IN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PENTA—Promotion of European Education on Environmental Assessment for Third Country Audience

This is an EC-funded Erasmus Mundus cooperation project by the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, the University of Liverpool, and the Austrian AN!DEA Institute. The project has already produced an SEA textbook, which will be published by Earthscan (www.earthscan.co.uk) in July 2007. A handbook for lecturers and a master degree programme curriculum is currently being written, based on current EU member state EA programmes.

The project partners held a workshop in Bratislava on 20 February with university representatives from Hungary, Germany, Italy, Austria, and the UK, and two conferences will be held for third country audiences, one in Graz in April 2007 and one in Dehradun, India, in September 2007.

Further information on the project can be found on www.penta-eu.net. Suggestions for EA master degree curricula may be sent to Thomas Fischer, Paola Gazzola (gazzola@liverpool.ac.uk) or Urmila Jha-Thakur (urmi@liverpool.ac.uk).

Thomas Fischer • University of Liverpool • fischer@liverpool.ac.uk

Snapshot of SEA Progress Across the European Union

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) has published a “snapshot” report on the quality of transposition of the EU SEA Directive, focusing on biodiversity. The report summarises survey results of NGOs from eighteen countries.

The findings suggest that although SEA has improved some planning practices, it has not reached its full potential. The Directive has not been transposed into national law in some countries. Where it has, significant legal gaps often appear to exist, and the quality of application is often low. The opportunity to address biodiversity at the strategic level is often missed. Actions recommended to national governments include developing national guidance on preparing environmental reports, and supporting meaningful NGO participation. NGOs still have high expectations for SEA and hope it will contribute to the EU’s commitment to halting biodiversity loss by 2010.

The report can be downloaded from www.eeb.org/index.htm. For further details, please contact Pieter Depous (pieter.depous@eeb.org). • Lisa Palframan • RSPB UK Headquarters • lisa.palframan@rspb.org.uk

“SEA – Learning from Practice” Publication Available

The RSPB, the UK BirdLife partner, has recently published a booklet (Strategic Environmental Assessment) case studies to inspire practitioners and promote good practice.

“Strategic environmental assessment – learning from practice” features examples of SEA practice nominated by professionals from around the UK. These case studies show how SEA and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are being approached in various sectors. Each demonstrates an aspect of SEA or SA that has been carried out to a good standard, in our view. These aspects will contribute to high quality SEA/SA and help to ensure environmentally sound plans are developed. We’ve also included our own SEA good practice advice.

By demonstrating how SEA can be carried out effectively in practice, we hope our booklet inspires authorities everywhere to seek and deliver the greatest possible benefits from SEA.

The booklet can be downloaded from the RSPB website at www.rspb.org.uk/policy. Paper copies are also available. • Lisa Palframan • RSPB UK Headquarters • lisa.palframan@rspb.org.uk
What’s in a Membership

Successful professional organisations retain their members and grow their membership. Turnover within the membership is to be expected as careers and people’s interests move on and change. However, whilst IAIA has been the association of choice for many IA professionals and our organisational network has benefited from their loyalty and intellectual participation, many individuals have only been “1 year conference” members and then disappeared off Rita’s radar.

In a world where development is increasingly viewed by planners as the route to social prosperity, the importance of IA tools, IA-backed strategic plans and increasingly our input into sustainable development and climate change adaptation will be of increasing importance—but only if people know about us and are willing to bring us to the table and hear our views. It should therefore be a matter of concern to all of us that IAIA, although seeing a steady growth in membership over the last few years, has been unable to retain contact with so many promising IA individuals after conferences.

The conferences play a key part in our annual membership recruitment, and although they have a distinct geographic impact on annual membership, they also have a net benefit across the wider international membership. The post-conference feedback from both established and new contacts is always positive and although there are recognised issues regarding the time allotted to papers and the quality of some presentations, the conferences remain a key parameter of why people become (or remain) members. It also cannot be from the lack of bon humour in our meetings—as I feel they remain one of the friendliest events on the environmental calendar!

No, the issue I feel is that we have to look more widely at what role IAIA can play in enhancing the future careers and professional development of our members and what mutual links can keep both individual and IAIA in contact. It is therefore time to look at a new mechanism of how we can structure the membership categories and what benefits members gain through these structures. We also need to review how IAIA can assist the professional status of IA practitioners—as IA consultants, IA administrators and as IA trainers. This needs to consider start-of-career professional development, training and subsequently continuous professional development (CPD). We need to evaluate how we develop long-term links with members, reward them for that loyalty, and recognise the contribution they are making. We need to examine IAIA’s networks and our profile within national IA organisations and with practitioners and IAIA affiliates. Finally, there are new tools that can be included though our Web site in the future; we need to consider what our Web presence can bring regarding job opportunities, conferencing, webstreams and information availability.

I would therefore welcome your feedback on what steps IAIA should consider and how these could be structured to the benefit and continuity of members. I feel that there is an imperative to act and I would like to put together a proposition to the Board and ultimately yourselves on how we move forward.

- Ross Marshall, IAIA President • Environment Agency, National Environment Assessment Service • ross.marshall@environment-agency.gov.uk

IAIA07 will provide an important international venue for professionals from all over the world interested in impact assessment and issues of growth and development. Concurrent sessions, practitioners’ forums, training courses, special meetings and networking activities will combine to provide a forum to all members of the impact assessment community to share experiences and insights. Mark your calendar and register today!
Yukon Territory Joins Western and Northern Canada Affiliate

The Western and Northern Canada (WNC) Affiliate of IAIA is pleased to report that it has launched a regional chapter in the Yukon Territory. New federal legislation promoting innovative impact assessment is in place in the Yukon. With it is a growing need and interest for EIAs professional development and networking in the region. Travis Ritchie, Senior Assessment Officer for the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board, has taken on the role of Regional Director for WNC in the Yukon. The Yukon now joins the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia in IAIA WNC.

For SEIA practitioners: An important new guidance document, the Socio-Economic Assessment Guidelines, has been released by Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Compiled by WNC member Alistair Macdonald, it describes a step-by-step approach and toolkit for Socio-Economic Assessment. The document is available online at www.mveirb.nt.ca. • Alan Ehrlich • AEhrlich@mveirb.nt.ca

IAIA Ghana Chapter – News Highlights 2007

Elections. The last Annual General Meeting was held in December 2006. The main item on the agenda was election of officers for the 2-year period 2007-2008 as required by the constitution. The election results: Mr. Evans Darko-Mensah, President; Mrs. Bmelia Brew-Butler, Vice President; Mr. Richmond Yeboah Amoako, Secretary; Mr. Franklin Kuma Gavu, Treasurer.

The six (6) Directors confirmed: Mr. Jonathan Allotey, Mr. Yaw Amoyaw-Osei, Mr. Aaron Asante-Addai, Mr. Nii Teiko Evans-Anfom, Mrs. PTM Damptey, and Mr. Joe Appiah-Gyapong.

Invitation and Presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Institute of Architects. In pursuance of the objective of building close relations with other professional bodies and thereby influencing environmentally sound practices, the President of IAIA Ghana, Mr. Evans Darko-Mensah, accepted an invitation to address the Ghana Institute of Architects’ Annual General Meeting held on the 8th of December, 2006. His address was on Sustainable Architecture. The presentation was well received and generated a lot of discussions.

Regular Meetings. IAIA Ghana continues to meet on the first Thursday of every other month. The first meeting in 2007 was held on 1 February 2007. Programmes outlined for the year include preparation towards IAIA07 in Seoul. Members continue to support each other with peer review sessions at each meeting. • Jonathan A. Allotey • jan_allotey@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendar

[Image of an IV Congreso Nacional de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental]
NZAIA Annual Conference

Relevant, accessible, practical, worthwhile and fun featured in attendees’ descriptions of the two-day New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment conference in Dunedin, December 2006. The topic, “Assessing the Impacts of Energy Development: Regional and Local Perspectives,” was timely as several power generating companies are searching for and applying for resource consents to erect wind turbines, build hydro electricity, and develop natural gas, oil and coal as sources of electricity and other forms of energy in this nuclear-free country.

The programme began with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr. Morgan Williams, providing a keynote address focussed on “decarbonising” New Zealand’s energy future in the search for higher levels of sustainability. The need for strategic approaches and impact assessment were then considered, and considered important, particularly at the regional level.

Then a number of speakers from New Zealand and Australia considered different aspects of impact assessment including visual, noise, air quality, recreation and tourism, aquatic ecology, workforce and community aspects, with reference to wind farms, fossil fuels and hydro-electricity developments in particular. The final sessions included consideration of consultation, Maori and community partnerships as well as monitoring, mitigation and follow up studies.

The small dynamic conference worked well thanks to the effort of organiser Richard Morgan and his team. Throughout the conference emphasis was placed on excellent presentations by invited speakers and plenty of discussion amongst the participants. In addition, students and practitioners were encouraged to present their work via poster papers. There was an AGM and the conference ended with an “Indaba” to set directions for the affiliate for the next year. A CD of the proceedings was produced.

Held at a residential college at Otago University, the facilities were quiet, comfortable and well priced. As many New Zealanders have studied at Otago, there was also an opportunity to stay with or catch up with friends. Dining events, especially the dinner in the historic staff club, generated vibrant discussion, and the members who were committed to re-living campfire sessions from the past serenaded members from the various nationalities present. • Cilla Taylor • cilla@tba.co.nz

New Tech Forecasting & Assessment (TFA) Forum

The FTA Forum has now been launched, building upon the recommendations to advance the FTA community and its processes, which stemmed from the Second International Seville Seminar on Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA): Impacts on policy and decision making, 28-29 September 2006.

The objectives of the FTA Forum include the following:

- To provide an open space for dialogue between different (yet overlapping) communities, such as foresight, technology assessment, futures studies, technological forecasting, evaluation, quality management, etc., with a view to promoting mutual understanding.
- To nurture the development of a self-organisation capacity within the FTA community.
- To identify needs within the FTA community and to enable mutual support between its members.

The FTA Forum has been designed in such a way as to address an initial set of issues that emerged from the FTA Seminar. These are issues that need careful attention and a continual active dialogue to enable a better understanding of where the FTA community stands today and what is needed to move forwards. Other issues that were raised at the FTA Seminar have been kept back for a second round of discussion. You are therefore encouraged to build on this initial set of issues but are also free to propose new issues for future rounds of discussion.

The FTA Forum will be moderated in cooperation between the 2006 FTA Seminar Technical Committee members and IPTS. It is important to highlight that before accessing the online FTA Forum you must register. To do so and to access the FTA Forum please follow this link: http://forera.jrc.es/fta/forum.html.

• Alan Porter • Search Technology, Inc., and Technology Policy & Assessment Center, Georgia Tech • alan.porter@isye.gatech.edu or aporter@searchtech.com
New Open Educational Resource on Strategic Environmental Assessment

A new open educational resource on strategic environmental assessment is now available at the UNU Online Learning Website (see http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu/sea/index.html). This resource was developed collaboratively by Oxford Brookes University and the UNU. It was officially launched in February 2007 and will be used in the Masters Degree programme on Development Management developed at the UNU-Global Virtual University later this year. The open educational resource includes a course module, encyclopedia (wiki) and instructional guide and can be used freely by universities and individual learners around the world. The course materials were authored by Prof. Riki Therivel at Oxford Brookes University. Professor Therivel is an internationally recognized SEA expert and has written numerous books on topic. The course module, which was built in Wordpress (http://wordpress.org/), also incorporates video interviews with a number of subject matter experts including John Glasson (Oxford Brookes University), Maria Rosario Partidario (Technical University of Lisbon) and Chris Wood (University of Manchester). Learners interested in obtaining a certificate based on the course materials can apply to Oxford Brookes University (http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/oisd/environment/iau/index.html). Others universities are planning to launch programmes based on this SEA open educational resource including the University of the South Pacific based in Fiji. An accompanying open educational resource dealing with environmental impact assessment and based on the UNEP EIA Training Manual will be launched in April 2007. • Gerard Brady • e-Course Producer, UNU Media Studio • brady@hq.unu.edu

Calendar

April 7
World Health Day

April 22
Earth Day

May 15
International Day of Families

May 21
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

May 22
International Day for Biological Diversity

June 17
World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

June 20
World Refugee Day

Coming June 1st!
Cumulative Effects Assessment E-learning Course

This interactive-training CD is based on our popular CEA course. The 8-hour course is comprised of five topical modules accompanied by pertinent reading materials and independent exercises. It can be used to meet both individual and group training needs.

Also available online at www.eiatraining.com:

EIA Reference CDs — Save time on information gathering and spend more time on the analysis of an impact study with these CDs. Each CD contains bookmarked documents and web links that provide a policy or scientific-basis for the topic and how the references are useful in an impact study.

CDs currently available include:

- Water Quality Impacts
- Water Resources Planning and Impact Studies
- Air Quality Impacts
- Wetlands Impacts
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cumulative Effects Assessment

Visit us at http://www.eiatraining.com
On 12 March 2007, Dr. Thomas Fischer, Reader at the Department of Civic Design, was appointed a Visiting Professor in the Research Centre for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) at Nankai University in Tianjin, China.

The appointment was made by the Dean of the College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Professor Tan Zhu, represented on the day by Professor Xu He, Director of the Centre.

The appointment was based on Thomas’ work and publication record on SEA, his role as a chair of the SEA section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), as well as on various previous collaboration projects with the SEA Centre.

Has 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!
In Memory

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Dr. Shirley Conover (July 9, 1929 – January 8, 2007).

Shirley had a distinguished scientific career and we are thankful for her significant contribution to environmental impact assessment in Canada and internationally. She received a PhD from Dalhousie University in Halifax and an MSc from Yale University, both degrees in biological oceanography. She began her environmental impact assessment career working for a consulting firm that conducted assessments of proposed oil and gas developments in the 1970s and 80s in the Canadian east coast offshore. She was a Lester Pearson Senior Fellow at Dalhousie University and project director of the University’s Environment and Resource Management programs in the Philippines and Indonesia. These programs involved policy and program development and education and training in the area of environmental management including environmental impact assessment. During this time she also served as the Chair of the Environmental Assessment Panel that reviewed the Halifax Harbour Clean-up project which was completed in 1993.

Shirley’s talents were frequently in demand, which led to her serving on various government committees including the Canadian Environmental Assessment Research Council, the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, the Energy Mines and Resources Regulatory Review Panel, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. She also was an active member of IAIA, and served as a Secretary on the Board of Directors. In 2002, she was awarded the Rose-Hulman award in The Hague in recognition of her contribution to environmental impact assessment over a period of many years. She will be greatly missed by her family and her many IAIA friends.

Robert Connelly  robert.connelly@sympatico.ca

Board News

2007-2008 Election Results Announced

Ballots for the offices of President-Elect and four Directors were tabulated 1 April.

President-Elect..........................Sachihiko Harashina
Director..................................Luis Montañez-Cartaxo
Director..................................Marina Khoutuleva
Director..............................Charlotta Faith-Ell

IAIA expresses its deepest appreciation to IAIA members William Veerkamp (Past President), Jill Baker (Director/Secretary), and Ahmed Abul-Azm (Director), whose three-year terms are coming to a close.

Good luck to those of you taking on your new roles in IAIA, and many thanks to those volunteers who stood as nominees.

Climate Change Listserv

IAIA HQ is receiving questions about who is doing what in climate change, especially in regard to risk assessment/EIA. If you would be interested in participating in a listserv on this topic, please let me know (rita@iaia.org). Depending on the level of interest, IAIA will consider establishing a listserv on climate change.

Rita R. Hamm, CEO  IAIA Headquarters

Membership Snapshot

IAIA currently has 1,450 members from 120 countries (with England, Wales and Scotland counted separately).

The Top Five Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Representation

- South America, 55%, 4%
- Australia & Oceania, 78%, 5%
- Asia, 140, 10%
- Africa, 208, 14%
- North America, 413, 28%
- Europe, 558, 39%
Matilda Sotiri, Albania; Elona Vathi, Albania; Evis Cano Brahima, Albania; Jenny-Lynn Potter, Australia; Martin de los Rios, Australia; Ana Maria Esteves, Australia; Lachlan Wilkinson, Australia; Amanda Broochhall, Australia; Viktoria Mislichenka, Belarus; Susan Ferner, Canada; Catherine Sullivan, Canada; Diane Martens, Canada; Edendise Garcia, Canada; Jania Chilima, Canada; P. David Klassen, Canada; Bernard Hogan, Canada; Marc Provencher, Canada; Ian Nirina Turpin, Canada; Jean-Marc Evenat, Canada; Paul Cobban & Ed Hubert, Canada; Pierre Pelletier, Canada; John Saczkowski, Canada; Margaux Brisco, Canada; Marcela Ochoa, Canada; Felixse Fru Ngwa, Canada; Travis Ritchie, Canada; Tao Tang, China; Yibing Qian, China-PRC; Fanghua Hao, China-PRC; Claudia Patricia Salazar Ordonez, Colombia; Rene Lozada & Bernardo Susi, Colombia; Sergio Musmanni, Costa Rica; Anita Erdelez, Croatia; Dusica Radojic, Croatia; Jiri Belohlavek, Czech Republic; Peter Gry, Denmark; Paul Giesberg, England-UK; Michael Canares, England-UK; Joseph Kandehe, England-UK; Deinoll Lloyd Jones, England-UK; Janna Kaariawan, England-UK; Maria Teresa Gomez Osorio, England-UK; Asierachew Abate, Ethiopia; Elsa Lacroix, France; Jeong-Hee Eum, Germany; Erdenesaikhan Nyamjav, Hungary; Akwany Leonard Onmondi, Hungary; Babukumar Menon, India; B. Guru Prem, India; Hossein Madadi, Iran; Ronan Foley, Ireland; Aldo Ravazzi Douvan, Italy; Stefano Beltrami, Italy; Matt Soeberg, Italy; Masahiro Babasaki, Japan; Ritsuko Sato, Japan; Tomoyoshi Murata, Japan; Maiko Yoshizawa, Japan; Gabriel Wetangula, Kenya; James Kambo, Kenya; Nurlan Djenchuraev, Kyrgyzstan; Soutsakhone Chanthaphone, Laos; Andriiana Veljanoska, Macedonia; Myagmar Ravdan, Mongolia; Dipak Adhikari, Nepal; Musa Gashau, Nigeria; Olayinka Tejuosho, Nigeria; Meshach Ojile, Nigeria; Prince Chinedu Mmom, Nigeria; Sarafa Rabiu & Qdus Alabi, Nigeria; Confidence Kinikanwo Wachukwu, Nigeria; S. Dhillion, Norway; Qazi Azmat Isa, Pakistan; Nancy Mlagros Ortega Vasquez, Peru; Ma. Lourdes Nanette Catalon, Philippines; Rosemarie del Rosario, Philippines; Kwang Woo Cho, Republic of Korea; Hoi-Seong Jeong, Republic of Korea; Juchul Jung, Republic of Korea; Seon Hee Jung, Republic of Korea; In Suo Jeon, Republic of Korea; Dong Jun Chun, Republic of Korea; Seong-Woo Jeon, Republic of Korea; Nanki Young Moon, Republic of Korea; Hyosung Sun, Republic of Korea; Jong Sik Ha, Republic of Korea; Chang Seok Park, Republic of Korea; Sangbum Lee, Republic of Korea; Insu Lee, Republic of Korea; Kwang-Kyu Kang, Republic of Korea; Wha-Jin Han, Republic of Korea; Young Soo Lee, Republic of Korea; Hyun Mi Kim, Republic of Korea; Sang-II Lee, Republic of Korea; Alexander Fedorenko, Russia; Anastasia Khvastina, Russia; Oleg Lukiyanyov, Russia; Theobald Myatanyi Mashinga, Rwanda; Lain Hossack, Scotland-UK; Bora Obradovic, Serbia-Montenegro; Simona Ursic, Slovenia; David Odusanya, South Africa; Sue Eber, South Africa; Penelope Geerdts, South Africa; Marita Thornhill, South Africa; Annica Walej & Birgitta Liljedahl, Sweden; Simone Heri, Switzerland; Nadia Christinet, Switzerland; Tung-Wan Chang, Taiwan R.O.C.; Hsiao-Tien Wu, Taiwan R.O.C.; Mwakipesile Augustine, Tanzania; Madauka Tumbo, Tanzania; Jambo Mtezo, Tanzania; Prachochin Khonted, Thailand; Lola Visser-Mahogunj, The Netherlands; Ronald van Steveninck, The Netherlands; Anita Kigonya, Uganda; Harriet Mujuni, Uganda; Berina Uwimahazizi, Uganda; Richard Osaliya, Uganda; Luther Brewer, USA; Tyler L. Potter, USA; Bolarinwa Onaolapo, USA; Benjamin

New on the ‘net
IAIA’s web site has a new look and feel. Although the new site is now launched, we continue to move information from the old site and re-link posted material. Please check back, as more material will continue to be posted over the next several weeks.
You may also notice formatting or technical errors when browsing the site; be assured that when this happens, we are working on it.
IAIA members received an e-mail on 5 April with instructions on how to access member pages using your member ID numbers and a temporary password. IAIA HQ will send instructions for updating this temporary information as soon as the site is fully functional.

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: July 2007
Submission deadlines: 15 June

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), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 300 words. Send to Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or Ibrahim Richtman’s Press Club, Fargo, ND USA.