



NEWSLETTER

■ INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMING UP ...

IAIA106-11 APRIL 2010
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**IN THIS ISSUE**Professional News **1, 2, 7, 8**From the President **2**IAIA10 Info & Updates **3**Affiliate & Branch News **4**Feature Photo **6**Members in the News **6**Resources **7**IAIA Matters **9****OECD SEA TASK TEAM FOCUSES ON EFFECTIVE USE OF SEA**

ENVIONET, a committee of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, addresses matters pertaining to development assistance and environment. Within ENVIONET is the OECD Task Team on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which focuses on how SEA can be used more effectively in development cooperation. In 2006, the Task Team developed "Applying SEA: Good Practice Guidance for Development Cooperation." This publication has been supported by four "advisory notes" on SEA application to ecosystem services, disaster risk reduction, climate change, and post conflict. An advisory note on biofuels and SEA is now being developed. Two successful SEA "road shows" have been run for senior decision makers in Vietnam and Zambia, with one being planned for Tanzania. Other OECD SEA Task Team projects currently underway include SEA Quality Improvement Criteria, SEA in Practice in Development Cooperation, Input into the Copenhagen Climate Change conference, Input into the OECD's Green Growth Strategy, and Input into SEA capacity development in SEA for West African countries.

A meeting was held in Washington, DC, to address the ongoing and planned work of the Task Team. For further information, contact **Peter Croal** at Peter.Croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca or visit www.seataskteam.net.

■ **PETER CROAL** | CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY | PETER.CROAL@ACDI-CIDA.GC.CA**COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING**

The prevalence of sustainability reporting is growing. It has converged around the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework. Discussions with over 90 attendees during ten GRI-certified short courses in Canada and the USA between January and July 2009 identified common reporting drivers, but also misperceptions and related reporting barriers. These are associated with (a) the sheer number of Performance Indicators and poor understanding about how these can be pared down; (b) declaration of Application Level (A, B, C, '+') and associated Third Party/GRI Checks which does not constitute an opinion on accuracy or quality of the data in the report; and (c) the meaning, application and limitations of assurance. An article discussing these misperceptions was recently published in a mining magazine, which is available upon request and is also posted at <http://www.prizmasolutions.com/Resources.html>.

■ **MEHRDAD NAZARI** | PRIZMA | MEHRDAD@PRIZMASOLUTIONS.COM**THE QUEST FOR CAUSALITY**

Recent research conducted primarily at Oxford Brookes University (IAU/ OISD) examined the expression of causality—the relationship between causes and effects—in impact assessment (EIA & SEA).

To understand causality, we must know the causes and nature of the action, what is likely to be modified, what will change (the effects), and the direction of the causality (what is causing what). The research has found that causality is frequently described in impact assessment documents, but semantics analysis reveals discontinuity in the cause-effect links, vagueness as to who is causing what to whom, etc. These findings suggest that current impact assessment practice is not adequately explaining causality and documents may be less transparent than they could be.

Causal diagrams can conceive and communicate causality clearly, efficiently and unambiguously. Such diagrams can also be transformed into other communication means such as text. I wish to hear from others interested in this matter and who may be willing to experiment with the use of causal diagrams in impact assessment.

■ **ANASTÁSIO PERDICOÚLIS** | OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY | PERDICOULIS@BROOKES.AC.UK

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Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nick Taylor

**In the aftermath
of Copenhagen,
how can we
look to apply IA
effectively to
climate change
mitigations and
adaptations?**

With networking at the heart of IAIA activities, we are often involved in meetings to conduct IAs, exchange ideas, develop approaches and simply to be collegial. Meetings are on all sorts of scales, from our large annual meeting that moves around the world to regional and national meetings, thematic meetings and local forums. I just returned from the New Zealand Association affiliate (NZAIA) annual meeting at Papamoa Beach, Tauranga. We met in the surf club overlooking a stunning beach. Our theme was "Changing landscapes: impacts of regional economic development" – a topical theme in this rapidly growing coastal city. Presentations were stimulating and discussions vigorous. This small, informal gathering is a highlight for NZAIA each year and happens because of a small, hardworking group of volunteers. An objective of our meeting is to bring different disciplines together on a single issue in an integrated approach.

At the recent IAIA Board meeting in Stockholm, we considered strategies for IAIA and actions for the next year. Outreach of IA, along with recruitment and retention of members, is a key organisation focus. We continue to encourage the development of local affiliates along with local meetings, important activities that members can drive themselves. The Board also considers that greater integration of the different forms of impact assessment is a key strategic objective, one where a vital step is members getting together to discuss the concepts, methods and practicalities of integration.

Another key strategy is for timely engagement of the association around topical issues. For example, in the aftermath of Copenhagen, how can we look to apply IA effectively to climate change mitigations and adaptations? IAIA is planning two seminars for later next year around this topic, one in Washington, DC, and one in Denmark. Meanwhile, planning is progressing on IAIA10 in Geneva, our exciting annual meeting. Keep an eye out for updates on these meetings in eNews and the IAIA Web site.

■ **NICK TAYLOR** | TAYLOR BAINES & ASSOCIATES | N.TAYLOR@TBA.CO.NZ

CLIMATE PLEDGE TRACKER COMPARES NATIONS' CO2 EMISSIONS LIMITS

Anywhere that people can go online they can trace the proposals and plans of countries to combat climate change through an online climate pledge tracker website newly established by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Launched during the UN climate summit in Copenhagen, the tracker is constantly updated. It compares and consolidates all the national pledges made to date. The tracker currently has pledges and proposals from 25 countries plus the European Union's 27 member states. Eleven of the 25 countries are developing economies ranging from China and India to Costa Rica and the Maldives. The tracker includes recent proposals from countries such as South Africa, India and Kazakhstan.

UNEP Executive Director **Achim Steiner** says the climate pledge tracker was created with the aim of getting the world to stabilize atmospheric greenhouse gases at concentrations that will keep the planet cooler than a two degree Celsius rise in temperature compared to pre-industrial levels.

"Experts estimate that what is needed is to bring emissions of greenhouse gases down to 44 billion tonnes (44Gt) of CO2 equivalent by 2020 in order to give the world a 50 percent chance of meeting that temperature target," Steiner said. After 2020, emissions need to be cut to 16 billion tonnes (16 Gt) of CO2 equivalent in 2050. The tracker currently estimates that if the most ambitious existing pledges were fully implemented, with financial support for developing economies, the world might achieve emissions reductions of 47.5 billion tonnes by 2020. This indicates a gap of around 3.5 billion tonnes. The figure, which has a margin of error of plus or minus two billion tonnes, is within the range of a study, released by the British economist Lord **Nicholas Stern** and UNEP on December 6, 2009, indicating that the gap is between one billion and five billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent. The tracker also looks at the emissions reduction pledges up to 2050 when scientists estimate that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be down to 16 billion tonnes (16 Gt) of CO2 equivalent.

The tracker can be found at <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2009/2009-12-30-01.asp>. ■ Source: Excerpt from Environment News Service, 30 December 2009, <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2009/2009-12-30-01.asp>.

Register Early for IAIA10

The importance of early registration cannot be emphasized enough. From savings on your registration fee, airline ticket, and hotel room to fast and convenient check-in, ensuring the presenter you came to hear is on-site and allowing organizers to order appropriate catering, early registration ensures a better and more enjoyable conference for all.

Registration is open now! See www.iaia.org to register online, or mail or fax the form in the preliminary program today.

IAIA10 Sponsorship Invited

Sponsorship demonstrates your environmental conscience to delegates from around the world while you contribute to the improvement of impact assessment locally and globally.

IAIA10 opportunities include social functions, lunches, technical visits, coffee breaks, publications and more.

If you or your company are interested in sponsoring IAIA10, or if you have a suggestion for a company that might be interested, please contact **Bridget John** at IAIA HQ (bridget@iaia.org | phone +1.701.297.7912).

Hotels: Book Early!

Book early to ensure your first choice of hotel and to take advantage of low conference rates. See <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/hotel-information.aspx> or pages 32-33 of the preliminary program for information.

Find a Roommate

At the request of a number of IAIA members, IAIA offers a "Find a Roommate" network for conference delegates who are interested in sharing a hotel room with another delegate to help reduce expenses. Log in to the IAIA member pages at www.iaia.org and click Find a Roommate for more information.

Work continues on preparations for IAIA10

The call for proposals for sessions, papers and posters closed at the end of August, and after much hard work by the Program Committee, the preliminary program has been published on the Web site and sent to the printer. Thanks to all those who have shown interest with the large number of submissions, and especially to the session chairs who have completed the paper abstract review process.

While authors work hard on preparing their manuscripts, the IAIA10 sector chairs are also preparing for exciting and stimulating theme forums on the role of impact assessment in the transition to the Green Economy in the five sectors.

The vice-Mayor of Geneva, **Sandrine Salerno**, has enthusiastically agreed to welcome you to Geneva during the opening plenary, together with UNEP's Executive Director, **Achim Steiner**, and we are also hoping to confirm one or two other high-level keynote speakers shortly.

When you look at the preliminary program, don't forget to check out the diverse technical visits, mostly with a "green" character and reflecting environmentally-oriented businesses and activities, that we have organized with the assistance of Geneva Tourism.

Remember also to book your hotel as soon as possible, if you have not already done so, as the preferential rates that are on offer on the roughly 1,000 rooms in almost 30 hotels may run out.

We continue to look for interesting sponsorship opportunities to support IAIA10. In addition, efforts are being made to secure broad participation from the wide array of international organizations with offices here.

I look forward to welcoming you to Geneva for IAIA10.

■ **HUSSEIN ABAZA** | CHAIR,
IAIA10 PROGRAM COMMITTEE
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6-11 April 2009
Geneva, Switzerland

See the IAIA10
preliminary program
online at
www.iaia.org/IAIA10.

IAIA10

FAQS, TIPS AND REMINDERS

Registration. Register early, even if you have to pay on-site. That way your name tag and delegate materials will be ready when you arrive. Check the final program for registration desk hours. You can avoid long lines by checking in the afternoon prior to your training course, technical visit, or the opening plenary, then have plenty of time to familiarize yourself with the convention center and surrounding neighborhood.

New to IAIA? Plan to attend the "Welcome to IAIA" session to gain valuable insight into the workings of IAIA and discover the ways to make the most of your membership. The IAIA Council and Annual General Meetings also provide opportunity for questions and feedback to the Board of Directors.

Final program. The final program will be distributed in hard copy at registration check-in. The final program and discussion papers will be posted online prior to the conference (by approximately 18 March). To make the most of your conference experience, take time before your arrival in Geneva to read through these materials, plan your conference schedule and prepare questions for speakers.

Join in and meet new people. You will get as much out of this event as you put into it! The conference offers many professional and social activities. Plan to attend as many as you can fit into your week in Geneva, and you will find your efforts well rewarded with new contacts and friends.



Some members of the Scientific Committee (from left): Vittorio Ingegnoli, Domenico Patassini, Virginio Bettini, Giuseppe Magro.

FIRST MEETING OF IAIA-ITALIA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HELD

On 20 November, **IAIA-Italia** hosted the first meeting on the project "Implementation of New National Guidelines for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)", launched by the Italian Affiliate (see October 2009 Newsletter, page 7).

During the morning, the IAIA-Italia Scientific Committee met to define the objectives and the operational steps of the project, while in the afternoon an open discussion was carried out between the Committee and SEA professionals from local authorities and local environmental agencies.

The main outcome of the meeting is that a standard and scientifically-based methodology in Italy is going to be developed; all the attendees agreed about the need for rigorous, scientific, advanced and clear tools, which may lead to a shared and effective analysis procedure to be applied to specific environmental contexts.

These considerations lead to the main goal of the project: to produce a document which should focus not just on guiding principles, but should provide a specific practical guidance to SEA practitioners.

This SEA "manual" will be tested during the third year of the project on specific case studies on the Italian territory.

The project will be carried out jointly by a national and an international panel of SEA experts, who accepted an invitation to participate and give their important contributions to the implementation of the Guidelines. These experts include **Olivia Bina, Ben Cave, Thomas Fischer, Paola Gazzola, Tadhg O'Mahony, Maria Partidario, Iñigo Sobrini, Riki Therivel, and Francesca Viliani**. The panel is chaired by **Larry Canter** and **Leonard Ortolano**.

The project will be presented in several IAIA-Italia meetings, which will take place in different Italian regions, while IAIA10 in Geneva may be the occasion for the international panel to meet directly to discuss the project.

We look forward for any contribution IAIA members would give; please contact info@iaiaitalia.org.

■ **STEFANIA PELLEGRINI** | SEGRETERIA NAZIONALE IAIA-ITALIA SEGRETERIA@IAIAITALIA.ORG

WHO/EUROPE 5TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH ORGANIZED

IAIA PROPOSES A SIDE EVENT ON "PROTECTING AND IMPROVING HUMAN HEALTH THROUGH STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT"

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, organized by WHO/Europe and hosted by Italy, will take place in Parma from 10-12 March 2010.

The conference will focus on protecting children's health in a changing environment and will drive Europe's agenda on emerging environmental health challenges for the next years.

In this context, IAIA, in collaboration with the **IAIA-Italia** Affiliate, has proposed a side event that will present recent developments for addressing health in SEA in Europe.

The workshop, hosted by IAIA and called "Protecting and Improving Human Health through Strategic Environmental Assessment," is expected to run for about 90 minutes and would promote discussion and debate.

During the event, participants will be encouraged to examine emerging guidance and to see how health in SEA is working in practice.

IAIA's preliminary proposal includes a presentation on international experiences and frameworks for health impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, presented by **Ben Cave**

and **Francesca Viliani** for IAIA and **Nicholas Bonvoisin** for UNECE, and an exposition by **Marco Martuzzi** and **Julia Nowacki** of WHO Rome on the recent work from the World Health Organization to include and address health in strategic environmental assessment and how this can contribute to improvements in policy and in governance.

A last focus will address the project promoted by IAIA-Italia regarding the inclusion of health impact assessment in the New National Italian SEA Guidelines, which the Italian Affiliate is working on (**Giuseppe Magro, Virginio Bettini, and Marco Sumini** for IAIA-Italia).

We will conclude with a facilitated plenary: "Opportunities for Improving Health" by **Clive Needle**, EuroHealthNet.

We expect WHO to notify us by the end of January regarding whether our proposal is accepted. We encourage anyone who is interested to contact **Ben Cave** (ben.cave@bcahealth.co.uk) or **IAIA-Italia** (segreteria@iaiaitalia.org) and to look for follow-up on IAIA's Web site.

■ **BEN CAVE**

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CALL FOR CONFERENCE HOSTS

Are you interested in hosting a future IAIA annual conference in your country?

The Board evaluates many factors including location; proposed theme in relation to the IAIA mission, vision and values; quality of the proposal; and potential financial outcome. Contact **Rita Hamm** at IAIA HQ (rita@iaia.org) to express your interest and receive information on preparing an effective proposal.

CONSIDERING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN IA

The Ireland & UK Branch of IAIA held a joint event with the Met Office on 8 October to look at how climate change adaptation is currently considered in IA and how this could be improved in the future. The event was held in Exeter at the headquarters of the Met Office. The Met Office is comprised of world-leading experts who, to help government and public services, make strategic decisions about weather and climate change impacts and are a significant contributor to the global understanding of climate change.

Through the day, conference delegates explored the three themes: 1) The UK's approach to adapting to the changing climate, 2) Environmental assessment and climate change adaptation, and 3) Topic-specific issues and climate change adaptation. The first session included presentations from leading experts in the climate

change adaptation. Following coffee with active discussion amongst delegates on the need to ensure that climate change adaptation is given due weight in policy and plan making and project consent decisions was the second session, looking at how environmental assessment is currently considering climate change adaptation began. During a late lunch, delegates were able to take a tour of the Met Office and see their new £30million super-computer which will eventually be able to perform a trillion calculations per second, thus improving their already-impressive weather and climate modeling capacity. The afternoon session focused on how climate change is likely to impact three specific topic areas: flood risk, ecology, and health. The day ended with questions and discussion about the need to move from a small number of examples of how IA practice considers cc adaptation to a much greater uptake in all aspects

of IA. Feedback from the event indicated a desire from practitioners to have advice and guidance in this area, which will hopefully be satisfied, in part, by forthcoming guidance in Scotland on SEA and an indication that the European Union (EU) plans to produce CC Guidance for EIA and SEA during 2011.

The Ireland & UK Branch would like to thank the Met Office and all of the speakers. Special thanks go to **Martin Broderick** and his team at Golder Associates, who kindly sponsored the event and managed the delegate bookings.

All the presentations from this conference are available to download from www.iaia.org/affiliates-branches/irelanduk-branch.aspx.

■ JOSH FOTHERGILL

INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT
(IEMA) AND CHAIR OF IAIA'S
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KSEIA, VAFEIA HOLD WORKSHOP

On 21 August 2009, the Korean Society of Environmental Impact Assessment (KSEIA) and the Vietnam Association for Environmental Impact Assessment (VAFEIA)

experts held a second workshop in Hochiminh City to develop environmental impact assessment. The first workshop was held in Hanoi on 7 December 2007.

Prof. Dr. **Jong Ho Lee**, president of KSEIA, and Prof. Dr. **Le Trinh**, president of VAFEIA, ensured collaboration on more accessible environmental research to cope with critical environmental matters.

During the workshop, KSEIA and VAFEIA shared professional experiences. Korea introduced ten articles of current environmental issues and Vietnam presented five. Later they will publish ten or fifteen papers as a "Journal of EIA" in KSEIA. Two groups explored the Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve and Mekong River before and after the workshop.

■ **MYUNGJIN KIM** | NATIONAL
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Workshop delegates included (from left to right): Le Dang Hoan, Executive Committee of VAFEIA; Pham Khang, General Secretary of VAFEIA; Phung Chi Sy, member of VAFEIA; Nguyen Khac Kinh, Vice President of VAFEIA; Le Trinh, President of VAFEIA; Jong Ho Lee, President of KSEIA; Le Thac Can, Executive Committee of VAFEIA; John-Gwan Jung, Vice President of KSEIA; Myungjin Kim, Vice President of KSEIA; Dong Phong, Executive Committee of VAFEIA.

Mark Your Calendar

IAIA AND AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

Impact Assessment in Policy and Practice. A gathering of professionals to consider and discuss aspects of impact assessment in central and local government policy development and service delivery. Every 4th Tuesday of the month. Wellington, New Zealand. <http://www.nziaia.org.nz/Library/WellingtonForum/Wellington.htm>

IAIA10. Transitioning to the Green Economy: Contributions of Impact Assessment. 6-11 April 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. www.iaia.org/iaia10/.

Climate Change and Impact Assessment Special Symposia. 25-26 October 2010 in Aalborg, Denmark. 15-16 November 2010 in Washington, DC, USA. www.iaia.org

OTHER IA EVENTS

The Future of Cities. 8-9 February 2010. London, UK. <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/cities2010/?campaign=earthscan>

ENERGY INDABA 2010: A Time for Innovation, Solutions and Alternatives. 24-26 February 2010. Sandton, South Africa. <http://www.energyafricaexpo.com/>

Improving Environmental Quality in Developing Countries. 1-5 March 2010. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. https://vniceporm.com/Home_Page.php

World Urban Forum 5: The Right to the City-Bridging the Urban Divide. 22-26 March 2010. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

GLOBE 2010. 24-16 March 2010. Vancouver, Canada. <http://www.globe2010.com/>

6th International Congress and Exhibition on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources for South East Europe. 14-16 April 2010. Sofia, Bulgaria. http://www.viaexpo.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=40&lang=en

FEATURE PHOTO

"SCOPING MEETING TURNOUT"

by **PIUS KAHANGIRWE**



I am currently working on an EIA for the Kabompo Hydro Power Project in Solwezi and Mwinilunga Districts (Zambia.) On 9 November 2009, 467 people turned up for the scoping meeting at Kanyikezhi Primary School. I was amazed by the number of people and their interest in EIA; I have never seen it anywhere. The turnout was due to excellent mobilisation of local communities by the consultant/client, good publicity, and willingness to learn and share information by all parties, especially the developer.

■ **PIUS KAHANGIRWE** | WSS SERVICES (U) LTD. | KPUIRS@GMAIL.COM / PIUS.KAHANGIRWE@YAHOO.COM

WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE PHOTO

Please send your favorite photo of an IA-related project as a high resolution TIFF (minimum 4"x6" 300 dpi), together with a description of the photo, to jen@iaia.org. Select photos will be featured in upcoming newsletters!

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DANNY REINKE

As the saying goes, "IAIA is IAIA through its members." Special thanks to IAIA member **Danny Reinke**, who developed the CD of proceedings for the November 2008 IAIA special topic meeting on Assessing and Managing Cumulative Environmental Effects.

Danny's time and effort, as well as the sharing of his expertise, are truly appreciated, and have resulted in a valuable resource for IAIA members and the public.

Meeting proceedings can be viewed online at <http://www.iaia.org/iaia08calgary/plenaries.aspx>, or the CD can be requested from IAIA HQ (info@iaia.org).

Have you or an IAIA member you know recently made news, celebrated a promotion, retired, or completed a major project?

Please send the information to the newsletter and share it with the IAIA community!

CLIMATE CHANGE, PEAK OIL AND HIA

Recent estimates suggest that 300,000 people are currently dying each year as a result of climate change and that some 500 million are extremely vulnerable. Governments are moving towards a planned reduction in GHGs emissions of at least 80% by 2050. It is unlikely that this reduction is sufficient to ensure that concentrations remain below the unacceptable risk threshold. There is growing evidence that the production of conventional oil is peaking. This implies that in a growing economy there will be less oil available each year than the year before.

Climate change and peak oil interact in an unfortunate way. As oil becomes more scarce, unconventional sources are exploited such as the tar sands in Canada. The unconventional sources require a much higher emission of greenhouse gases in order to exploit them. For example, 10 times as much CO₂ is emitted to obtain a barrel of oil from tar sands as is required for conventional Saudi oil. So peak oil accelerates climate change.

There are no credible alternative sources of energy to fossil fuels. We are faced with the need to reduce our energy consumption individually, communally, nationally and globally. Every new policy, programme, project, or plan that is in preparation today will have to operate under increasing energy constraint.

This has many implications for impact assessment in general and health impact assessment in particular. We are at an early stage in understanding the implications. We held a workshop at the IAIA conference in Ghana this year. There will be opportunities for discussing the issues at the IAIA annual conference in Geneva next April. There are many health co-benefits of energy constraint but also many risks and challenges. The very act of attending an international meeting produces GHGs emissions. For example, a flight halfway round the world is equivalent to about 5 tonnes of CO₂ per individual which is greater than a reasonable per capita annual emission. What kind of rationing and offsetting are needed?

■ **MARTIN BIRLEY** | BIRLEY.HIA | MARTIN@BIRLEYHIA.CO.UK
SOURCE: HIA QUARTERLY, OCTOBER 2009

ARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE AT "TIPPING POINT"

A new report says Arctic climate change is happening faster than anyone anticipated and may soon be forcing more rapid warming on the rest of the planet. "It is a tipping point," said Craig Stewart of the World Wildlife Fund, which released the report. The report is an attempt to update the work of scientists involved in the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as world leaders prepare to gather in Copenhagen in December to discuss how to deal with the problem. The conclusion of many of those same top researchers is that changes are occurring much more quickly—especially in the Arctic—than was believed even two years ago. "We thought by 2050, multi-year [sea] ice would be cut in half," said Mr. Stewart from Ottawa. "Well, it happened in 2007."

Stewart said it's sometimes tough to get people to connect the dots between a collapsing ice shelf at the other end of the planet and their morning weather forecast. But the Arctic's influence on the south is both real and only imperfectly understood, he says. "It's not all about warming, it's all about change — weather change. It will make life more unpredictable and more expensive."

Stewart said the report, peer-reviewed and written by some of the world's top climate researchers, is intended to inform the debate leading up to the Copenhagen meeting. Members of the world's 20 leading economies meet later this month to try to hammer out financial commitments to deal with climate change. For more information, see <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/arbuildingthescience.html>. The report may be downloaded at http://assets.panda.org/downloads/final_climateimpact_22apr08.pdf. ■ Excerpt from Bob Weber, *The Canadian Press*, 2 September 2009. Source: WNC Newsletter.

Reference: Methods review book

Environmental Methods Review: Retooling Impact Assessment for the New Century is now available for free download at www.iaia.org/publications/. According to the introduction, this 1998 book, edited by Alan L. Porter and John J. Fittipaldi, "is about 'methods'—the tools and techniques of environmental assessment (EA) and impact assessment (IA)."

Resource: Code of Ethics translations

IAIA's Vision, Mission and Values, including the Code of Ethics, is available for download in Russian and Portuguese at <http://www.iaia.org/aboutiaia.aspx>. Thanks to Marina Khotuleva and her staff and IAIA-Portugal (APAI) respectively for the translation work.

Reference: What Is Impact Assessment

This short (4-page) document defines the role and value of impact assessment (IA), including all disciplines, and explains how IA relates to decision-making. It is written for technical people unfamiliar with IA, for decision makers on the fringes of IA, and for people new to this field. The document is available in English in hard copy from IAIA HQ and is free for downloading in English and Portuguese at <http://www.iaia.org/publications/>. Thanks to Júlio de Jesus for coordination of the document and IAIA-Portugal (APAI) for the translation work.

Reference: EIA and Monitoring in Aquaculture

(Food and Agriculture Organization, Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 527. FAO, Rome.) This publication focuses on the relevant regulatory requirements, practice and effectiveness and suggested improvements, drawing for information in 35 countries. The report includes four regional reviews each from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America/North America, a special study on EIA applied to salmon aquaculture, and the Report of the Technical Workshop on EIA and Monitoring held at FAO, Rome, in September 2008. See www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0970e/i0970e00.htm for more information or to download the document.

★ **PATRICK DUFFY** | PJBUFFY@ASSOCIATES | PJDUFFY@SHAW.CA

Resource: Wetland Assessment Toolkit

Developed through case studies in Cambodia and Tanzania, *An Integrated Wetland Assessment Toolkit: A Guide to Good Practice* presents a process for integrated wetland assessment, bridging for the first time the disciplinary divides between the development, economic and conservation sectors. The toolkit provides a set of practical and policy-relevant methods for information collection which can be used by those involved in wetland conservation and development planning. See <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2009-015.pdf> to download the document.

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Resource: SIA bibliography

A database with bibliographical data on the subject of Social Impact Assessment, initially compiled by Frank Vanclay, is available online at <http://www.iaia.org/sia-bibliography/index.aspx>.

THE MOST RADICAL IDEAS ON EARTH MIGHT JUST SAVE IT

Unless greenhouse-gas emissions drop drastically, efforts to save the planet could depend on controversial technologies that directly manipulate the environment, according to a report by Britain's top science academy.

The study released Tuesday examines geoengineering, a potentially dangerous and unproven branch of climate science that proposes large-scale interference with nature. Examples include sending thousands of gigantic mirrors into space to reflect sunlight away from the Earth, propelling dust or other particles into the stratosphere to mimic the cooling effect of volcanoes and fertilizing the ocean by scattering iron to boost carbon-absorbing plankton.

"The global failure to make sufficient progress on mitigation of climate change is largely due to social and political inertia, and this must be overcome if dangerous climate change is to be avoided," says the report by the Royal Society. "If this proves not to be possible, geoengineering methods

SENDING GIGANTIC MIRRORS INTO SPACE AND SCATTERING IRON IN THE OCEAN ARE EXAMPLES OF LARGE-SCALE CLIMATE INTERVENTIONS URGED BY KEY STUDY

may provide a useful complement to mitigation and adaptation if they can be shown to be safe and cost effective."

The report arrived ahead of a United Nations conference on climate change in Copenhagen in December, where world leaders discussed a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. The study takes pains to stress that geoengineering technologies are not a panacea for global warming.

Manipulating the environment so aggressively and intentionally is considered irresponsible by some scientists and environmentalists, who both fear geoengineering would give people licence to continue polluting and that it could lead to harmful unintended consequences. For example, using mirrors in space would cause the sun's light to flicker and shooting

particles into the upper atmosphere could damage the ozone layer.

The study, called "Geoengineering the Climate," recommends increased financial support for research into geoengineering to determine whether effective measures can be developed to slow Earth's warming.

"It's important to do the research now so that if these ideas really are bad that we know they're bad and in a situation of crisis nobody would decide to deploy them," said **Ken Caldeira**, a climate scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. "On the other hand, if they really do ... reduce suffering, then it would be a mistake not to take advantage of that opportunity."

David Keith, an expert in the field at the University of Calgary, said merely talking about geoengineering has been nearly taboo in scientific circles

over the past 15 years. However, he said it is "becoming less controversial by the hour" because of increased attention to the seriousness of climate change and reports such as yesterday's.

"The science is very weak and that's exactly why we think research is needed. That's the key point, because of the taboo, there's been so little research on this topic," he said.

The report notes that global warming will likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius this century unless worldwide greenhouse-gas emissions fall by at least 50 per cent of 1990 levels by 2050, with even greater declines thereafter. Carbon dioxide, which is produced when fossil fuels are burned, and other greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere.

The report is available at <http://royalsociety.org/Geoengineering-the-climate/>. ■ Excerpt from Jill Mahoney, *Globe and Mail*, 2 September 2009. Source: WNC Newsletter.

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Did you know? Full online texts of articles in *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* since March 1999 are free to IAIA members through IngentaConnect. Tables of contents, abstracts and index, and a contents alerting service are also available.

As of January 2008, all items in *IAPA* are open-access 24 months after publication. Bookmark IngentaConnect at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/beechnw/iapa today!

IAPA SEEKS INCLUSION IN SSCI

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal is IAIA's journal. It is one of the few journals in the world fully dedicated to impact assessment. It is within IAIA aims to continue improving this journal and keep it at the level of the best international journals. An important step is to have *IAPA* indexed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI); this will improve the international recognition of *IAPA* as being among the best.

To achieve this status, *IAPA* needs to be cited in other journals that are already in the SSCI. And it needs to receive good and even excellent articles. You can help us in this effort. If you are submitting a paper to another journal, please make sure that the journal is already in the SSCI and please cite *IAPA* papers. And if you are submitting a paper to *IAPA*, remember that *IAPA* goes to over 120 countries, to libraries as well as to members, and is widely read by policy makers, consultants, etc., and by academics and students.

Notes for Authors are available in the journal and on the Web (www.scipol.demon.co.uk/iapanote.htm); submit papers to the editors at A.Morrison-Saunders@murdoch.edu.au and francois.retief@nwu.ac.za.

■ **WILLIAM PAGE** • BEECHTREE PUBLISHING • PAGE@SCIPOL.CO.UK

■ **MARIA PARTIDARIO** • INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO AND CHAIR, IAPA EDITORIAL BOARD • MRP@CIVIL.IST.UTL.PT



January

1 World Day of Peace

1 Global Family Day

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

2 World Wetlands Day

20 World Day of Social Justice

21 International Mother Language Day

March

22 World Day for Water

IAIA AWAITING NEW HISTORIAN(S)

Do you cherish the memories you hold of IAIA conferences and committee meetings? Do you want to record special IAIA events and landmark contributions IAIAers make to impact assessment? IAIA needs you!

IAIA remains an organization indebted to the contributions of its member volunteers. Over the years, a number of individuals have contributed their time and effort to see that IAIA does not lose its incredible history.

Alan Porter reported on IAIA's first decade (see the IAIA journal, *Impact Assessment Bulletin*, Vol. 7, No. 4, 1989). Mary Anne Pierce prepared a summary of each annual conference through 1991; you can find these published in the IAIA journals through that year. Bernice Goldsmith compiled lists of early committee and Board members for IAIA HQ. Most recently (2005), Rabel Burdge prepared an oral history of IAIA through its first 25 years; copies of that document were distributed at IAIA05 in Boston. Rabel has agreed to update that document through the end of President Nick Taylor's term, and then he plans to retire as IAIA's current (unofficial) historian.

Consequently, IAIA is looking for someone—or more than one—to carry on in this role, to provide a continuing record of all that makes IAIA special as an organization to its members and to the world of impact assessment.

The IAIA Board of Directors acknowledges the contributions of Mary Anne, Bernice, Alan, and Rabel and asks that anyone interested please submit a letter outlining your ideas for contributing to this tradition of recording IAIA's history to Rita Hamm, IAIA CEO (rita@iaia.org).

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■ IAIA MINI CHALLENGE GRANTS AVAILABLE

The IAIA Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new funding resource available to IAIA members. "Mini Challenge Grants" are a competitive source of funds to encourage members and Sections to undertake innovative projects to advance the strategic direction of IAIA. For 2010, the Board has provided for a small number of grant projects (3-5) that would move IAIA forward in one or more desirable directions.

Applications for the inaugural round of funding are due by 8 March 2010 and will be reviewed during the IAIA Board meeting following IAIA10. Award winners will be announced mid-April.

Applications can be submitted either by individuals or by IAIA Sections. They should be for amounts in the range of US\$2,000 to \$5,000 (the maximum considered) and achievable in a 12 month period. (Note that Mini Challenge Grant funding is not intended to support IAIA memberships or the costs of attending IAIA conferences.)

For complete guidelines and application information, see "What's New" on the IAIA home page (www.iaia.org).

■ FREE IAIA MEMBERSHIP FOR 6 YEARS?!

For each new member you refer to IAIA between now and 31 March 2010, your name will be entered into a drawing for a free six-year IAIA membership with a hard copy of *IAPA* (US\$810 value). Just have the new member enter your name in the "Referred by" field when applying for membership online. If submitting an application form by mail or fax, the new member should enter your name on the bottom of the form.

The upcoming IAIA10 conference is a great way to share IAIA with your colleagues. They can become new IAIA members by paying the non-member conference registration rate, too. Just remind them to put your name in the "Referred by" field on the online conference registration form.

■ SUSTAINING MEMBER CATEGORY INTRODUCED

IAIA members who have signed the Code of Conduct and have four years or more of continuous membership will now be considered Sustaining Members (SM).

A list of SMs will be posted on the Web site annually. Qualifying members will be notified in January of each year.

■ IAIA'S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN UPDATED

At the IAIA mid-term Board meeting in Stockholm in October, the Board thoroughly reviewed the current Strategic Action Plan (SAP). While they removed completed items and expanded on some existing ones, the most exciting work that was done was a brainstorming session for the future direction and activities of IAIA. All the changes discussed in Stockholm, along with some of the new ideas, are in the process of being incorporated into the SAP which will be used as a work plan for 2010-2011. Once the SAP is updated, a summary document will be available on the IAIA Web site.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS

At its October 2009 meeting in Stockholm, in support of IAIA's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and in general business, the Board of Directors:

- Determined that soon an IAIA position paper defining the role and value of IA including all disciplines, and explaining the role of IA and IAIA as it related to decision-influencing, will be posted on line and publicized by HQ.
- Decided that IAIA's newsletter will be moved from the members-only pages of the Web site to the public pages.
- Decided, regarding networking options, to investigate risks and protocols of using social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter, and agreed to start a pilot test with Board members using Facebook.
- Agreed to explore whether it is worth developing a strategy to evaluate corporates' existing CSR activities related to IA.
- Discussed ways to promote corporate membership besides those already implemented by IAIA (e-news announcements, Web flyer, and work with Equator Banks, for example); suggestions for target corporates are welcome.
- Discussed and agreed upon several Board members' tasks to locate contacts from international EIA organizations to promote exchange of information, joint initiatives, and possible MoU.
- Agreed that Sections tables for "meet and greet" at conference will be continued and a pre-conference Section workshop will be held in Geneva, and approved the Health Impact Assessment Section's request to change its name to Health Section.
- Agreed to pursue formal recognition of World IA Day on 16 June, the anniversary of the Rio Declaration.
- Approved the 2010 budget.

Full minutes are available at www.iaia.org (log in) > Admin & Member Services > Board and AGM minutes.

■ COURSES PROPOSED: INPUT SOUGHT

IAIA members **Abdoulaye Sene** (Sociologue EIES/Réinstallation, Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar Sénégal), and **Mehrdad Nazari** (Senior ESIA & CSR Advisor at Prizma LLC, USA), are exploring opportunities to make two short courses accessible in West Africa.

The first 1-day course would be on IFC Performance Standards and Equator Principles and how these can be applied to improve bankability, credibility and sustainability of extractive projects through better impact assessment studies. The second 1-day course would introduce GRI's sustainability reporting framework to help organizations track and disclose their CSR/sustainability performance and stewardships. A brochure detailing both courses can be accessed at www.prizmasolutions.com or is available upon request.

Mehrdad (mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com) and Abdoulaye (abdoulaye2.sene@ucad.edu.sn) would like to hear from those of you who may be interested in attending such courses (planned for mid-February 2010 in Dakar) and/or may be interested in sponsoring such events.

■ HERI, BOYLE TAKE ON SECTION & COMMITTEE ROLES

Rachelle Besner has stepped down as coordinator of the Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies Section. The position has been taken on by **Simone Heri**.

John Boyle has taken over the chair of the Training and Professional Development Committee from **Arne Dalfelt**.

IAIA thanks Rachelle and Arne for their time and leadership, and welcomes Simone and John in their new roles. To contact Simone or John or for more information about Sections or Committees, see www.iaia.org.

■ REVISION OF IAIA'S KEY CITATIONS INITIATED

Ilse Aucamp (Sections Coordinating Committee Chair), **Bill Ross** (Publications Committee Chair) and I have been appointed by IAIA President **Nick Taylor** to coordinate an update of IAIA's Key Citations.

The Key Citations are an open-access resource that IAIA provides to members and the general public who want to know more about a particular subfield of impact assessment. Each Key Citation list is a selection of readily available publications that typify the various subfields (subdisciplines/discourses) that comprise the family of impact assessment. They might be regarded as establishing the core literature of each subfield that should be consulted for publications and academic theses on the topic. Typically, they include a selection of the currently available books, recent journal articles, and key official documents. Some historically-significant review articles are also included. The Key Citations can be accessed from the IAIA Web site under "Resources & Networking" (www.iaia.org/resources-networking/key-citations.aspx). It is intended that they complement the IAIA wikis, and they serve a somewhat different purpose.

IAIA started compiling Key Citations in 1993, and they have been updated from time to time since then. However, this is the first time that there has been a concerted effort to organise them properly. Thus, the first task of our Task Force was to develop guidelines or policy to establish what IAIA expects from them. Too long to include here, the guidelines are available on request from me (frank.vanclay@utas.edu.au) or from IAIA International Headquarters (jen@iaia.org). We have also agreed on a new generic design/format for the presentation of the Key Citations, and with the SIA and Technology Assessment Key Citations having been recently updated, they are now presented in the new format and are available on the IAIA Web site. The other Key Citations will be converted to the new format as they are updated.

Most of the Key Citations will be aligned with an IAIA Section, and in those cases the Section Coordinator for that section will be responsible for preparing an update. I have corresponded with all Section Coordinators to ensure that this update will occur. The Task Force has also identified some additional areas it thought should be covered, for which it will "commission" appropriate people to develop. Our ideas include climate change, cumulative effects, follow-up, sustainability assessment, risk assessment, impact assessment in developing countries, an overview of impact assessment generally, and because there is no EIA Section in IAIA, Environmental Impact Assessment in its narrow sense. If you have any ideas for other topics that in your opinion should be included, please let me know. Please also provide any feedback on the Key Citations to me. Thanks for your suggestions.

■ **FRANK VANCLAY** | IAIA KEY CITATIONS TASK FORCE COORDINATOR
FRANK.VANCLAY@UTAS.EDU.AU

Creating Bankable IAs

This 1-day course highlights implications and application of IFC Performance Standards & Equator Principles, and how they have raised the bar for the development of bankable social and environmental impact assessments. The course covers:

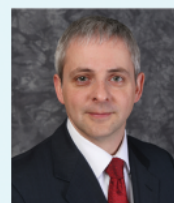
- Genesis, context and application of standards
- Transitioning an EIA to a bankable ESIA
- Social, resettlement and public consultation
- Biodiversity challenges and offsets
- Voluntary Principles, Security & Human Rights
- Due diligence & role of Independent Engineer

Sustainability Reporting using GRI

The prevalence of sustainability reporting is growing and has converged around the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the world's most widely used framework. This applied 1-day boot camp covers:

- Genesis, drivers and context of reporting
- GRI's Third Generation reporting framework
- Boundary setting & Materiality Tests
- Performance Indicators, using existing systems
- Application Level, Third Party/GRI Check
- Stakeholder panels, assurance process

Expert Practitioners & Instructors



Presenters include Mehrdad Nazari (MSc, MBA, LEAD Fellow), Senior ESIA & CSR Advisor, Prizma LLC. Mr. Nazari has 18 years of international experience in environmental and social risk assessment and due diligence, and advising extractive project developers and financial institutions. Previously, he was Principal Environmental Specialist at the European Bank (EBRD), CSR Research Director at CoreRatings (now Innovest, DNV); and Project Manager with Dames & Moore (now URS). Mr. Nazari is also a certified ISO 14,001 Lead Auditor and a GRI-approved sustainability reporting trainer.

Please request further course details from mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com or download at:

www.prizmasolutions.com

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CORPORATE MEMBERS

Stewardship

AECOM | USA

Standard

Commission for EIA | The Netherlands

Czech Academy of Sciences | Czech Republic

Directorate of Environmental Affairs | Namibia

Public Works & Government Services Canada | Canada

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

1 September - 30 November 2009

Angola: Carmen Ivelize Santos; **Australia:** Brendan Bourke, Scott Cawrse, Minerva Chaloping-March, Danielle Martin, Daniel R. Suggit; **Canada:** Siobhan Airey, Ashley Bangrove, Jeffrey Corkum, Susan Dowse, Sabrina Hamilton; **Denmark:** Paul Pinamang Kyei; **Ireland:** Michael Lennon; **Peru:** Sarah Lindberg; **Philippines:** Michaelangelo Velasco Medina; **Russia:** Anastasia Kuznetsova; **South Africa:** Robert Rowles; **Spain:** Pilar Casals-Carrasco, Carlos Ponte Mosquera; **Switzerland:** Georgios Sarantakos; **Syria:** Rafiq Diab; **USA:** Teresa Bernhard, Alexandra Bezeredi, Anne Southam, Edward Toth, Aaron Wernham.

Quotable

Those who expect moments of change to be comfortable and free of conflict have not learned their history.

JOAN WALLACH SCOTT

NEW ON THE 'NET ■ WWW.IAIA.ORG

- Translated content: Code of Ethics in Russian and Portuguese; "What is Impact Assessment" in Portuguese
- IAIA10 program and schedule updates
- Watch for Newsletters to be moved to the public pages
- Mini Challenge Grant information and application posted
- And more! Bookmark www.iaia.org today!

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IAIA IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Subject to change; watch for updates!

January 2010

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 22..... IAIA10 5-page papers (drafts) due
- 29..... IAIA10 Early Bird rate ends, Quickpass registration deadline

February 2010

- 15..... IAIA10 reviews of draft papers completed
- 16..... IAIA10 last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA10 final program; all persons listed in the final program (e.g., sector and session chairs, special presenters) should also be registered at this time
- 19..... IAIA10 deadline for technical visits and training course registration

March 2010

- 1 Newsletter articles due
- 1 IAIA10 deadline for exhibits, mentor program, requests for inserts in delegate bags and inquiries about special equipment; auction donation forms and Buffet of Ideas suggestions due
- 10 Training course instructor agreements due
- 10..... Board action items, annual reports and Annual General Meeting action items due
- 15..... IAIA10 revised papers are due
- 17..... IAIA10 pre-registration deadline; all registrations after this date to be made on-site

April 2010

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 6-11 IAIA10
- 11-12.. Board meeting

June 2010

- 1 Newsletter articles due

July 2010

- 1 Newsletter, IAIA11 first announcement mailed

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: April 2010

Submission deadline: 1 March 2010

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions to professional practice news co-editors **Richard Fristik** (Richard.Fristik@wdc.usda.gov) and **Bram Noble** (b.noble@usask.ca). See the Web site (www.iaia.org > Newsletter) for complete submission guidelines.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 300 words. Send to **Jennifer Howell** (jen@iaia.org). Suggestions, comments, and story ideas are always welcome.

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