

# Solid Roots, Branching Out

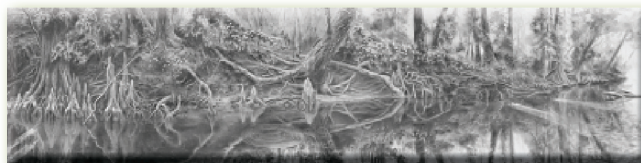
**T**racing family roots leads to discovery of things you did not know about the family, such as origins, ancestors, size of family and other interesting stories of the family. In the same vein, exploring roots of an organisation helps to discover new things and learn to improve yourself, your organisation and community. As roots of trees help them grow, knowing organisational roots helps to develop the organisation's principles, beliefs and goals which benefit members and strengthen a sense of belonging. Roots also help remind you of the purpose and strengthen, develop, coordinate and extend education and seek to broaden horizons in serving the organisation. Roots help an organisation to continue to thrive and expand its roots to new members.

The **International Association for Impact Assessment** (IAIA) traces its origin to a session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held 6 January 1981. Charlie Wolf, Fred Rossini and Alan Porter organized a session on "Integrated Impact Assessment." During that all-day meeting, discussion turned to forming an association to succeed the former International Society for Technology Assessment (ISTA).<sup>1</sup>

Over the next twelve months, those present proceeded to investigate what the association ought to be and to submit the requisite legal documents to establish a nonprofit educational association. They recognized the need to draw together individuals who practiced environmental assessment, social impact assessment, and technology assessment. Hence, they chose "impact assessment" as the generic umbrella term, and because they expected to draw a few members from Canada someday, they decided to include the word "international" in the name. Obviously, our founders had the foresight to plant a fruitful organization—but did not envision how far that seed would spread around the globe.

Successful roots eventually have branches, and our organisation has certainly branched out and is international in nature. We have affiliates, branches and sections. As of 31 December 2010, IAIA membership is represented in 110 countries and has 16 affiliates and branches. In the past year we branched out further when the Board approved the establishment of two new sections—cultural heritage and energy—and a new special interest group on climate change developed.

As part of IAIA's growth, it has held annual conferences for over 30 years, with an occasional interim special meeting in the mix. In 2010, IAIA was involved in three special meetings, reaching an even wider audience. Further growth was realized in 2010 with the implementation of new technology and communication tools for the organisation.



*"Ripple Effect" by Kelly Adams, USA<sup>2</sup>*

Yes, IAIA roots are strong and deep, and ongoing growth was evident in 2010. I look forward to the coming year to see how IAIA continues to grow deep and branch out to make impact assessment information, resources, and networks accessible and relevant to more and more professionals around the world.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan Allotey, IAIA President**

<sup>1</sup> Porter, "IAIA: The First Decade," *Impact Assessment Bulletin* 7(4): 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Photos in this report are from the IAIA "Inspired by Nature" contest.

## Rooted in Fargo

One question I often receive is "Why is IAIA's headquarters in Fargo?". When the previous executive, Maurice Voland (Belhaven, North Carolina, USA), retired in 1994, the IAIA Board issued an RFP to replace Maurie and house the growing office. Jennifer Howell and I submitted a proposal which was among the final three considered. At that time, I had been an active member of IAIA for over 10 years and had already made many lasting friends at IAIA conferences; consequently, Jenni and I had a lot of support in transplanting the headquarters of IAIA from North Carolina to North Dakota.

Fargo is a medium-sized high-tech service center located in the geographic center of North America, having a low cost of living among US cities and excellent flight connections with convenient access to major airport hubs. Fargo became recognized around the world when the movie *Fargo* was released in 1999. We would love to have you visit us so that we can show you our town and the HQ office! Oh, and just this year, The Weather Channel announced that Fargo was the "Toughest Weather City in the USA," so you might want to plan your visit accordingly.

With sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve you and IAIA,

**Rita R. Hamm, CEO**



*"Survival and adaptation to global changes"*  
by José-Luis Salazar-Mañez, Spain



*"Orcas lady in the tree" by Mary Fitzpatrick, USA*

## Branching Out

### Events

IAIA's 2010 annual conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in April. There were 595 delegates from 74 countries who gathered to discuss "Transitioning to the Green Economy." Through the generosity of Sida, Norway's Oil for Development program, GTZ, and SENSEA, 27 developing country delegates were able to attend IAIA10. Using funds voluntarily contributed by IAIA members toward capacity building, IAIA was also able to support two delegates from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as part of the Board's strategic initiatives to build SIDS capacity in impact assessment. Also at IAIA10, Rose-Hulman award winner Charlotte Bingham announced her contribution of seed money and matching funds for an IAIA capacity building endowment fund, challenging others to contribute, too. The fund will be used to train, educate, and network environmental professionals from developing countries who will then be better-equipped to make a difference in their home countries.

While annual conferences have been a mainstay of IAIA throughout its 30 years of existence, IAIA has on occasion held an additional regional and/or topical meeting. The first was in 1985, a special

North American Conference in Calgary, Canada, on "Impact Assessment and Resource Development." More recently, IAIA offered the IAIA SEA Prague (Czech Republic) Special Meeting in 2005, and the Cumulative Effects Assessment event in Calgary in 2008. This past year was unique because in 2010, IAIA was involved with three additional meetings within two months, further broadening IAIA's reach.

### **Special Symposia on Climate Change and Impact Assessment**

Recognizing the importance of linking impact assessment processes to climate change adaptation and mitigation, IAIA organized two special symposia on climate change and impact assessment. The first, hosted by Aalborg University in Denmark (25-26 October), brought 136 delegates from 24 countries, primarily from across Europe, with an emphasis on the use of SEA, case studies and tools to improve the application of impact assessment processes to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The second, organized by IAIA's Washington Area Branch and hosted by the World Bank in Washington, D.C., USA, (15-16 November), attracted 180 professionals from 28 countries, many from multilateral development banks and bilateral development institutions, as well as IA practitioners. Much of the emphasis of the Washington gathering was on how development banks and bilateral institutions are incorporating impact assessment processes into their climate change strategies, and what impact assessment professionals need to know to better apply their expertise to climate change adaptation and mitigation from the strategic to project level.

Summaries of the Washington, D.C., and Aalborg events are found on IAIA's website ([www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)) and include a set of key background documents and case studies, bios, power point presentations, and proceedings. For the D.C. symposium, YouTube videos ([www.youtube.com/iaiachannel](http://www.youtube.com/iaiachannel)) are available for the majority of presentations, providing an invaluable online resource for the impact assessment and climate change communities.

In addition to IAIA's Climate Change Special Interest Group (visit [IAIAConnect](http://IAIAConnect) to join), a smaller working group is currently preparing the "next step"

recommendations from the symposia, including development of a Principles of Best Practice Guide on the application of impact assessment to climate change, and efforts to reach non-IA professionals working in climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g., an initiative to create closer ties between the IA community and the insurance/reinsurance industry).



*"Natural Expression of Letter 'Y'" by Yun Yun, Malaysia*

### **Asia-Pacific Regional HIA Conference**

In November 2010, IAIA was a co-host of the 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Health Impact Assessment conference, held at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Lasting three days, the conference attracted 120 participants, half of whom were from outside New Zealand. NZAID supported a program to bring a group representing seven Pacific island countries to the conference, including a pre-conference day of workshops. In addition, country representatives of the South and East Asia Thematic Working Group on HIA, supported by WHO, attended the conference, so, together with large delegations from Thailand and South Korea, the conference was very much a regional Asia-Pacific event. But it was also a very successful meeting for local participants, consolidating the progress made with HIA in recent years in New Zealand, led by the HIA support staff of the Ministry of Health. Finally, while the focus of the conference was, of course, on HIA, the NZAIA, an IAIA affiliate, took the opportunity to run a workshop exploring links between HIA and other forms of impact assessment. Power-point presentations and podcasts of the plenary presentations will be made available on the IAIA website.

## New Media

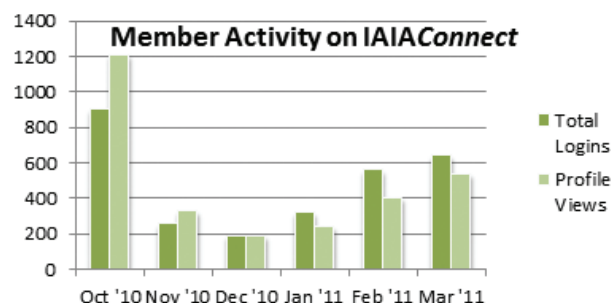
IAIA has been branching out in terms of technology and communication tools. Prior to IAIA10, IAIA launched a Facebook page and IAIAWiki. After IAIA10, we continued to build on IAIA's use of new media, including a new networking site and YouTube channel. The monthly e-newsletter was converted to HTML format to make it visually more appealing and user-friendly for readers. We have added new "traditional" media as well, with new key citations and other publications to benefit IAIA members. And one innovative outreach this year was the "Inspired by Nature" competition initiated and conducted by IAIA's Biodiversity and Ecology Section.

### IAIAConnect

On IAIA conference evaluations, the #1 conference benefit listed by respondents is consistently "networking." IAIA wanted to expand and enhance this benefit to all members, regardless of whether or not they are able to attend an IAIA conference. At the same time, the IAIA Sections wanted a system to replace the existing listservs. After exploring options and consulting the Sections, IAIA launched a new professional networking site in October 2010. While *IAIAConnect* replaces the basic communication function of the existing listservs, it offers much more to our members. So far, we have received some very positive feedback. In fact, some members have enjoyed "rediscovering" fellow members by seeing their profiles on *Connect* and reconnecting with them.

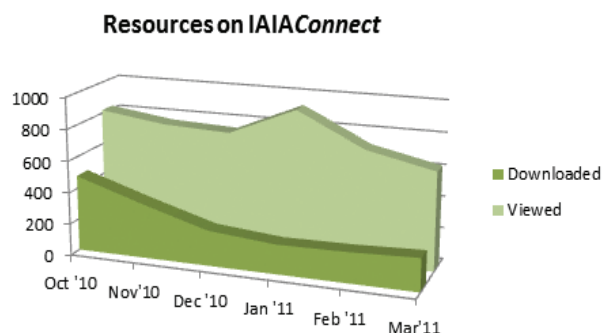
Unlike listservs, the messages and replies on *IAIAConnect* are archived and accessible, much like an electronic bulletin board. Members can upload resources, collaborate on wiki documents, and send messages directly to each other. If a member learns about an event that might be of interest to other IAIA members, it can be posted on the *IAIAConnect* calendar. Because *IAIAConnect* is integrated with our membership database, members can easily view each others' profiles, so it serves as a membership directory as well. Using the Member Matching feature, members can find other members with similar interests or expertise.

After the site was launched in October, there were 902 logins, and while there, members viewed 1,208 profiles of fellow members and posted 38 discussion topics. Activity decreased in November and December during the holiday season, but since December, there has been a steady increase in the use of the site.



As with the previous listservs, some groups on *IAIAConnect* are more active than others, but we look forward to increased activity as members have an opportunity to log in, explore, and discover new ways to engage and benefit from the features the site has to offer. Want to ask a question of all IAIA members, or get Section members' opinions on a topic? Log in at <http://iaiaconnect.iaia.org>, choose a group, and post your question.

Many resources have been added to *IAIAConnect* by IAIA HQ and by members. This seems to be a helpful feature of the site, as the resource descriptions have been viewed an average of 764 times per month, resources have been downloaded or opened an average of 272 times per month, and the potential for continued resource sharing is open to all.





*"Gem of Spreewald"  
by Renee Leahy, Canada*

### IAIA Channel

In April, 2011, IAIA launched its own YouTube channel, called IAIA Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/iaiachannel>). Currently, all of the video content from the Climate Change and Impact Assessment symposium in Washington, D.C., has been uploaded, and we will continue to upload content as it becomes available. IAIA will be looking at future events and activities with an eye toward what video outputs might be possible. In addition, an "IAIA Member Recommended" playlist is available, which links to videos suggested by fellow IAIA members. (To recommend an impact assessment related video, contact Bridget John, [bridget@iaia.org](mailto:bridget@iaia.org).)

### "Inspired by Nature" Competition

In honor of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, IAIA's Biodiversity and Ecology Section organized a competition to celebrate the diversity, value and beauty of life on earth. Sixty submissions were received from 51 individuals representing 25 countries. Of those submitting, 47 were neither current nor former IAIA members, so the competition certainly allowed IAIA to branch out and reach a new audience. There were two winners in each of the three categories (written, photography, and artwork), and those

works are posted on IAIA's website ([www.iaia.org/inspired-by-nature](http://www.iaia.org/inspired-by-nature)) and featured in a poster display at IAIA11 in Puebla. As you see, some of the submissions were selected to be highlighted in this report as well.

### Publications

This year, "Guideline Standards for IA Professionals" was finalized and published by the Training and Professional Development Committee as an update and replacement for "Guidelines for Lead IA Professionals" (2007). In addition, under the direction of Frank Vanclay, the Key Citations Editorial Group added four new Key Citations documents and updated two more:

- Gender and Gender Impact Assessment
- Health (updated)
- Impacts of Tourism
- Public Participation (updated)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Sustainability Assessment

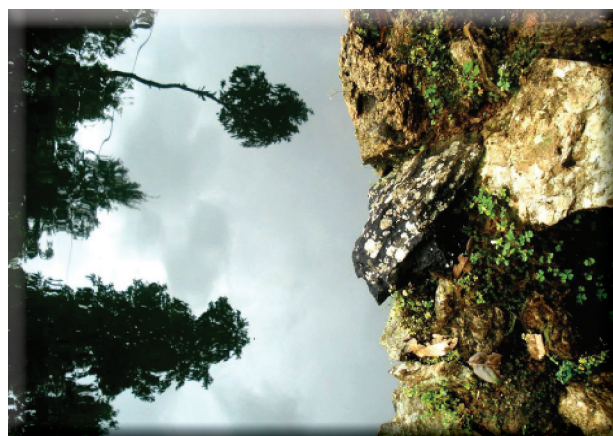
In preparing for IAIA12, IAIA is developing an on-line paper submission system that will ultimately streamline the process for authors and reviewers and allow papers to be made available more quickly on the IAIA website.



*"Nature Drawing Nature" by Bettina Reiber, UK*



*"Innocence of Galapagos by Renee Leahy, Canada*

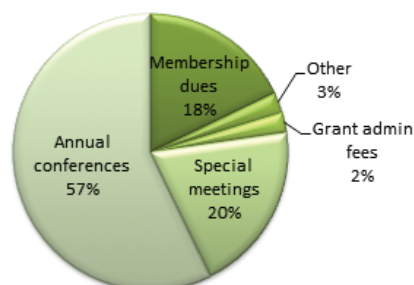


*"Edge of Pond" by Eufrazio Jr. Maratas, Philippines*

## Financial Report

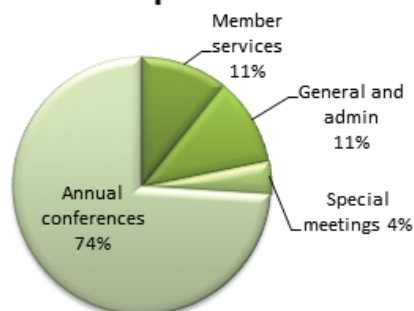
IAIA's financial situation continues to be sound, with a modest growth in assets over last year. At the end of IAIA's fiscal year (31 December 2010), total liabilities and net assets were US\$1,158,556 compared to US\$1,083,321 in 2009 and US\$1,110,026 in 2008. Despite the continuing unsettled global economic situation, IAIA had a small net income gain of \$38,169 compared to a net loss of \$25,448 in 2009, and a gain of \$11,006 in 2008. Our market gain in 2010 was \$28,891 compared to \$58,346 in 2009 and a loss of \$181,919 in 2008.

### 2010 Revenue



The chart above illustrates that the annual conference provided the bulk of IAIA revenue (57%). Annual conference revenue totaled \$467,490 and included registrations received in 2010 from IAIA09, IAIA10 and IAIA11 events. Meanwhile, \$163,983 of revenue came from special meetings and \$146,845 from membership dues.

### 2010 Expenses



## Membership

As of 31 December 2010, IAIA was represented by 1,297 members residing in 110 countries. The largest percentage of members live in North America (29%), followed closely by Europe (26%).

Annual conference expenses (which included expenses primarily from IAIA10 and IAIA11, with some from IAIA09 and IAIA12) amounted to \$603,262. Special meeting expenses for 2010 totaled \$33,533. Not all invoices for the three special meetings had been received by the end of 2010, so the financial outcome of those three special meetings remains uncertain. However, this financial diversification is encouraging, as the annual conference in 2009 represented roughly 74% of total revenue.

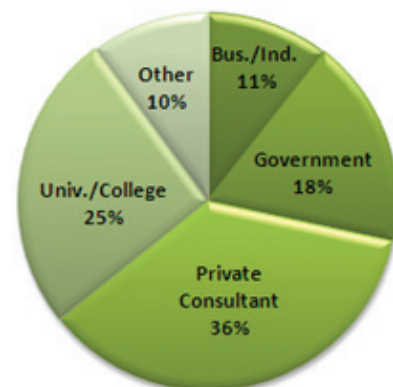
The increase in special meetings is part of IAIA's strategy to develop other sources of funds beyond those generated through membership dues and annual conferences. And, as with the annual conference, special meetings are heavily dependent on sponsorship revenue when determining whether or not they are financially profitable. Of course, the value of IAIA conferences and special meetings cannot be measured in financial terms alone; IAIA has received delegate feedback from each event which indicates that the content and networking experiences have been highly beneficial. They also help us build new membership.

IAIA's continued financial security and membership growth require focused attention and practical strategies to increase corporate sponsorship and special fundraising initiatives. At the heart of IAIA's fiscal discipline are headquarters staff members who review and track budget revenues and expenses. Their seasoned management of income and expenses, and well-honed skills in costing of conferences and proposals, have been key to keeping IAIA flourishing despite being buffeted by current global economic unpredictability. The staff deserves our sincere appreciation for their continued diligence and commitment.

**Weston Fisher, IAIA Treasurer**

Region	Members	Percent
Africa	210	16%
Asia	196	15%
Australia & Oceania	132	10%
Europe	343	26%
North America	373	29%
South America	43	3%
Total	1,297	100%
Countries Represented	110	

Based on those who have provided information requested on the membership directory forms, just over one-third (36%) of IAIA's members are private consultants or work for consultancy firms, while one-fourth are affiliated with a college or university. Federal, ministerial, state, and provincial government employees comprise 18% of IAIA's membership, while those from business and industry represent 11%. The remaining 10% consists of members from NGOs, conservation organizations, donor agencies, and world/regional banks.





*"Inspiration of the Dark"*  
by Tasdik Dip, Bangladesh

## 2010 Board of Directors

- **President** Jonathan Allotey, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
- **President-Elect** Stephen Lintner, World Bank, USA
- **Past President** Nick Taylor, Taylor Baines & Associates, New Zealand
- **Secretary** Júlio de Jesus, ECOSSISTEMA, Portugal
- **Treasurer** Weston Fisher, The Cadmus Group, USA
- **Director** Maya Gabriela Villaluz, World Bank, Philippines
- **Director** Lea den Broeder, RIVM, The Netherlands
- **Director** Nicholas King, GBIF, Denmark
- **Director** Jong-Gwan Jung, Chungnam Development Institute, Republic of Korea

## IAIA Affiliates

- Association for Environmental Assessment – Cameroon (ACAMEE) (pilot)
- Asociación Española de Evaluación de Impact Ambiental (AEEIA)
- Associação Portuguesa de Avaliação de Impactes (APAI)
- Association québécoise pour l'évaluation d'impacts (AQEI)
- Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment (EAAIA) (pilot)
- IAIA-Ghana
- IAIA-Italia
- IAIA South Africa (IAIAsa)
- IAIA Western & Northern Canada (IAIA-WNC)
- Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment (KSEIA)
- New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZIAIA)
- Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA)
- Mozambican EIA Association (AMAIA – Associação Moçambicana de Avaliação do Impacto Ambiental) (pilot)
- Impact Assessment Association Zambia (IAAZ) - pilot

## IAIA Branches

- Ireland-UK Branch
- Washington (DC) Area Branch

## International Association for Impact Assessment

International Headquarters

1330 23rd Street South, Suite C | Fargo, ND 58103-3705 USA

Phone +1.701.297.7908 | Fax +1.701.297.7917 | [info@iaia.org](mailto:info@iaia.org) | [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)

