. Closely related to the legislation and policy framework is the issue of administrative systems and practices. Therefore we would like to discuss how administrative structures can positively and/or negatively influence the effectiveness of the implementation of the Directive and what influence authorities have on the practical effectiveness of SEA.

The focus of the session will be the discussion based on three key-presentations. The presentations should end with clear recommendations on aspects which seem to be relevant for the issues presented. After the presentations an intensive discussion is planned. For the discussion the participants are invited to put forward short abstracts, which contain examples, ideas, solutions, thoughts, questions and recommendations concerning the topics above. These abstracts would serve as an essential input to the discussion. Depending on the number of participants, the working group will break into very small groups in order to enable successful information exchange and discussion.

A6 ■ SEA in Latin America

Iara Verocai, Consultant in the field of environmental policy and planning, Brazil

Izabella Mônica Teixeira, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In Latin America, international development agencies have been the main promoters of SEA. Since 1990, the World Bank has encouraged a number of regional and sectoral SEA in countries such as Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) SEA initiatives have focused on the assessment of strategic consequences of large infrastructure projects and programs in Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.

At the same time, research and a number of projects have been carried out in government agencies and universities aiming at the development of appropriate models and procedures for the formal adoption of SEA in countries such as Brazil and Chile.

The panel will address the recent developments on strategic environmental assessment in Latin American countries, focusing on the evolution of environmental assessment policy instruments in the region. Emphasis will be given on the recent experiences of SEA, as it has been practiced in several Latin American countries, and the agenda for future advances on the assessment of policies and plans. Other participants will be encouraged to present their institutional and personal experiences in SEA.

A7 ■ Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Canada and the U.S.

Canada: Peter R. Sherhols, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

U.S.: Ray Clark, The Clark Group LLD, USA

In North America, there are important differences between the SEA systems in place in Canada and the United States. At the federal level, for example, Canadian provision for SEA is made under a Cabinet Directive (established 1990, amended in 1999 and 2004). It applies to policy, plans and programmes that are subject to Cabinet or Ministerial approval and operates under separate arrangements from the legal regime for environmental assessment (which applies only to projects). By contrast, the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 1969) applies to all “proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the environment,” although, in practice, this has been taken to mean plans and programmes.

From an international perspective, the SEA experience of Canada and the U.S., in particular, is unparalleled. Yet in depth coverage of the development and implementation of their respective institutional frameworks has been given less attention in the literature of the field than one might expect. Recent SEA developments in both countries may be of wider interest. In Canada, these include attempts to strengthen the Cabinet Directive and ensure better compliance and performance within the federal government following a series of landmark audits carried out by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development. In the U.S., the CEQ task force on Modernizing NEPA Implementation (2003) addressed programmatic environmental impact analysis and “tiered documents” as a priority area for improvement.

For this session, separate position papers will be prepared on SEA experience in Canada and the U.S. For example, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will present an overview of the federal SEA process, including an overview of the opportunities and challenges in its implementation. In addition, there will be an overview of the experience of a Canadian Ministry and a presentation by Office of the Commissioner on the Environment and Sustainable Development on the recent audit of the implementation of the Directive. A discussion by representatives from both countries will provide perspectives on the future of SEA within their respective jurisdictions.

A8 ■ SEA in Development Cooperation

Jon Hobbs, OECD-DAC Task Team on SEA, UK

The demand for SEA in development cooperation has risen rapidly up the agenda of development agencies, multi- and bilateral, over the past decade. In part, this has been because the way in which overseas assistance is provided has been changing.

The trend is for development agencies to move away from projects to more upstream, strategic, “macro” interventions that support commitments shared by development agencies and their developing country partners, such as the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction in particular.

To address this demand, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee’s Environet Group has established a Task Team to develop practical guidance on the application of SEA in development cooperation.

The work of this Task Team and its partners will be reviewed and its progress will be reported. This has focused on collecting the practical experiences of SEA application to date, the need for successful practical implementation guidance based on these experiences, the need for more successful advocacy to key decision makers, greater harmonisation in approaches by donors and relevant capacity building for developing countries to develop their own processes.

The current status and future prospects of SEA in development cooperation will be reviewed through presentations by Task Team members and others engaged in this process. Case studies will illustrate the diversity of applications of SEA in development cooperation. The importance of developing links with other policy development and appraisal tools will be given particular consideration.

A9 ■ Transboundary SEA

Nicholas Bonvoisin, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva

John Horberry, UK

This session will examine how SEA can address the transboundary impact of plans, programmes and, to a lesser extent, policies. Both the UNECE Protocol on SEA and the EU Directive on SEA provide for informing and consulting authorities and the public in affected countries, as do a number of other local bilateral and multilateral agreements.

However, there is limited experience in this field, particularly for consulting foreign stakeholders on a domestic plan, programme or policy having a transboundary impact. There is a little more experience where a strategic decision is being implemented across borders and there is some form of institutional framework for inter-governmental cooperation. For example, SEAs have been or are being prepared for the EU trans-European transport networks and for the Nile and Mekong River basins.

Speakers will present their experiences in transboundary SEA and describe some of the key challenges. These may relate to points of contact, timing, equity, cost, language and compatibility of national systems for environmental assessment and public participation, for example. Session participants will be invited to discuss the practical problems of carrying out transboundary SEAs and to propose possible approaches.

Coordinated by Rob Verheem, EIA Commission, The Netherlands

Key issues to be addressed:

- What are the main trends in SEA practice in key sectors?
- What are the main strengths and weaknesses of SEA practice?
- What are the main factors that contribute to success or shortfall (e.g. framework, process, methodology, capacity etc.)?
- What is the role and contribution of SEA to planning and decision-making and to environmental outcomes?

The following information summarizes the key issues to be addressed in individual sessions. For more information, please read the full position papers (as available) on www.iaia.org > Conferences > SEA Prague Main Page.

B1■ SEA in Poverty Reduction Strategies

Linda Ghanime, United Nations Development Program, New York

Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) have become key development planning frameworks. For developing countries, especially the Low Income Countries of Africa, the PRS are a dominant development planning process given the debt forgiveness mechanisms and the alignment of donor financial support behind the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. In both middle and low income countries, the PRS are also increasingly promoted as the implementation vehicle to make progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In principle, the PRS process offers opportunities for each country to set context-specific goals and targets, to reconcile global framework and local action, bring coherence, balance and sustainability to the national development agenda and to take on the MDG challenge. The PRS have so far yielded mixed results with respect to integrating environmental and social concerns into national economic development plans and budgets and in addressing long-term sustainability.

The session will address how SEA can provide useful analytical approaches, processes and results which enhance the quality of PRS and the integration of environmental considerations and social concerns in poverty alleviation programs. The key questions to be addressed:

- What are the lessons emerging from the experiences in SEA of PRS?
- How has SEA helped in refining outcomes of PRS and lead to improved pro-poor policies?

- How have SEA approaches been adapted to country and context-specific needs?
- How have SEAs brought together various analytical processes and tools?

B2■ SEA practice in transport planning

Paul Tomlinson, TRL Limited, UK

Transport planning is perhaps better equipped to face the challenges posed by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) than other development sectors. However, it faces many unique challenges due to its heavy reliance on quantified modelling techniques and cost benefit analysis. Often this has led to the understanding of the problem and the objectives being somewhat secondary to the pursuit of pre-defined solutions promoting particular interests. SEA is also being introduced at a time when the forces for change in transport planning are evident and perhaps in some countries have begun to decline as the need for quick solutions becomes more imperative. Nevertheless, a cultural change is taking place.

While individual countries have adopted different approaches to transport planning, the basic elements tend to be similar, although some models may operate on more of a bottom-up than a top-down approach. Given the common elements, SEA is able to be easily fitted into the rational transport planning model. As transport planning often operates at a variety of planning scales, so it is imperative that SEA does not introduce additional burdens that further delay the change in transport infrastructure and services that are needed. Indeed, it should set out to reduce the burden and improve the efficiency of the decision making process by providing decision makers and the

public with meaningful information about the trade-offs to be made.

A central theme of the transport stream at Prague 2005 will be the effective integration of SEA into transport planning, whether this is in terms of links with transport modelling, economic appraisal or health impacts. It will also focus upon the tools and techniques needed to avoid duplication, to produce meaningful analysis rather than another exercise in paper consumption. Consequently, the call for papers is deliberately oriented towards identifying common issues, threats and opportunities focusing upon SEA and transport planning.

B3 ■ SEA practice in energy management

Ross Marshall, Environment Agency, UK

Peter Leonard, Hydro Quebec, Canada

Sustainable energy development is increasingly recognized as a key component of the sustainable development agenda. How has and could Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) contribute to Sustainable Energy development? To what extent are SEA approaches, processes and its tools useful—or have been useful in practice to date—to improve the decision making process of the energy sector at the policy, program and planning level? The session—based on its initial position paper—will review such questions based on recent practices and case study examples of SEA applications to the energy sector; namely, how SEA has been used to subsequently launch more sustainable energy projects.

The session(s) will explore the role SEA is now playing in public and industrial strategic planning for energy management, and papers are particularly welcomed on how SEA can contribute to the increasing the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies, programs and plans.

As climate change is one of the most significant and complex cumulative effects currently influencing SEA, the session will provide a particular focus on assessing climate change through SEA. Papers outlining practitioner experience on the setting and inclusion of SEA objectives and indicators for climate change are particularly encouraged.

B4 ■ SEA practice in water management

Ross Marshall, Environment Agency, UK

Sibout Nooteboom, DHV, The Netherlands

Water is a “hot” topic around the world. Its management, allocation and quality are vital for life and often form one of the most complex decision-making processes in national frameworks. The rise in environmental concerns,

coupled with increasing social and economic pressures, provides a critical challenge to sustainable development, and a fertile area in which SEA can operate to promote equitable and strategic decision-making. There are a multitude of reasons why SEA will become increasingly important in this area.

The objective of this workshop is to compare national approaches to the application of SEA in water management, in particular water supply management and flood risk control. We invite papers on the application of elements of SEA, for example: assessment studies and public participation in specific water catchments, tidal and coastal areas, and notably on how SEA can characterize the “problem” and water issues involved; SEA and management policies/plans/programmes for catchment areas; strategic choices made in water management and the role of SEA in making these choices; how SEA promotes debate; implications for sustainable development; and lessons to be drawn from SEA for other catchments.

We are particularly keen to include contributions from professional water sector managers who have sought to utilize participative decision-making methods in their work, with or without the application of SEA, where it has resulted in strategic environmental decisions being made that are of interest to more general SEA practitioners. By specifying a preferred paper outline, we hope that comparable lessons can be drawn about what has worked in practice and how SEA can be successfully integrated within water management.

B5 ■ SEA practice in coastal zone management

Kogi Govender, CSIR Environmentek, South Africa

Ivica Trumbic, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centre, Croatia

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an environmental assessment process that facilitates decision-making above the project level, i.e., to policies, plans and programmes (PPPs). To date, SEA initiatives have been largely focused in the planning domain. Limited information is available on SEA and its use in integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). SEA has the potential to enhance ICZM by identifying environmental opportunities and constraints to development in the coastal zone and thereby providing a strategic framework within which sustainable coastal development can occur. This paper provides an introduction to ICZM and the potential that SEA could hold for ICZM. The paper is best received as an invitation to practitioners to present their experiences and share the knowledge that they have on the use of SEA, towards optimizing the application of SEA to ICZM.

SEA does have merits in its use in ICZM. However, case studies will be able to provide a better understanding of how SEA can be used in the coastal zone and this learning can be used to formulate a more efficient and effective means of using SEA. The session should enable SEA practitioners to:

- Share experiences related to SEA in the coastal zone (not only restricted to ICZM initiatives)
- Discuss various SEA approaches that can be used for effective and efficient coastal area management
- Show how SEA was integrated in the ICZM process
- Present tools and techniques that are being used in SEA preparation
- Show how stakeholder participation techniques have been used in SEA
- Present SEA prepared in different coastal geographic (regional, urban, protected areas) and thematic (tourism, recreation, industry, infrastructure, fish farming, etc.) contexts
- Present SEA where specific coastal issues have been integrated (coastal erosion, sea level rise, protection of coastal land, etc.)
- Present cases where specific international or national legislation for SEA has been adopted, or where SEA has been integrated in specific coastal legislation (coastal laws, regulatory documents such as decrees, international protocols, etc.)
- Present where follow up to SEA has been carried out (monitoring, indicators, evaluation, etc.)

B6■ SEA of agriculture, food policy and rural issues

Riki Thérivel, Levett-Thérivel Sustainability Consultants, UK

The agricultural/food provision sector has significant impacts worldwide, including water pollution and over-abstraction, erosion, and food-related illnesses.

Non-agricultural activities in rural areas also have impacts, e.g. landscape, transport. Agriculture/food/rural activities affect other sectors such as land use planning, tourism and health; and are affected by other sectors. However, despite these impacts and links, agriculture/food/rural activities are an “orphan” sector of SEA.

The impacts of agriculture, food provision and rural activities are mostly non-point and cumulative, and are correspondingly difficult to mitigate. Many mitigation measures require capacity-building amongst farmers; some (e.g., procurement of organic or fair trade foods) conflict

with trade agreements; others have different effects on different agricultural sub-sectors so their equity implications need to be carefully considered.

Issues for discussion at the agriculture/food/rural workshop:

- “Tiering” of agricultural/food/rural policies, plans and programmes and their SEAs
- Links to other sectors, and barriers to good practice posed by these links
- Cumulative impacts of agricultural/food/rural activities and how they can be mitigated
- Equity issues—urban v. rural, different types of rural dwellers—and how they can be addressed in SEA

However, given the dearth of previous work on this topic, the discussions are expected to go much wider. Ideally the workshop will result in a framework for future discussion, collaboration and research about this topic.

B7■ Application of Regional-Sectoral Assessments (RSA) to Extractive Industries

Friederike Kirstein, Environment Canada, Canada

William Veerkamp, Shell International Exploration and Production, The Netherlands

Increasingly, early and regional consideration is being given to the impacts of extractive industries prior to the development of new areas. Broad-scale assessments can be employed to achieve a number of objectives. For example, they can be used to determine if a given area is appropriate for the development of a particular industry taking into account sustainability criteria. In addition, they may facilitate the canvassing of public perspectives and their consideration in decision-making.

A session will be organized to share the experience of extractive industries with regional-sectoral assessments (RSAs). The objectives of the session will be: (1) to account for experience with RSA to date, (2) to highlight benefits and challenges of this experience, and (3) to reflect on innovative practice and lessons learned. Discussions on the logistics of current experience (e.g., Where is RSA being done? Why? How?) will be complemented by a consideration of the success of RSA in meeting its objectives.

Questions and themes for discussion will include:

- Experience of RSA with respect to tiering (links with project EA and SEA)
- Experience of RSA in facilitating stakeholder involvement

- Consideration of alternatives in RSA
- Experience or potential of RSA to consider sustainability
- Benefits of RSA in project development
- Benefits of RSA for environmental protection
- Decisions being made on the basis of RSAs and the information required to support these decisions

B8■ Application of SEA to Policy or Institutional Reforms

Jean-Roger Mercier, World Bank, Washington, DC

Around the world, the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been shown to be helpful when applied to specific plans and programs. The experience with SEA of broader policy reform is more limited. This session at Prague 2005 will focus on the theory and practice of applying SEA to policy and institutional reforms. Contributions are expected from developed and middle income as well as developing countries. Contributions may cover plans, programs and policies (PPPs) externally funded as well as home grown. The session in Prague, because of its inherent limitations, should focus on a few key issues:

Substance:

- Methodological advances in SEAs of policy/institutional reforms
- Case studies illustrating successes and difficulties of developing SEAs of policy/institutional reforms
- Comparison of requirements and/or guidance for the preparation (and implementation/monitoring) of SEAs of policy/institutional reforms

Process:

- How to measure success and progress in the development of SEAs of policy/institutional reforms
- How to share information and knowledge in real time about good (and less good) practices in SEAs of policy/institutional reforms

Simple terms of reference have been prepared for contributing papers. These ToRs can be found in the position paper on this topic.

Linkages between SEA and other assessment or planning tools

Coordinated by Thomas Fischer, The University of Liverpool, UK

Key issues to be addressed:

- What are the main trends in this area?
- What arrangements have been made to link SEA with other assessment and planning tools?
- What lessons and examples of good practice can be drawn from practical experience?
- What is the role and contribution of SEA to decision-making and environmental outcomes?

The following information summarizes the key issues to be addressed in individual sessions. For more information, please read the full position papers (as available) on www.iaia.org > Conferences > SEA Prague Main Page.

C1 ■ SEA and sustainability appraisal

Jenny Pope, Murdoch University, Australia

David Annandale, Murdoch University, Australia

Barry Dalal-Clayton, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK

The purpose of this workshop will be to examine progress in developing and using Sustainability Appraisal around the world and to consider some of the difficult challenges involved. Some people see Sustainability Appraisal as part of a family of approaches under the umbrella of SEA; others argue that it is a distinct approach. What is clear is that Sustainability Appraisal focuses distinctly on the integration of environmental, economical and social issues in assessment.

This workshop will examine whether there are any lessons that can be learned by Sustainability Appraisal advocates from the maturation of SEA. It will also discuss and analyze the conceptual basis for Sustainability Appraisal, where and when Sustainability Appraisal can be applied, and its role in decision-making.

A brief position paper is in the process of development, and this will provide specific guidance as to how the workshop will be run.

C2 ■ Integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development

Hussein Abaza, UNEP, Geneva

This session will address trends and issues in integrated assessment and planning (IAP). It has two main objectives:

- Generally, to take stock of the status of IAP systems and processes that are in place or emerging in different countries and international agencies; and
- Specifically, to review lessons of experience from the UNEP initiative on building capacity in the application of IAP frameworks and tools.

Recently, there has been considerable work and experimentation in the area of integrated assessment and planning. New elements and tools for undertaking this approach are emerging all the time. For their promise to be fully realised, however, a number of institutional and methodological issues need to be resolved. Specifically, how can different forms of impact assessment be linked within mainstream policy-making and planning processes in support of sustainable development? And where does SEA fit in this larger scheme of things?

In order to address such questions, UNEP has initiated a project to assist countries in enhancing their capacity to undertake integrated assessment and planning (IAP) for sustainable development. A series of pilot projects are underway to test a strategic framework and approach as part of the policy and planning procedures of selected developing or transitional countries. The goal is to link IAP to the larger international agenda for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction, and role of trade in achieving both (as referred to in the WSSD *Plan of Implementation*). It ensures that the economic, environmental and social considerations are evaluated with reference to sustainability criteria at all stages of plan or policy formulation. Other aspects of this approach include focussing on the root causes of problems rather than only treating symptoms, identifying win-

win options and providing opportunities for public participation.

Key elements, principles and tools for undertaking IAP will be summarised, together with recent experience in their pilot applications in countries participating in the UNEP initiative. Other perspectives on and examples of IAP process and practice are sought to round out the review of IAP experience internationally and to facilitate a comparative analysis of the UNEP projects.

This session forms part of the stream on SEA and international development cooperation and capacity building and there will be opportunity to discuss IAP experience in relation to this larger agenda.

C3 ■ SEA and environmental planning and management

William Sheate, Imperial College London, UK

As the concepts associated with sustainable development evolve, and new and modified decision aiding tools are developed, so links between environmental (and other impact) assessment and management tools become all the more essential. As SEA is implemented so opportunities for linkages between SEA and other tools—and across different disciplines—at more strategic levels present themselves. Examples of possible linkages include between SEA and EMS, SEA and CBA, LCA and SEA, SEA and Sustainability Appraisal.

The purpose of this theme, therefore, is to explore the evolving linkages and relationships between these tools and to exchange experience of real examples where SEA and environmental planning and management tools have been or could be used together effectively. Key questions will focus on theoretical and practical issues, including:

- What are the benefits of making linkages between tools?
- Do we need new tools or can we make existing tools work better together?
- How do SEA and other tools working together fit with decision-making processes?

This topic will build on previous IAIA workshops held at Glasgow (1999), The Hague (2002) and Marrakech (2003).

C4 ■ SEA in spatial planning

Ingrid Belcáková, EIA Centre at Faculty of Architecture, Slovak Republic

Peter Nelson, Land Use Consultants, UK

It is widely recognised that spatial planning and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are prerequisites for achieving acceptable forms of development and that the combination of the two processes can greatly assist decision-makers in working towards sustainable development. There is however, a continuing debate over the precise role and purpose of each activity.

Spatial planning integrates environmental, social and economic aspects of the spatial development. Taking into account the integration of these aspects is not a new requirement in spatial planning. The innovation of this principle lies in a new vision of integrity in a context of sustainability. It is first of all their mutual influence in the final synergetic quality and not in additive integration. The issue of flexibility, rationality and integration approaches are the main opportunities of effective SEA in spatial planning.

Different countries have evolved their own approaches towards integrating spatial planning and SEA, reflecting their cultures, history and political structures. An element of standardisation has been introduced in Europe through the introduction of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), but even here, it is left to each Member State to determine the precise methods to be used. The same applies to implementation of the UN ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The SEA Conference in Prague will provide a great opportunity for those engaged in spatial planning and SEA to explore the essential synergies and distinctive characteristics of the two processes. Questions that could usefully be explored include the following:

- What separates spatial planning and SEA practice?
- What specific skills are required to undertake the SEA of spatial plans?
- Should SEA be allowed to evolve as a largely unstructured and creative process for testing planning concepts or should it be more procedural and tied to specific targets and outputs?
- What constitutes effective public participation in SEAs of spatial plans, as opposed to public involvement in plan-making?
- What sort of objectives and indicators should be employed in SEAs of spatial plans?
- Can the experience of particular countries provide role models for wider application?

- What are the essential components of a successful SEA linked with spatial planning?
- How far should SEA focus on the environmental dimensions of plans and programmes, given its role in integrating broader social and economic objectives?
- How can the standards and performance of spatial planning SEAs be measured?

C5 ■ Linkages between SEA and landscape planning

Marie Hanusch, UFZ Centre for Environmental Research, Germany

All states holding provisions for SEA have one thing in common: *the search for innovative, efficient and pragmatic tools to apply SEA*. This holds especially true for the EU Member States, being obliged to apply the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC, the so-called SEA Directive, as well as for the future Parties to the SEA Protocol.

Several tools on the European and international stage offer valuable support and hints on how to apply SEA. These tools vary from instruments used for EIA over environmental management systems (EMS) and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to sustainable appraisals. Another tool that might provide support for the application of SEA is the so-called *landscape planning*. Landscape planning tools are common, for instance in Austria, Belgium (the Walloon Region), France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. These tools are designed differently in every state, in terms of their objectives, their legal status and their scope of application. Their overall task is to outline and to justify the requirements and measures of environmental protection and landscape management for a certain planning area. Usually environmental objectives are allocated, environmental baseline data is collected, impacts are appraised and mitigation measures are considered. *This seems as if there are some—perhaps even extensive—linkages between landscape planning tools and SEA*. Especially in terms of the elaboration of the environmental report landscape planning tools might provide substantial input for SEA already today. With regard to the aspect of monitoring due to SEA, they might be useful in future, for they could cover several SEA follow-up demands.

This session invites contributions from practitioners and researchers from different countries to present landscape planning tools with linkages to SEA and examples of their application. Conceptual and practical approaches offering innovative, efficient and pragmatic ideas on how to apply these tools in SEA shall be discussed. Contribu-

tors are welcome to share experiences and to establish a network on the linkages between SEA and landscape planning tools!

C6 ■ SEA practice and biodiversity

Jo Treweek, SES, UK

Helen Byron, Imperial College London, UK

Dave le Maitre, CSIR Environmentek, South Africa

Biodiversity supports many livelihoods and provides essential goods and services to millions of people. However, its values are often under-emphasised in development planning. The first World Summit on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992) emphasised the importance of biodiversity as the basis of our very existence, to be used wisely and sustainably and conserved for current and future generations. The main threats to biodiversity globally are associated with human activities causing habitat loss or damage. These threats need to be carefully managed if significant, irreversible losses of biodiversity are to be avoided.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires Parties to integrate as far as possible and as appropriate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans and programmes. The CBD also, along with the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species, recognises SEA as an important mechanism for building biodiversity into development planning to promote its conservation and sustainable use. SEA can help to:

- Build biodiversity objectives into plans
- Identify biodiversity-friendly alternatives
- Identify and manage cumulative threats
- Plan effective mitigation strategies to ensure no net loss of biodiversity
- Put in place monitoring programmes to provide necessary biodiversity data
- Strengthen biodiversity partnerships and information networks

This session will draw on experience and examples of SEA practice from different countries to review the extent to which biodiversity issues are addressed. The session will explore important biodiversity considerations and principles that should be adopted to ensure good practice in SEA. Emerging international guidance on SEA and biodiversity will be discussed and experiences presented at the conference will contribute to its further development.

C7 ■ EIA and SEA tiering: The missing link?

Jos Arts, Ministry of Transport, The Netherlands

Paul Tomlinson, TRL Ltd., UK

Henk Voogd, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Early in the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) concept, the idea of tiering of environmental assessment at different planning levels was put forward as a key element. Moreover, the idea of tiering can be even considered as one of the major drivers for the development of SEA (see, e.g., Therivel et al. 1992, UNECE 1992, Wood & Djeddour 1992, Therivel & Partidario 1996, Sadler & Verheem 1996, Partidario 1999, Fischer 2002, Wood 2003). Many spatial decisions that have a bearing on environmental quality are taken at a higher level of decision making than the project level; as Partidario (1999, p.60) indicates, “The reasons [for SEA] are various but initially related to the *timing* of project EIA, i.e., it enters the decision-making process at too late a stage to be able the final decision in a satisfactory way.” Tiering means that by preparing a sequence of environmental assessments at different planning levels and linking them, foreclosure may be prevented, postponement of detailed issues may be permitted and assessments can be better scoped. A tiered approach minimises the problem of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being only a “snapshot in time.” Accordingly, the EU SEA-Directive (2001/42/EC) explicitly assumes tiering of SEAs and EIAs at different planning levels and the SEA and EIA Directive are directly linked (e.g., article 3(2) of Directive 2001/42/EC requires SEA for those plans and programs, which *set the framework* for future development consent of EIA projects).

Although tiering is an important notion to SEA and EIA in academic literature, it is hardly discussed in a critical manner (Tomlinson & Fry 2002). Surely the concept of tiering might provide a means to address the complexity of planning and decision-making, which environmental assessments must operate. However, its implicit assumption of a linear planning process does not fit well with the dynamic nature of planning and decision-making in practice. For instance, there may be still a considerable gap between a strategic plan subject to SEA and project development with EIA. In planning practice, all too often project decisions and EIAs may precede strategic plans and the SEAs that should provide the framework for project decision-making. Nevertheless, it is clear that good coordination between planning levels and between SEA and EIA is needed to achieve sound (sustainable?) planning, efficient and effective decision-making. The question is: how can the link between SEA and EIA that is all too often missing be made operational and what is the actual and potential role of tiering?

Coordinated by Ralf Aschemann, An !dea - Austrian Institute for the Development of Environmental Assessment, Austria

Key issues for consideration

- What are the main trends in this area?
- What works well or shows promise in addressing the aspects and areas identified in D1 to D6?
- What examples and lessons of good practice can be identified?
- How can the effectiveness of SEA practice be improved?

The following information summarizes the key issues to be addressed in individual sessions. For more information, please read the full position papers (as available) on www.iaia.org > Conferences > SEA Prague Main Page.

D1 ■ Data and scale issues in SEA

Elsa João, University of Strathclyde, Scotland-UK

This topic focuses on how choices of data and scale might affect the results of SEA. The aim is to clarify how best to handle data and scale issues that will lead to the best possible SEA process. Guidelines or guidance related to data and scale for SEA will also be discussed. Key issues for consideration include discussing what comes first: data or issues. Evaluating how much data is enough, what type of data is needed, and how does the disparity in the data availability affect the importance given of different issues. The topic will also discuss what information should be included in databases and who should be responsible for them. Most importantly, the topic will discuss what are the scale effects in SEA (e.g., how the choice of the size of the study area affects the determination of impact significance), and how data collection and scale choice relate to “pragmatic aspects” of SEA, such as budgets and schedules. The topic also links to the concept of tiering, and will discuss what detail is relevant for each SEA tier and if a multi-scale analysis needed instead. The topic will conclude with a discussion on any examples of data and/or scale abuse, and on guidelines or guidance needed regarding data and/or scale for SEA.

D2 ■ Public participation in SEA

Bo Eling, Roskilde University, Denmark

In the coming years practicing SEA will develop from single cases to a more systematic utilised process in accordance with certain rules and principles. Public participation will undoubtedly be an essential part of such steps forward. The strategic character of SEA makes public participation desirable. However, the abstract and general character of SEA also complicates such involvements. Experiences to now indicate challenges at all strategic

levels for citizen involvement in SEA.

Key issues for consideration at the session on public participation at the conference will include:

- Early public participation in the identification of policy, plan or program objectives and means
- New ways and opportunities for public involvement in specific stages of the SEA process
- The type of rationality related to SEA and how it can reflect its dialogical character
- Public involvement in the process of monitoring environmental effects
- The use of information technologies and the Internet for submission of information in-between the competent authorities and the general public and concerned citizens and how it will affect the SEA process
- The issue on ownership and political responsibility to final decisions in case of actual public involvement in the SEA process.

D3 ■ Addressing health in SEA

Alan Bond, University of East Anglia, UK

Ben Cave, Ben Cave Associates, UK

Suphakij Nuntavorakarn, Health System Research Institute, Thailand

Carlos Dora, WHO, Geneva

Since the 1974 Canadian *Lalonde Report* highlighted the impacts public policies could have on health, healthy public policy has been a main goal of health development and a driver for the development of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in many countries. It is clear that

sustainability and health are inextricably linked: public policies which promote long-term sustainability promote health. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive came into force in July 2004 and is viewed by many as a tool for achieving sustainable development; it specifically requires the consideration of human health, which prompted the World Health Organization to publish guidance on integrating health into SEA.

The interface between health and other sectors, however, is weak and healthy public policy requires the cross-sectoral application of health. A key question, therefore, is whether there exists the capacity to address health in SEA and, if it does not, how best that capacity can be built.

The conference will examine the interface between health and SEA and ask:

- Is there case study evidence of the consideration of health in SEA or at the strategic level of public policy processes?
- Is there case study evidence of HIA that works at the strategic level of public policy processes?
- How can the appropriate health expertise become involved in the SEA process?
- Does the current momentum in development of both HIA and SEA mean that a policy window for integration is open?
- What models are available for integration?

Answering these questions will facilitate future planning for comprehensive coverage of health in SEA as a vehicle for achieving health public policy.

D4 ■ Assessment of cumulative impacts in SEA

Jennifer Dixon, University of Auckland, New Zealand

There has been much good work undertaken in the construction and development of SEA. Yet arguably SEA theory and practical application has not delivered as much as it should in respect to cumulative effects. The intent of this session is to move forward and make a difference to both our critical understanding and our practices. Three key issues stand out:

- The inclusion of cumulative effects assessment as integral to policy and planning at all levels (local to national). One problematic dimension that needs to be addressed in this regard is the often inter-jurisdictional nature of cumulative effects: how can we better deal with such complexity? Are our current methods sufficiently robust?

- Overcoming the disjunction that often exists between CEA and SEA. Whilst SEA implementation is now well advanced, we are still not taking sufficient account of cumulative effects at the level of practice.
- The apparent inability of many government agencies to apply comprehensive cumulative effects practice. Despite well-established legal systems for planning and environmental assessment in many countries, systemic environmental problems such as contamination of ground water and air quality, depleting water resources, poor urban amenity and traffic congestion, still occur.

The aim of this session will be, in a critical reflective and analytical context, to draw together knowledge and understanding of SEA and CEA, such that the successful incorporation of cumulative effects assessment into SEA might well constitute an exciting step forward in providing ways to tackle systemic problems that currently elude us.

This session invites papers that will move beyond the descriptive to encompass critical reflection, analysis and pointers towards new thinking to address the gap between theory and practice. Papers are especially welcome which:

- Contribute towards a sharper analysis of the theoretical and practical relationship between cumulative effects and SEA
- Clearly identify problems of implementation and suggest solutions
- Propose new lines of enquiry and reflections that can be taken to the next conference

D5 ■ SEA follow-up

Aleg Cherp, Central European University, Hungary

There is a growing recognition that SEA should be accompanied by “follow-up” activities adjusting its prediction and recommendations in light of the information obtained during the implementation of the policy, plan or programme (PPP).

The current thinking on SEA follow up has been largely derived from that on EIA follow up. It focuses on monitoring and evaluation more than on management and communication. Conceptual frameworks appropriate for the specific nature of SEA (focus on objectives, complex causal links between PPPs and their impacts, complexity of potential management responses) as well as documentation of practical experience are still lacking.

The exploration of potential links between SEA follow up and other environmental policy and management tools, such as EMS in public authorities, may be fruitful

in dealing with key challenges of SEA follow up. This session welcomes papers dealing with conceptual or empirical perspectives on SEA follow up, especially with identifying key elements of SEA follow up, discussing its specifics in relation to EIA follow up, addressing management and communication components of SEA follow up and exploring its links with other environmental management tools.

D6 ■ SEA review

Karl Fuller, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, UK

Tadhg O'Mahony, Irish Environment Protection Agency, Ireland

The review of the quality of assessment is a key principle of SEA good practice. As a formal procedure, it is undertaken as a review of a SEA report or document submitted prior to a final decision or approval of a proposed plan or strategy. Depending on requirements, SEA quality review may be undertaken informally at other stages of the process. In the European Union, the implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC has led to increasing interest in member states in developing a systematic framework and approach to review the quality of assessments. Following experience in EIA, a number of SEA “review packages” have been or are being developed. This work has application beyond the EU and in turn can benefit from reference to similar initiatives in other countries.

The purpose of this session will be to take stock of current work on review of quality of assessment in the EU and internationally. It will also focus attention on the generic framework, elements of approach and tools that apply and can be adapted to different requirements for SEA. Specific attention will be given to a “whole process” approach to SEA review, which relates the quality of a report and other outputs to process strengths and weaknesses. This approach also helps to unpack the dimensions of effectiveness and helps to focus SEA follow up. If carried into this stage, SEA quality and performance review can be firmly related. This would allow for more comprehensive (and comparative) reviews of the quality of assessment (as required of EU member states under the SEA Directive).

A short position paper is being prepared. The intent for Prague will be to pre-circulate a draft package for discussion along the above lines. All inputs, contributions and materials that are relevant to this exercise are invited.

Improving standards and building capacity for SEA

Coordinated by Maria do Rosário Partidário, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Key issues to be addressed:

- What are the main trends in this area?
- What progress has been made in taking forward the aspects and areas identified in E1 to E7?
- What more needs to be done and what are the priorities for future action?
- How might IAIA contribute to that agenda?

The following information summarizes the key issues to be addressed in individual sessions. For more information, please read the full position papers (as available) on www.iaia.org > Conferences > SEA Prague Main Page.

E1 ■ Professional and institutional capacity building for SEA

Maria do Rosário Partidário, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Lee Wilson, Lee Wilson & Associates, USA

Increased capacities for improved performances in SEA is the leading theme of this workshop. It relates to individuals and organizations, both in terms of professional and institutional capacities. The increasing use and demand for SEA creates pressures in available capacities for assisting decision-making in different organizations that must be made up for better and more efficient performances. Fundamental questions to be addressed in the workshop at IAIA SEA-Prague should address the “how to” question in capacity-building and include:

1. Basic principles on how to improve the capacity of SEA to impact decision-making.
2. How to generate SEA capacity-building approaches, including forms of communication, guidance documents, training programs, or other, that clearly affect decision-making.
3. Successful stories on capacity-building efforts, including institutional frameworks and technical or methodological approaches that can provide good case material for individual and organizational learning.

Topic leaders would favour a workshop discussion format for this session, and invite suggestions for additional issues on the agenda for discussion. Normal papers would preferably be presented as posters. Active contributions to workshop discussions are encouraged.

E2 ■ SEA theory and research

Olivia Bina, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Tabatha Wallington, Murdoch University, Australia

Wil Thissen, Delft University, The Netherlands

Since its inception more than fifteen years ago, the notion of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has drawn increasing attention at conferences, in the literature, and in assessment practice and policy regulation. This period has witnessed both illuminating and confusing progress, which this session seeks to explore in order to direct future theory and research in this field.

The literature on SEA shows a growing variety of interpretations and practical approaches to both the purpose of SEA and the need to link SEA to the complexities and intricacies of real-world decision making—all of which is frustrated by a legacy of rationalist and technocratic discourses. The widely recognized need to design context-specific approaches to SEA has further contributed to the variety of approaches being put forward. Dominated by proponents attempting to find new ways to get their message across, the SEA debate is characterised by promotional and normative overtones, with little emphasis on reflexive analysis. Indeed, critics have called SEA a movement rather than a science or a craft. Partly as a result, new approaches such as Sustainability Appraisal and Integrated Assessment continue to be introduced without sufficient clarity in terms of their significant differences or overlaps with SEA.

Against this background, we feel there is an urgent need to reflect more deeply on the essence of SEA. In order to achieve the celebrated purpose of contributing to sustainable development, and the role of improving policy-making,

ing processes, the implicit and explicit assumptions of existing models of SEA (both normative and operational) must be examined, and conventional wisdom about its *raison d'être* must be questioned. We invite contributions around three broad themes: the purpose, object, and strategic dimensions of SEA. Fundamental questions to be addressed include:

- What is the ultimate purpose and role of SEA, and who are its proponents? How does SEA's purpose relate to more general objectives and values such as the development of informed and democratic governance?
- What, empirically, is the added value of SEA, and for whom? How do these empirical findings relate to theoretical (or ideal) notions?
- What do we mean by the term SEA?
- To what extent should SEA accept, or transform, the institutional and political conditions under which it must operate?
- What are the consequences of these issues for the conceptual basis, as well as for the practice, of SEA?

E3 ■ Developing SEA guidance

*Bobbi Schijf, Ameco Environmental Services,
The Netherlands*

Against a backdrop of continued debate on the exact nature of SEA, governments around the world are busy implementing their specific version. Consistently, such introductions of SEA into a planning system are accompanied by the development of some sort of guidance, explaining just how SEA should be undertaken.

The EU SEA Directive is serving as an impetus for many such guidance materials. Current and aspiring EU member countries have had to adapt their strategic assessment practices to meet the EU Directive requirements or newly introduce the topic into their laws and practice, both often leading to the development of national SEA guidelines and manuals. SEA guidance materials have also been developed outside Europe, in, for example, South Africa, Canada and Hong Kong. Of course, SEA guidance is produced not just at the level of a country or region: the EU has provided guidance, the Espoo Convention (on transboundary SEA) is giving rise to an SEA manual, and international agencies such as the World Bank are also setting SEA standards through production of their own SEA guidance documents and training resources.

Considering this broad range of SEA guidance material

from an equally diverse range of sources, two issues present themselves:

- Is there a danger of continual “reinvention of the wheel” in SEA guidance, or should each piece of guidance stand alone as it is specific to the local context? And if there is indeed a need to optimise synergies, especially between existing and new SEA guidance material, how might this be achieved?
- What can be concluded about the effectiveness of SEA guidance material?
- Since this area is relatively new, there has been little systematic evaluation of guiding documents on SEA, but there are undoubtedly lessons to be drawn from practice on what seems to work well and what doesn't.

This session will seek to explore how these two broader issues might be addressed within the impact assessment community, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss more practical issues relevant for the development of SEA guidance.

E4 ■ Institutional frameworks for SEA: Searching for appropriate organisations

*Holger Dalkmann, Wuppertal Institute, Germany
Lone Kørnøv, Aalborg University, Denmark*

Having in mind that planning and decision making processes are not rational and linear, value free and technical processes only, central questions are raised in relation to the development and use of SEA. Different kind of SEA types and varied frameworks provide different opportunities for the integration of SEA processes and results. The workshop “Integration of SEA and Decision Making” held during IAIA o4 in Vancouver articulated a need for:

- *Mapping*—both the formal and informal decision making process
- *Actor involvement*
- *Organisational setup*—with strong intended exchange and learning elements

The paper “Search for Appropriate Organisations” will serve as a starting point for discussion on these issues. The main aim of the session is to focus on “hit factors” for SEA from the perspective of decision-making, actors' constellations and process organisation. This discussion will be based on the actual situation, where new SEA procedures often meet old decision-making structures with existing routines and formal as well informal processes.

Authors are invited to provide papers dealing with actual research as well as practical experience within decision-making processes in general and the organisational structure specifically.

E5 ■ Operating SEA knowledge centres

*Petrie van Gent, Netherlands Commission for EIA,
The Netherlands*

Strategic Environmental Assessment is an area in motion. First of all, there is still discussion on what SEA is (and what not) and on standards for good quality SEA. In some countries, there exists already a framework for SEA through legislation and regulations, and in other countries the introduction of SEA is still in its infancy. And having the legal conditions in place, then SEA should be applied in practice, but how do you design the process? And in countries without legal SEA requirements, it just emanates from EIA “with a broader view,” e.g., spatial plans and regional planning.

In this stage there is a large demand for knowledge and experiences, while trying to (further) develop SEA under different circumstances. Exchange of earlier experiences and information about ongoing work are an important means to facilitate this process. The IAIA congress in Prague offers a platform for an exchange on SEA developments. But what if you are not able to attend this or other SEA meetings? Then you depend on either personal or digital networks. During the Prague conference we will map out the role of SEA knowledge centres, where expertise and information is concentrated. We will discuss in how far these centres meet the needs, whether they are sufficiently accessible for different user groups and, where necessary, come up with concrete suggestions on how they can perform better.

E6 ■ Distance learning and e-learning in SEA

Gerard Brady, United Nations University, Tokyo

Brendan Barrett, United Nations University, Tokyo

The purpose of this session is to examine recent experience with the development of online learning materials on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The session will explore potential synergies between existing SEA e-learning initiatives internationally and regionally, and look at various methodologies designed to produce good quality distance and e-learning in SEA.

It is important to recognize a number of key challenges facing the SEA educational and training community. First, the emergence of SEA among the environmental management tools and evolving theoretical basis implies that the institutional frameworks to support SEA are somewhat fluid; although regulations are still developing and practical

experience is rather narrow (compared to say EIA), as a result, there is limited availability of relevant educational materials (online or otherwise). Second, online learning programmes present “content developers” with a significant number of challenges in terms of quality assurance, resources required and the need to respond to learner-teacher preferences for face-to-face teaching.

For e-learning on SEA to be engaging and successful, it would be required to overcome the above-mentioned constraints by exploring new and innovative approaches to teaching and learning that take advantage of information and communication technologies.

The session will seek to call on recent experience with the development of online and distance learning materials on SEA. Potential synergies between existing SEA e-learning initiatives internationally and regionally will also be explored, and there will be a focus on various methodologies designed to produce good, quality assured distance and e-learning on SEA.

E7 ■ Capacity Development Manual for the implementation of the Protocol on SEA

Nicholas Bonwoisin, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva

The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2001-2003. The Protocol was signed in May 2003 by thirty-six states and by the European Commission. Now, within the work plan of the Espoo Convention, a Capacity Development Manual is being developed to support the implementation of the Protocol. The Manual will provide comprehensive materials for use in activities planned to develop capacity in the practical implementation of the Protocol.

The draft Manual will be presented at the conference by the UNECE and the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the two main contributors to the work. The European Commission is providing technical support to the development of the Manual, as the Manual is seen as being of possible use to European Union Member States in their implementation of both the Protocol and the EU Directive on SEA. The European offices of WHO and UNDP are also actively involved in this work, the former in advising on the consideration of health in SEA, the latter in identifying capacity-building needs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Europe.

The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to comment on the draft Manual and to influence its eventual content, distribution and use.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Macroeconomic and Sectoral Reforms

Building on WB clients' experience and new directions

Objectives

- Raise awareness on the potential of SEA in supporting good development policy lending in Central European countries
- Identify key SEA resources and tools in the same set of countries
- Highlight commonalities and differences between WB and other financiers' approaches to SEA applied to macroeconomic and sectoral reforms

Rationale

Macroeconomic and sectoral budget support (which includes structural funds, adjustment operations and development policy lending) constitutes an increasing part of the World Bank portfolio and pipeline in Central Europe. These funds are meant to catalyze fundamental reforms and policy making in key sectors such as energy, forestry and water. On the side of the recipients, awareness of the potential benefits of SEA, as well as the capacity to initiate, inspire, manage and review SEA is often lacking and limits the development impacts of these SEAs. Some core principles for effective SEAs should be communicated to key decision and policy makers in the recipient countries, and this workshop is an opportunity to communicate these core principles and provide the audience with key pointers to help SEAs be more appropriate and effective on structural funds and development policy lending.

Target audience

- Specialists and policy makers from international financial institutions that work in Central Europe
- Staff from national and regional/sub-national authorities responsible for environmental planning, management and policy-making
- Parliamentarians and CEOs
- Private SEA consultants
- Professional trainers and university professors
- Other public and private donors funding programmatic reforms in Central Europe

Tentative schedule

8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Morning	WB development policy loans and their SEA requirements/practices
	Case studies
	Questions and answers and selection of issues for the group discussion
Afternoon	Breakout groups on the 3-4 issues identified
	Briefing from the rapporteurs
	Wrap up with a panel of four independent experts
6:00 pm	Cocktail

Registration

The World Bank Day event is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Please mark the indication of interest on the registration form (page 29). Registration for the World Bank Day will close when capacity for the main conference is reached.

Ways to participate and guidelines for contributions

Ways to Participate

- Submit an abstract to a specific session (A1-E7). *NOTE: Not all sessions will be able to accommodate presentation of papers, but all contribution abstracts will be considered for posters (see page 5, column 2). The guidelines for contributions are provided below.*
- Attend and contribute to the discussions; this is intended to be a totally interactive conference.
- Network during the breaks.

Guidelines for contributions

IAIA SEA Prague is a special event that aims to provide different opportunities for input other than the presentation of papers. The conference will seek to engage participants in professional debates through panel discussions, facilitated group work, selected papers and posters.

Contributions to the debate are welcome. They should address issues outlined in position papers* and may take one of the following forms:

- Responses to a position paper** that develop or critically evaluate one or more of the themes identified in the position paper.
- Commentary** that elaborates on what works well or what does not work well with regard to the SEA frameworks, processes, methods or other aspects directly relevant to the topic session.
- Case studies** that exemplify lessons of SEA good practice and are directly relevant to the topic session.

Format of the contribution abstracts

All contribution abstracts should be written in English and sent electronically in care of Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org).

In the subject line, write your last name and identify the specific session to which you wish to contribute: e.g., Brodney, E2. Contribution abstracts without the session identified by letter and number will be returned.

Place your text in the body of the e-mail message. Plain text only, please; no text enhancements or html. Do not send attachments.

In the body of the message, provide

- Your complete contact information
- 200-word abstract

If e-mail submission is not possible, fax to the HQ at +1 701 297 7917. Please send only once.

Reminder: All delegates, including presenters, must be registered, and registration is limited to the first 450 paid delegates.

Topic leaders are responsible for organising the individual sessions.

Timeline

May 15	Deadline for submission of proposed contributions
June 15	Topic leaders select contributions and together with stream coordinators suggest format and length of individual sessions.
July 15	Programme Committee agrees on the final agenda. Topic leaders are notified about the time available for their session and can finalise their sessions with the respective contributors. <i>All contributors will be notified by the topic leader whether their contribution has been accepted and the form in which the contribution is expected.</i>
August 15	Final agenda of IAIA SEA Prague disseminated by e-mail and posted on the conference web page.

IAIA reserves the right to cancel sessions based on the level of interest/potential participation.

**In cases where a position paper is not available, participants may respond to the presentation of the specific topic in the preliminary programme.*

Sponsorship opportunities

Information for sponsors

Not only do you demonstrate that your organization is environmentally conscious, but you also contribute to the improvement of impact assessment around the globe! Additionally, sponsors:

- Reach impact assessment practitioners from a wide variety of fields
- Network with 300+ conference participants
- Are recognized by IAIA members living and working in over 100 countries
- Open avenues of communication with impact assessment professionals
- Enhance their commitment to the environment

Join the growing list of organizations sponsoring IAIA SEA Prague. Contact Bridget John (bridget@iaia.org/ phone +1.701.297.7908) today for information on how to get involved!

To receive recognition in the final program, sponsorship must be confirmed by 1 July 2005. Names and logos will be posted on the IAIA SEA Prague web page as they are confirmed. For maximum exposure, contact IAIA early!

These are suggestions for potential sponsorship opportunities; please note that unrestricted contributions in any amount are appreciated and will be applied to improving the conference.

Food and beverage events	Euro
Opening reception	€8,500
Lunches (4)	€5,000 each
Coffee breaks (8)	€1,200 each
Conference dinner	€20,000

Printing	
Conference proceedings on CD-ROM	€6,000
Conference signage	€2,000

Venue support	
Exhibit room	€1,000
Equipment rental (audio-visual)	€5,000
Organizational support	€8,000
Local organization expenses	€23,000
IAIA Board travel stipends	€2,600

Other opportunities	
Concurrent sessions	€4,000
Delegate bags	€6,000

Sponsorship categories	Reef Sponsor €1,000-4,000	Island Sponsor €4,001-15,000	Continent Sponsor €15,001-40,000	Earth Sponsor More than €40,000
Name in final program and on sponsored item, if applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name on IAIA SEA Prague web page	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo in final program		✓	✓	✓
Complimentary conference registrations		1	2-4	5 or more
One-year subscription to <i>Impact Assessment & Project Appraisal</i>		✓	✓	✓
Recognition in the IAIA newsletter			✓	✓
Logo on IAIA SEA Prague web page			✓	✓
Recognition on conference signage, as available				✓
Organization's name included in conference publicity				✓

Delegate packet inserts

If you would like to distribute materials (brochures or flyers) in delegate packets, contact IAIA HQ for rates and information before August 1. All materials must be approved by IAIA prior to inclusion in the delegate packets.

International experience and perspectives in SEA

Attendance is limited to the first 450 PAID participants.
Registrations will be processed in the order in which they are received at IAIA HQ.

1 Delegate information

Please type or print neatly in BLOCK letters.

IAIA MEMBER ID#		TODAY'S DATE (DAY/MONTH/YEAR)	
FIRST NAME		LAST (FAMILY) NAME	
ORGANIZATION			
ADDRESS			
CITY			
STATE/PROVINCE		POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY
+ PHONE		+ FAX	
E-MAIL		@	
NAME OF YOUR HOTEL (THIS INFORMATION IS USED TO ESTIMATE ROOM BLOCKS IN UPCOMING YEARS AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED)			

2 Payment information

Amount Due: Euro 500

Note: credit card payment is preferred.

 VISA
 MASTERCARD

EXPIRATION DATE |__| |__| / |__| |__| (month/year)

PRINT NAME ON CARD

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

☐ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IN EUROS ENCLOSED.

4 Send registration and payment

BY MAIL
IAIA International Headquarters
1330 23rd Street South, Suite C
Fargo, ND 58103 USA

By FAX
+1 701 297 7917

QUESTIONS
+1 701 297 7908

3

Please check the session(s) you are most interested in attending.

- ☐ A1 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Africa
- ☐ A2 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Asia
- ☐ A3 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific
- ☐ A4 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Newly Independent States
- ☐ A5 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Europe
- ☐ A6 SEA in Latin America
- ☐ A7 Legal and policy frameworks for SEA in Canada and the U.S.
- ☐ A8 SEA in development cooperation
- ☐ A9 Transboundary SEA
-
- ☐ B1 SEA in Poverty Reduction Strategies
- ☐ B2 SEA practice in transport planning
- ☐ B3 SEA practice in energy management
- ☐ B4 SEA practice in water management
- ☐ B5 SEA practice in coastal zone management
- ☐ B6 SEA of agriculture, food policy and rural issues
- ☐ B7 Application of Regional-Sectoral Assessments (RSA) to Extractive Industries
- ☐ B8 Application of SEA to Policy or Institutional Reforms
-
- ☐ C1 SEA and sustainability appraisal
- ☐ C2 Integrated assessment and planning
- ☐ C3 SEA and environmental planning and management
- ☐ C4 SEA in spatial planning
- ☐ C5 SEA and landscape planning
- ☐ C6 SEA practice and biodiversity
- ☐ C7 SEA and EIA tiering: the missing link?
-
- ☐ D1 Data and scale issues in SEA
- ☐ D2 Public participation in SEA
- ☐ D3 Addressing Health in SEA
- ☐ D4 Assessment of cumulative impacts in SEA
- ☐ D5 SEA follow-up
- ☐ D6 SEA review
-
- ☐ E1 Professional and institutional capacity building for SEA
- ☐ E2 SEA theory and research
- ☐ E3 Developing SEA guidance
- ☐ E4 Institutional frameworks for SEA: Searching for appropriate organisations
- ☐ E5 Operating SEA knowledge centres
- ☐ E6 Distance learning and e-learning in SEA
- ☐ E7 Capacity Development Manual for the implementation of the Protocol on SEA

The following events are tentatively planned.
Please indicate your interest in attending:

- ☐ World Bank Day (26 September)
- ☐ Conference reception
- ☐ Conference dinner

Registration and fees

Attendance is limited to the first 450 paid participants. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis (i.e., in the order in which they are received at IAIA HQ).

The registration fee entitles delegates to the participants list, delegate packet, attendance at all sessions, coffee breaks, lunches, and special events, unless an additional fee is noted.

Registration fees should accompany the registration form. Fees are accepted by MasterCard or Visa. Credit card charges will be processed in the U.S. dollar equivalent of the Euro (€) and will appear on your credit card statement at the conversion rate of the day the charges were processed. Checks or money orders made payable to IAIA in Euros are also accepted.

Delegates will receive a receipt and conference pass by mail.

IAIA will refund registration fees upon written request received before 26 July 2005. A €50 processing fee will be retained. After 26 July no refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows. Substitutions for paid registrants may be made in writing without financial penalty. Refunds will be issued after the conference.

Registration fees will be returned uncashed if registration is received after attendance has reached capacity.

Logistical information

PragInt Travel Agency is coordinating logistical arrangements for the SEA Prague conference. Accommodations at selected hotels are available at specially reduced prices for conference delegates. Information on hotels, hotel reservations, transportation, sightseeing, excursions, car rentals and more is available through PragInt.

For information, contact PragInt at the contact details provided below, or go to www.pragint.cz and in the lower half of the web page, click the link “For IAIA-SEA Conference Services.” There you will find links for *PragInt Basic Information*, *Accommodations* for hotel information, *Transfers* for transportation, the *Conference Party* for information on the conference social event, *Sightseeing*, or the *PragInt Order Form* to make your reservations.

NOTE: Directions for travel between the hotel and conference venue are given for each hotel at the end of the entry for each hotel.

www.pragint.cz	PragInt Travel Agency, s.r.o.
	Prokopova 9
	130 00 Praha 3
	Czech Republic
	Phone: + 420 221 416 491
	Fax: + 420 224 224 246
	sea2005@pragint.cz

International experience and perspectives in SEA



International experience and perspectives in SEA is a special thematic conference of the **International Association for Impact Assessment**.

IAIA was organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all over the world.

IAIA members number over 2,500 and reside in over 100 countries. IAIA activities are carried out locally and regionally through its extensive network of Affiliates and Branches.

IAIA's Vision: IAIA is the leading global authority on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans, and projects.

IAIA's Mission: IAIA provides an international forum for advancing innovation and communication of best practice in all forms of impact assessment to further the development of local, regional, and global capacity in impact assessment.

IAIA's Values: IAIA promotes the application of the environmental, social, economic, cultural and health implications for proposals to be a critical contribution to sound decision-making processes, and to equitable and sustainable development.



1980 - 2005

Celebrate the Spirit of IAIA's 25th Anniversary!

International Association for Impact Assessment

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International experience and perspectives in SEA

26-30 September 2005

Prague, Czech Republic

Contribution abstracts deadline 15 May 2005