

IAIA Annual General Meeting 2006

Wednesday, 24 May 2006 12:30 pm

Lindesnes A Stavanger Forum

Stavanger, Norway

Attendance: +/- 175

1. Welcome, introductions, and confirmation of 2005 AGM minutes.

President William Veerkamp opened the meeting and introduced current and incoming Officers and Directors. Veerkamp reviewed the agenda format, continuing the practice introduced in 2005 of presenting the majority of reporting in the annual report and using the AGM to present the prestigious Rose-Hulman Award and to address member questions and concerns. No changes to the agenda were requested. Members endorsed the minutes of the 2005 AGM by a majority show of hands.

IAIA2005/6: What have we done and where are we going? Veerkamp introduced the new and reader-friendly format of the annual report, themed to coordinate with the annual conference, and encouraged members to read it carefully and provide feedback on its content and readability. Veerkamp briefly highlighted major activities of the past year: a successful test of holding two conferences (Boston and Prague) in one year. Organizationally it was a challenge, but both conferences were very successful. No significant statistics are available yet on the new membership structure because the program is still too new. The web site will be undergoing a redesign, and a student poster award has been added to the conference poster competition.

3. Money matters: Is IAIA financially sound? Questions for the Treasurer. (See the annual report for financial overview.) In response to a member's question regarding IAIA's success in the financial aspect of the Strategic Action Plan, Treasurer Alan Kwok replied that IAIA has "survived" and is on the way to "prosperity." Veerkamp reiterated that IAIA is in a much better financial position than it has been the last couple of years.

4. IAIA Honors Excellence: The Rose-Hulman Award Ceremony. Awards Committee chair Jean-Roger Mercier introduced 2006 Rose-Hulman award recipient Bob Connelly.

Connelly spoke of the pressures on EIA processes to become more efficient, the key to improving the quality of EIA in the future, the effect EIA has had on decision making, the evolution of EA from project to strategic level, the value of EA as a tool of value in contributing to new policy initiatives, and the role of IAIA in contributing to the evolution of EIA and SEA.

5. Any debate? Items submitted in writing by members. No items were submitted.

6. Have Your Say: Informal discussion of matters that members wish to raise. Issues raised by members:

- Awareness that IAIA's journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal (IAPA)*, is available online to members.
- IAIA is working to get *IAPA* into the Social Science Citations Index. All members are encouraged and requested to cite *IAPA* in documents they publish elsewhere.
- *IAPA* is available in the members-only section of the IAIA web site, as are certain other resources and information. After lengthy debate, the members-only areas were created, among other reasons, to enhance the value of membership, protect member privacy and works in progress, and make available resources that require real funding to provide to members. The Board of Directors and the Publications Committee, which oversees the web site, recognize that it is a difficult balance between sharing information widely and managing member-privileged information and monetarily valuable resources.
- One result of the 2002 Task Force on Revenue and Diversification chaired by Maria Partidario has been investigating ways to increase revenue diversifications. The second conference in Prague was a successful experiment; other strategies to date have been less successful. Additional efforts such as the tiering of membership revenue are ongoing based on the report's recommendations.

7. Closing remarks. Veerkamp noted that the Council meeting also provides an opportunity for members to raise issues or concerns. Veerkamp thanked outgoing Board members and closed the meeting at 1:30pm.