

NEWSLETTER

■ INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMING UP ...

IAIA10

6-11 APRIL 2010

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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NEW SEA REGULATION IN CHINA

A major new development in China on applying strategic environmental assessment occurred in August. The State Council of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) approved a new national regulation on environmental assessment of plans, as part of the national package on climate change strategy. This puts into effect a legal requirement under the 2003 PRC EIA law, making China one of the major regions to apply environmental assessment to plans.

The State Council swiftly promulgated the new regulation, which comes into full effect in October 2009. Seeking to prevent pollution or ecological destruction from the outset, the regulation requires

environmental assessments before the planning of major developments is approved. Local environmental authorities will conduct environmental assessment of various types of plans, while State Council environmental authorities must evaluate provincial developments. The regulation covers a broad range of development activities, provides for public participation, and addresses environmental, health, ecological and related socio-economic impacts. There are also provisions for assessment review and follow-up.

This new regulation will likely have profound impacts on future decision-making on plans in China, and positions the environmental assessment tool as an essential part

of the national strategic responses to climate change, sustainable development, ecological reconstruction and green economy. It also poses significant challenges to capacity development and re-orientation of the decision-making culture and plan-making process.

To learn more of this exciting new development or to explore collaboration opportunities, contact **Elvis Au** (ewkau@hotmail.com) or **KC Lam** (kinchelam@cuhk.edu.hk).

■ **ELVIS AU** | CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRE
OF SEA FOR CHINA AND
FORMER IAIA PRESIDENT
EWKAU@HOTMAIL.COM

PROJECT ON "CHINA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE" CONCLUDED

The European-funded project "Policy Instruments for a Chinese Sustainable Future" has concluded with a final symposium held in Beijing (16 June 2009) in collaboration with Renmin University. The arguments and final recommendations for SEA and environmental policy integration (EPI) in China were presented and discussed by scholars and practitioners. Seeking sustainability by forcing commitment to environmental protection versus promoting change through positive encouragement and incentives was debated. Until now, leaders have benefited from promoting economic development at any cost. This driving force needs to be changed if environmental policy integration is to become systematic and effective.

The project's main findings are found in "Transition from Plan Environmental Impact Assessment to Strategic Environmental Assessment: Recommendations of the 'Policy Instruments for a Chinese Sustainable Future' Project, CHINA-EPI-SEA Paper 27." This paper, along with other reports, summaries of symposium discussions, and speakers' presentations is available at <http://www.epi-in-china.com/>.

For further information contact lead scientist **Olivia Bina** (o.c.bina.92@cantab.net) or project manager **Urda Eichhorst** (urda.eichhorst@wupperinst.org).

■ **OLIVIA BINA** | THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG | O.C.BINA.92@CANTAB.NET



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Rita R. Hamm, Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nick Taylor

IAIA10 approaching quickly

Immediate impacts of a spike in oil prices and economic crisis may be lessening. The longer term impacts in terms of new policies, investment packages and longer-term sustainability remain unclear. Can our societies grasp opportunities to transition to greener economies and tackle global environmental issues such as climate change in the face of harsh fiscal constraints? The organisers of IAIA10 in Geneva, Switzerland, challenge us to consider issues arising from the multi-dimensional nature of the global crisis, and the role of impact assessors in understanding its long-term effects. Most particularly, we are asked about how IA can play a key role in moving economies to a greener future.

IAIA10, in April next year, is approaching faster than we might like to think! The organising committee, chaired by **Hussein Abaza**, are working hard. They have shaped the preliminary programme and are busy making other arrangements as well. This is no small effort given the challenging theme of the conference and all the abstracts and session proposals sent in, plus our moves to enhance conference quality by getting many papers peer reviewed and online before the meeting. I'd like to thank Hussein, principal sponsors UNEP, HQ staff, IAIA Sections and members for their work so far, and for adhering to tight timelines. You'll find more conference information on the IAIA Web site and in other items in this newsletter.

New membership category developed

After several years considering various options for recognising professional membership of the Association, the Board decided in Accra on a new category of Sustaining Member, as announced in this newsletter. This new status acknowledges a member's commitment to IAIA's objectives and the principles of ethical practice over time. It is a higher status than ordinary membership. Sustaining Member recognises two important attributes: members who have continuous paid-up membership for the last four years, and members who sign the IAIA Code of Conduct. Those who qualify on both counts are automatically categorised as a Sustaining Member and have the right to describe themselves as holding this status. New membership software allows HQ to track Sustaining Members. A list of Sustaining Members (name and country) will appear on the public portion of the IAIA Web site. This list will be updated annually.

In deciding on Sustaining Member status, the IAIA Board recognised there are a number of national and regional initiatives to develop professional certification of impact assessors, and encourages these initiatives.

Web site development a priority

HQ is putting considerable effort into development of the IAIA Web site, a key, ongoing, part of our strategic plan. If you have any feedback or suggestions on this initiative, the new-look newsletter, or any other aspects of IAIA, please get in touch with myself or our CEO **Rita Hamm**. The Board meets next in Sweden in mid-October.

Hope you are making plans for Geneva. Best wishes,

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

FAVORITE PHOTOS WANTED!

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!

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.

Capacity Building Stipend Program offered at IAIA10

Applications are now being accepted for the IAIA10 Capacity Building Stipend Program. This is a great opportunity for impact assessment professionals from developing countries/countries in transition to participate in the 2010 conference and to receive ongoing benefits through IAIA membership. The complete program announcement and application form are available online at <http://iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx>. Applications are due 30 November 2009.

Fee waiver opportunities for students

Are you a student who would like to participate in IAIA10 and/or the training courses offered but just can't work it into your budget?

IAIA is pleased to offer a student fee waiver program for IAIA10. This program allows up to ten students a waived conference registration fee in exchange for providing in-kind services on-site in Geneva.

The 10-12 hours of in-kind services will include an organizational meeting and reporting on at least two sessions, with the balance of activities being organizational or administrative duties. A limited number of free training course registrations are also available to student participants of IAIA10 once courses reach their minimum enrollments.

For more information on these programs, see the IAIA10 preliminary program (www.iaia.org/IAIA10).

IAIA10 sponsors sought

Could your company/agency benefit from being a sponsor of IAIA's annual conference? A variety of sponsorship opportunities exist for IAIA10. For more information, see www.iaia.org/iaia10/documents/pdfs/sponsorship-opportunities-brochure.pdf or contact Bridget John (bridget@iaia.org).

IAIA10 TAKING SHAPE

Arrangements for the convening of the IAIA10 in Geneva, Switzerland, are progressing well. Since March the organizing committee has made arrangements in Geneva for over 800 hotel rooms within the area. These hotels are available at a special low rate for conference participants. The number of rooms available is limited, so book early to ensure your first choice is available. Hotel and booking details are available on the IAIA10 Web site.

The Conference Technical Program Committee has also been established, made up of current IAIA members from all over the world in addition to experts in the five sectors of focus: Agriculture, Industry, Tourism, Cities and Transportation. In order to make IAIA10 a success, the Technical Program Committee members will help ensure that the sessions, paper submissions and presentations for IAIA10 are of the utmost quality.

A large number of potential sponsors for the event have also already been contacted, including other UN agencies, a number of international corporations and financial institutions, and local and regional companies/organizations. Included in this list are the Canton and City of Geneva, whom we have been working closely with to help coordinate sponsorship for the general event, make the conference a "green conference," and potentially host the opening reception and the closing banquet. Along with the Canton, Geneva Tourism has also been involved in planning of the "green" technical site visits in and around the region. Geneva Tourism will be on-site at the conference to help participants discover the beauty and innovation of Geneva, Switzerland.

THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW! Register early and help make IAIA10 a success at drawing attention to new strategies for green investments and economic and environmental sustainability.

■ **HUSSEIN ABAZA** | UNEP ECONOMICS AND TRADE BRANCH
HUSSEIN.ABAZA@UNEP.CH

NEW EVENT AT IAIA10: SILENT AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA) has been supporting up-and-coming environmental professionals for the past eight years through an EIA Professional Development (PD) program. The program aims to mentor and equip young EA professionals with practical experience and skills required for effective environmental management and administration in Africa.

PD fellows who have been through the program appreciate the opportunities they have been given and acknowledge the vast experiences they have been exposed to through the process. Wanting to give back to the program, the current and former PD fellows are trying to raise at least US\$25,000 through a silent auction at IAIA10 to support at least one additional fellow to take part in the program in 2011.

This is an ambitious goal, and all IAIA members and IAIA10 delegates are encouraged to take part, either by donating an item or preparing to shop! Please see the IAIA10 preliminary program for details on the auction.

■ **ARSEMA ANDARGATCHEW, FARAI DONDOFEMA, AND PD FELLOWS** | EIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PDFELLOWS@GMAIL.COM



6-11 April 2009
Geneva, Switzerland

See the preliminary program in the October mailing or online at www.iaia.org/IAIA10.



Former CLEAA PD Fellows receive an award at IAIA09. Photo courtesy of Pius Kahangirwe.

IAIA09 Memories ...



Pius Kahangirwe (left) poses with Harrison-Afful (Best Poster -Public Choice). Photo courtesy of Pius Kahangirwe.



A conga line forms while the band plays following the banquet. Photo courtesy of Bridget John.



A number of exhibitors were on site. Here, delegates visit with Jacquie Pastor of Golder Associates Africa. Photo courtesy of Bridget John.

MENTORING PROGRAMME AT IAIA09 “HUGELY SUCCESSFUL”

Initiated at IAIA'04, the mentoring programme facilitates and encourages dialogues, discussions, the exchange of ideas and experiences between the more established members of the association and those that are new to the impact assessment field, for example students and early professionals, or newcomers to the IAIA. In practice, the programme aims to help “mentees” feel more comfortable and less overwhelmed with their first IAIA conference experience with the help, or better the guidance, of a mentor. The mentoring arrangements are intended to be fairly loose and flexible, and where possible, the “mentor-mentee” match is based on similar impact assessment interests.

The mentoring programme at IAIA09 in Ghana was hugely successful. Here's what the participants had to say: **Ijeoma** said that her mentor **Patrick Duffy** was available and helpful. He ensured that she got the best out of the conference. **Olga's** mentor **John Fry** contacted her prior to the start of the conference; this helped her ease the anxiety of attending an IAIA conference for the very first time. He also tried to understand better Olga's impact assessment interests and advised her on who to meet, helped her introduce herself to them and helped her understand better how an IAIA conference works. **Angela** described her mentor **Jon Hobbs** as “great,” as he was very available and full of important advice, which altogether made her very first conference a great experience. **Rita** said that she found the mentoring program an enormous benefit as a first-time IAIA attendee. She described her mentor **Peter Croal** as “wonderful, very helpful and generous with his time and advice.”

The IAIA09 mentoring programme was a success for the mentors as well. They said: “The mentoring programme is great and I would do it again in a snap”. “It was wonderful. It did not take any time really.” “I made a new friend, learned about another sector in the impact assessment area and gave something back to the association.” “I would definitely do it again and recommend others to join the programme!” “It's great.”

I would therefore like to thank, also on behalf of the “mentees,” John Fry, Patrick Duffy, Jon Hobbs and Peter Croal for taking part in the mentoring programme at the IAIA09 conference. I would also like to encourage other experienced IAIA members to support and promote the mentoring programme and more importantly, to sign-up as mentors and assist in welcoming newcomers to the IAIA family.

■ **PAOLA GAZZOLA** | NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
PAOLA.GAZZOLA@NCL.AC.UK

At its meeting in Accra, the Board decided to expand the mentoring program beyond students to all IAIA delegates. If you would like to take part in the mentoring programme during IAIA10, please send an e-mail indicating your impact assessment interests to Paola Gazzola (paola.gazzola@ncl.ac.uk).

HOT COUNTRY, WARM MEMORIES

Ghana welcomed IAIA09 delegates with warm weather and sunshine, and the IAIA09 delegates left Ghana with warm memories and more information about impact assessment and human well-being. Certainly, there were challenges, but for the most part, IAIA09 delegates seemed to enjoy their experiences, both at the IAIA conference and in Ghana in general.

A big thank you to those who provided their feedback via the online conference evaluation sent out three weeks after IAIA09. Your time and thoughtful responses are appreciated, and with a 52% response rate, we have the greatest percentage of feedback for any conference in recent IAIA history.

Ninety-seven percent of respondents said they would recommend IAIA conferences to a colleague, mentioning that these events are a great opportunity for networking, sharing experiences with experts, and staying current in the impact assessment field. The survey results showed that 90% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall conference program. This is in keeping with similar ratings (90% or more) from evaluations of previous recent IAIA conferences. Of all the conference elements, the scope/appropriateness of conference theme received the highest rating, with 90% considering it satisfactory or very satisfactory. The theme forums (85%), conference banquet (82%), opening plenary, concurrent sessions, delegate bags, and their contents (80% each) were all rated with high levels of satisfaction as well.

Delegates were asked in an open-ended question what they considered to be the most valuable aspect of attending IAIA09. Among the most frequently mentioned comments were networking, learning opportunities, training courses,

presentations, and listening and sharing with people from around the world.

For the second year, mini-abstracts were printed within session descriptions in the IAIA09 program, which replaced a separate abstract volume. Of those who responded, 54% really liked this format, while 31% percent liked the idea but would have preferred longer descriptions. Identical to last year's results, 11% would have preferred a separate volume of abstracts.

Delegates were asked about their satisfaction levels with various staff assistance, both before the conference and during the event. Delegates felt they received sufficient support from IAIA Headquarters throughout the conference and registration process, with a large majority of respondents indicating that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the headquarters staff helpfulness before (89%) and during (85%) the meeting. The Program Committee was also considered helpful before (75%) and during (77%) the meeting. Regarding Portobello staff helpfulness, 41% were very satisfied or satisfied with their service before the meeting, with a 42% rating for during the conference. Portobello was given a neutral rating before and during the meeting from 27% and 28% of respondents, respectively.

Delegates had differing opinions about the time allocation of both theme forums and concurrent sessions, as has been the case in previous IAIA conference evaluations. More than half (56%) of the respondents thought IAIA should keep the same amount of time for theme forums, with 38% wanting more time for them. For concurrent sessions, 57% preferred the same time allocation, with 31%

wanting more time. A solid majority of respondents preferred the same time allocation for the plenaries (76%) and social and networking events (60%).

Respondents were almost evenly split on whether a complete paper must be submitted prior to the conference in order to be mentioned in the final printed program, and the percentages are identical to responses from the IAIA08 evaluations. Of the 48% who thought a pre-conference paper should be required, the most common reasons given were to ensure quality, commitment and seriousness when planning the presentations. The 52% who did not agree with the requirement most frequently cited that they do not have enough time to prepare a paper and that a paper in progress could be improved with feedback from the delegates.

Consistent with previous years, IAIA09 was the first IAIA conference for about half (52%) of the evaluation respondents. Another 27% have attended between two and ten IAIA conferences. Delegates from government (26%) and private consultants (24%) were the largest two sectors represented at IAIA09, followed by education (15%). Industry represented 11%, research institutes/laboratories 10%, NGOs 4%, conservation organizations 2%, world/regional banks 1%, and "other" rounding out the rest with 5%.

Complete survey results can be obtained from IAIA HQ.

■ BRIDGET JOHN | IAIA HQ
BRIDGET@IAIA.ORG



IAIA09 program chair Jonathan Allotey finally relaxes at the banquet. Photo by Jong-Gwan Jung.

(IAIA conferences) are a one-stop convergence center, where you meet different professionals with one ultimate objective: achieving best practices in EIA during growth and development of the world economies.

— Charles Mwesige
Kalangala Infrastructure Services Limited
Uganda



Peter Croal

CROAL ELECTED CHAIR OF OECD SEA TASK TEAM

Peter Croal of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has recently been elected as chair of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) SEA Task Team.

One of his new tasks will be to develop a concept note and work plan for the Task Team for the next few years. Peter will call upon IAIA members to assist in this exercise. If you have any preliminary ideas as to the type of SEA work the OECD SEA Task Team should be involved in, please send your ideas to Peter at Croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca.



Abdulrahman Salim Issa

IN MEMORY

Abdulrahman S. Issa

On 21 July 2009, the cause of capacity-building for effective environmental assessment and management in Africa lost a long-serving and effective champion in Abdulrahman S. Issa, and many in the IAIA community lost a treasured friend and colleague.

Issa assisted in setting up the IUCN country office in Tanzania and served as the first Country Director. Prior to that appointment, he worked in the former IUCN Eastern African Regional Office (EARO) as Coordinator-Environmental Planning and Assessment. Since 2008 he served as Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator with ESARO. Prior to joining IUCN he worked for the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kenya as Regional Environmental Advisor.

In his personal and professional capacities, Issa was also instrumental in developing and coordinating a number of organizations and programs to further the cause and education of IA professionals, including the Eastern African Association for Impact Assessment (EAAIA), the EIA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Programme, Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA), an Africa-wide network of EIA Institutions and Associations of which EAAIA is one regional node, and the World Bank Partnership for Environmental Assessment in Africa (PEAA).

Issa did much to advance these missions, donating generously of his time and energies to advance the missions of these organizations, and many young professionals have personally benefitted from his encouragement and advice.

His professional legacy is a living one; it is particularly fitting to note that at IAIA09 in Accra, CLEAA and the PEAA committed themselves to seeking additional donor and private support to expand the PD Programme, and that the PEAA donors have committed to extending the program to Francophone Africa.

He leaves behind his widow, Jokha, two sons, Samih and Salim, his daughter, Shekha, and a far-reaching circle of friends and professional colleagues.

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Contact: Mehrdad Nazari, Director Senior ESIA & CSR Advisor, PRIZMA
mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com

Please visit also our website for course brochure, schedules, newsletters and bios of team of experts.

www.prizmasolutions.com

WATER and LAND MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

Managing the Impact of Growth on our Landscapes and Watersheds

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OAIA CONFERENCE ADDRESSES EA AT A CROSSROADS

Ontario's environmental assessment process is being challenged, questioned, tested and altered like never before. The desire to "Go Green," concerns over climate change, the federal promise of a review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the changing nature of the Ontario Government's interaction with aboriginal peoples, and the intent of both levels of government to speed up the EA process have brought EA practitioners to a crossroads.

Today, some see Ontario's environmental process as cumbersome and slow and are anxious to move ever faster towards implementation of infrastructure and energy projects. Ontario is working toward streamlining and changing the process on a sectoral basis (waste, transit, energy). The public are expressing concern over the new faster processes. Environmental organizations and some citizens' groups want to maintain a comprehensive environmental assessment regime. The integrity of the process is also being questioned and practitioners talk about the fractured nature of the process and whether we should continue using the tools that have been put in place by a previous generation.

This year's OAIA annual conference will examine and reflect on the shifting environmental assessment landscape. Attention will be given to climate change, the pressure to speed up EA processes in Ontario, anticipated federal government reforms to EA that will emerge from the review in 2010, the duty to consult First Nations and their interest in extended consultation processes, the push for more attention to the social environment and especially to health impacts, and, the understandable desire of professionals to retain what they view to be the essential integrity of best practices in EA and SEA. For updates and further detail, visit the OAIA Web site (www.oaia.on.ca/).

■ **JOHN MCCAULEY** | CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY
JOHN.MCCAULEY@CEAA-ACEE.GC.CA

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROJECT LAUNCHED

IAIA-ITALIA INVITES IAIA MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE

One of the aims of the IAIA-Italia Affiliate is to promote the development and the spread of the best available techniques, strategies and methodologies for sustainable planning, with a focus on SEA state of the art in Italy.

To achieve this goal, IAIA-Italia is launching the project "Implementation of New National Guidelines for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)," supported by the Governmental Technical Commission on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA and SEA). The project was presented at the 29th IAIA annual Conference in Ghana in the "Progress of Strategic Environmental Assessment" session.

Representatives from different institutional levels will take part in this initiative: the project will be jointly run by an international panel of SEA experts and an Italian panel of SEA professionals from national and local authorities.

IAIA-Italia will encourage a participatory and transparent process, providing an open discussion forum on its Web site, newsletters and downloadable documents for IAIA members, organizing special meetings and interviews throughout the programme.

The project will run for two years; during the third year the guidelines will be tested on specific case studies. The SEA National Guidelines are expected to be presented officially in September 2011 at a national conference.

We hope that this effort will facilitate and strengthen the application of SEA in our nation, providing new tools for the development of a national and local SEA expertise. This initiative will represent also an opportunity to promote knowledge exchange between international and national SEA experts and an important step towards a future IAIA annual meeting which we hope will take place in Italy.

IAIA-Italia would like IAIA members of different nations to participate in the project; for information please contact info@iaiaitalia.it.

■ **GIUSEPPE MAGRO** | IAIA-ITALIA | INFO@IAIAITALIA.IT

Mark Your Calendar

IAIA AND AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

Environmental Assessment at a Crossroads. 21-22 October 2009. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. www.oaia.on.ca/.

NZAIA Conference 2009. Changing Landscapes: Impacts of Regional Economic Development. 26-27 November 2009. Tauranga, New Zealand. www.nzaia.org.nz/Conference/2009/NZAIA_Conference09.htm.

AQEI 18th Annual Conference. The Environmental Evaluation: An Asset in a Period of Economic Crisis? 4-5 November 2009. Montréal, Canada. www.aqei.qc.ca/.

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

OTHER IA EVENTS

HIA09: On the Move! 10th Annual International HIA Conference. 14-16 October 2009. Rotterdam, The Netherlands. For more information: www.hia09.nl or lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl.

Making Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Count in the Planning and Environmental Assessment Process for Environmental and Natural Resource Managers. 2-day SIA training course. 19-20 October 2009. Calgary, Canada. http://magellancsi.com/event_oct19-20.html

The International Conference on Energy and Environment 2009 (ICEE2009). 7-8 December 2009. Malacca, Malacca, Malaysia. <http://icee2009.uniten.edu.my/conference/index.php/ICEE/ICEE2009>.

Sixth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability. 5-7 January 2010. Cuenca, Ecuador. <http://onsustainability.com/conference-2010/>

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH MADE ACCESSIBLE

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, YALE UNIVERSITY AND LEADING PUBLISHERS PROVIDE “ONLINE ACCESS TO RESEARCH IN THE ENVIRONMENT” (OARE)

In an effort to help reduce great disparities in scientific capital between developed and developing nations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Yale University, and leading science and technology publishers have developed a collaborative initiative to make global scientific research in the environmental sciences available online to tens of thousands of environmental scientists, researchers, and policy makers in the developing world for free or at nominal cost.

Through Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), more than 200 prestigious publishers, societies and associations offer one of the world's largest collections of scholarly, peer-reviewed environmental science journals to over 1200 public and non-profit environmental institutions in more than 100 developing nations of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. Each and every institution enrolled in OARE receives resources with an annual retail subscription value in the name hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Over 1000 scholarly scientific and technical journal titles in such fields as biotechnology, botany, climate change, ecology, energy, environmental chemistry, environmental economics, environmental engineering and planning, environmental law and policy, environmental toxicology and pollution, geography, geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, urban planning and zoology are provided through a portal presented in English, Spanish and French. OARE also provides important Abstract and Index Research Databases — intellectual tools the scientific and professional com-

munity use to search for information within thousands of scholarly publications, and other scholarly resources.

“OARE is a new and inspiring example of international cooperation that can contribute to the reduction of the North-South scientific gap and digital divide, objectives that are both at the top of the UN agenda and the UN Millennium Development Goals,” said Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director.

“Thanks to advances in information and communication technologies and the great generosity of many leading scientific publishers, we have an unprecedented opportunity to provide environmental institutions in developing countries with intellectual resources we in the developed world so often take for granted,” said James Gustave Speth, dean of Yale's Environment School.

“Scientific publishers welcome this opportunity to provide access to the latest published research in environmental and related sciences to researchers and other professionals in 106 developing countries, in the expectation that, in turn, higher quality research will emerge from those countries, to the benefit of all of us,” said Michael Mabe, CEO of the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM).

“The Hewlett Foundation is committed to providing high quality educational materials to students

and scholars in the developing world. We are extremely pleased to join with Yale, UNEP and the many participating publishers, societies and associations to make scientific resources available in developing countries, where the need is so great,” stated Paul Brest, president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

OARE aims to contribute to the development of expert professional and academic communities and an informed public, encourage scientific creativity and productivity, facilitate the development of progressive science-based national policies, help enable countries to build their own higher education programs in the environmental sciences, educate their own leaders, conduct their own research, publish their own scientific findings, and disseminate information to policy makers and the public.

Organizations providing scientific content through OARE include leading scientific publishers (e.g., Annual Reviews, Blackwell, Cambridge, Elsevier, John Wiley, Nature Publishing Group, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Oxford and many others) and more than 200 scientific societies and associations (e.g., Académie des Sciences de France, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Academy of Sciences, Nordic Society OIKOS, Oceanographic Society of Japan, Royal Sociedad Española de Química, Royal Geographic Society, Royal Meteorological Society of Great Britain, Società Botanica

Italiana, Zoological Society of London, etc.). A complete listing of collaborating institutions is available at www.oaresciences.org.

Eligible institutions include universities and colleges, research institutes, ministries of the environment and other government agencies, libraries, and national NGOs. Access for institutions in the 70 poorest countries will be free. Access for institutions in 38 lower middle income countries will be at a nominal charge, which will be reinvested to support continued training and outreach activities in eligible countries.

OARE is coordinated by UNEP and Yale University in association with STM and 30 leading science and technology publishing houses. Support is provided by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. OARE is managed in close cooperation with the Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2001 to provide research to the medical community in developing nations, and Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Cornell University in 2003 to provide research to the agricultural community.

For more information, visit www.oaresciences.org.

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Did you know? Full online texts of papers 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/beechn/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



October

1 International Day for the Elderly

16 World Food Day

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

November

8 World Town Planning Day

16 International Day for Tolerance

December

1 World AIDS Day

5 International Volunteers Day

10 Human Rights Day

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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 a paper 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 registration form.

REGISTRY UPDATE

In May 2007, IAIA members were asked in a survey whether IAIA should offer a membership option that would include professional registration based on submission of credentials. After reviewing the results and discussing various aspects of the idea, the Board of Directors decided not to pursue development of a global registry of IA professionals.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Reviewed conference policies, including quality guidelines, peer paper review processes, visibility of Section meetings, and aspects of technical visits.
- Reviewed progress on IAIA10 and discussed proposed variations to IAIA's conference standards.
- Created policies regarding identification of officially-sanctioned videographers and recording at the conferences.
- Decided against charging fees for M-IAIA status and confirmed the requirements for Sustaining Member status.
- Identified Small Island States as the next demographic to target for promoting IAIA services and membership.
- Approved the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.
- Approved in principle the idea of developing trainer endorsement; the Training and Professional Development Committee will establish criteria.

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

IAIA SIGNS AGREEMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding with IAIA-Italia. This MoU advances IAIA-Italia to full affiliate status after its initial three successful years as a start-up organization and pilot affiliate of IAIA (signed August 2009).

Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). The key points of agreement are to develop improved communication tools to improve dissemination of IA-related information, provide mutual assistance in the form of contacts and information, share information on developments within the field of IA and support capacity development (signed August 2009).

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The objectives of this agreement are to mutually promote digital capture of biodiversity data, disseminate knowledge about innovative impact assessment tools, and support capacity development efforts in mobilizing biodiversity data during the practice of impact assessment worldwide (signed June 2009).

Signatory to ASAE's Global Principles for Socially Responsible Associations and Non-Profits (www.asaecenter.org/Forms/SocialResponsibilityPrinciples/index.cfm?). The ASAE principles align with universally accepted principles contained in the United Nation's Global Compact regarding positive progress and specifically defined expectations in areas such as human rights, labor, education, poverty, health, the environment, and anti-corruption. The principles also align strongly with IAIA's Code of Conduct and Vision, Mission and Values (<http://www.iaia.org/about/mission-vision-values.aspx>) statements (signed June 2009).

Find that perfect fit.

Your online employment resource for jobs and candidates in the field of impact assessment.

IAIA Career Central

Where do you go to find the best jobs and most qualified candidates in Impact Assessment? The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) has created **IAIA Career Central** to be your resource for making online employment connections in the field.

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- Email notification whenever job seekers match your requirements.

Post your job or resume at <http://jobboard.iaia.org>

Reference: CBBIA Guidance Document on Biodiversity, Impact Assessment and Decision-making in Southern Africa Available

A Guidance Document on Biodiversity, Impact Assessment and Decision-making in Southern Africa has been published by the Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment project (CBBIA), funded by IAIA and the Netherlands government. The document is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- Environment, development, biodiversity and human well being
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services and impact assessment
- Aims and objectives of decision-making
- Strategic environmental assessment
- Environmental impact assessment
- Sector guidelines
- Useful guidelines and sources of information.

For a more detailed outline of contents or to obtain a copy of this document, e-mail **Bridget John** (bridget@iaia.org) at IAIA Headquarters. The document is US\$20, which includes postage.

■ **SUSIE BROWNLIE** | DEVILLIERS BROWNLIE ASSOCIATES
DBASS@ICON.CO.ZA

Reference: UNEP Guidance Documents Available

UNEP Reference Manual: Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development and UNEP Guidance Manual: Integrated Assessment: Mainstreaming Sustainability into Policymaking are available for download at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/> or by request to Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), Economics & Trade Branch (ETB), 11-13 Chemin des Anemones, 1219 Chatelaine – Geneva. Telephone: +41.22.917.82.43. Fax: +41.22.917.80.76. E-mail: etb@unep.ch

■ **HUSSEIN ABAZA** | UNEP ECONOMICS AND TRADE BRANCH
HUSSEIN.ABAZA@UNEP.CH

Reference: Loan Documentation Guidance Document Available

For those practitioners applying the Equator Principles, the Equator Principles Financial Institutions (EPFIs) Best Practice Working Group recently released a document which provides guidance to EPFIs on incorporating environmental and social considerations into loan documentation. Please see the Equator Principles Web site for more information as well as to access the guidance document: <http://www.equator-principles.com/index.shtml>.

■ **DEBRA ZANEWICH** | EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA
DZANEWICH@EDC.CA

Training & Education: Call for PhD Positions at University of Trento

The 2009 Call for PhD positions at the Doctoral School in Environmental Engineering of the University of Trento (Italy) features a research topic on methods to integrate ecosystem services into Strategic Environmental Assessment, with emphasis on the use of spatial information. The deadline for application is 16 October 2009. The Call can be found on the school's Web site (<http://portale.unitn.it/dree/portalpage.do?channelId=-34480>). For information on the specific research topic, contact Dr. Davide Geneletti (davide.geneletti@ing.unitn.it).

■ **DAVIDE GENELETTI** | UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO | DAVIDE.
GENELETTI@ING.UNITN.IT

NEW!

IAIA WIKI DEVELOPED

We are excited to announce a wiki devoted entirely to impact assessment.

What is a wiki?

A wiki is a Web site that allows users to add and update content on the site using their own Web browser and without having to know HTML code. Wikis are mainly created by a collaborative effort of the site visitors. Probably the most well-known large wiki is Wikipedia, a free encyclopedia in many languages that anyone can edit. The term "wiki" comes from the Hawaiian phrase "wiki wiki," which means "fast."

What is the IAIA Wiki?

Visit www.iaia.org/iaiawiki to check it out. There you will find topic pages on biodiversity and ecosystems IA, SIA, IA training and education, SEA, and many more. Thanks to some early contributors, content is already on the IAIA wiki for you to view. Some contributors provided a paragraph or two just to get the page started, and some provided more extensive text and links. Some pages still remain empty.

Why a wiki?

One of the goals of IAIA's Strategic Plan is to make IAIA the Web "gateway" for all things impact assessment. The IAIA Wiki will be viewable by everyone, members and non-members alike.

However, unlike Wikipedia, where anyone can submit and edit text, only IAIA members will be allowed to contribute to the IAIA Wiki. This should add a higher level of credibility and authority to our content.

When will it be announced publicly?

We recognize that a wiki is a dynamic resource and therefore will never be "finished," as information will constantly be added and updated. However, we would like to have a good foundation of information on the IAIA Wiki before we begin promoting it outside the IAIA membership. Our goal is to begin promotion by 1 January 2010, which we hope will give our members sufficient time to make some contributions. We will announce the IAIA Wiki through our typical channels, as well as linking to it from existing relevant Wikipedia pages, but we welcome any suggestions.

How can you help?

To make the IAIA Wiki a comprehensive resource, we need your help. As an IAIA member, you are eligible to create topic pages and submit text, links, resources, and more as part of the dynamic IAIA Wiki environment. Just use the "Create an Account" button on the wiki site. (Initially, for internal control purposes, content posted to the IAIA Wiki will pass through IAIA HQ before going "live.") In order to get as much information as possible on the IAIA Wiki before announcing the site publicly, we want to make easy for you to contribute content, so through 30 November, you can also submit your information via e-mail or attachment to **Bridget John** (bridget@iaia.org), who will post it for you.

Thanks in advance for your help in starting the new IAIA Wiki. We've received positive initial feedback so far, and we hope it will become a great online resource for the IA community.

■ **IAIA HEADQUARTERS STAFF**

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Quotable

**Adapt or perish, now as ever, is
nature's inexorable imperative.**

H. G. WELLS

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

10 June - 31 August 2009

Australia: Julie Tanner. **Belgium:** Emmanuel Boon. **Brazil:** Alessandro Aveni, Anna Paula Costa. **Canada:** Erika Aguirre, Rosanne D'Orazio, Trevor Joyal, Poornima Sheelanere, Kathleen Zeweniuk. **China:** Jiachun Wang. **Italy:** Chiara Bragagnolo. **Mexico:** Jorge A. Benitez. **Norway:** Trine H. Setsaas. **Spain:** Esther Valdivia Loizaga. **United Arab Emirates:** Hazem El Zanan. **United Kingdom:** Aleksandra Bojovic. **USA:** April Brehm, Florence Landsberg, Ray Meijer, Russell Tait.

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue:

January 2010

Submission deadline:

1 December 2009

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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IAIA IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Subject to change; watch for updates!

October 2009

- 1 Newsletter, ballots for Board election, IAIA10 preliminary programs mailed
- 9 Midyear reports due
- 9 Board action items due
- 17-20.. Mid-term Board meeting

November 2009

- 30..... IAIA10 Capacity Building Stipend applications due

December 2009

- 1 Newsletter articles due
- 15..... 5-page papers for IAIA10 due
- 31..... IAIA10 student fee waiver deadline

January 2010

- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 1 Board election ballots tabulated; results announced
- 29..... IAIA10 Early Bird rate ends, Quickpass registration deadline

February 2010

- 16..... IAIA10 last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in IAIA10 final program
- 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
- 10 Training course instructor agreements due
- 10..... Board action items, annual reports and Annual General Meeting action items due
- 17..... IAIA10 pre-registration deadline

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

NEW ON THE 'NET ■ WWW.IAIA.ORG

- Wiki set up; adding content is in progress (www.iaia.org/iaia/wiki). See article on page 11 of this newsletter.
- IAIA09 Ghana conference proceedings site is now available (<http://www.iaia.org/iaia09ghana/>).
- "Bread crumb trail" added to the public area (see the left-hand column, just under the date). This shows where you are in the web site's hierarchy and gives you another way to easily return to previous pages.
- Site search feature updated for more user-friendly results.
- Document search added for all of IAIA's public documents (<http://www.iaia.org/publicdocuments/document-search.aspx>).