Indigenous Peoples and Impact Assessment Principles

There are over 300 million Indigenous Peoples in the world, and many live in biodiversity hotspots and ecosystems that are the focus of intense extractive industry development. History has shown that involvement of Indigenous Peoples in resource and infrastructure development projects that affect them has been done very poorly. When Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems are properly respected and acknowledged in the development process, the benefits of involvement generally surpass the planned outcomes.

Companies can realize solutions to problems otherwise difficult to resolve, and Indigenous Peoples’ self-determination and capacity can be enhanced. At IAIA08 the Indigenous Peoples section had a very interesting and dynamic meeting. One of the decisions of that meeting was that the Indigenous Peoples section should develop a document for IAIA titled “Indigenous Peoples Involvement: International Best Practice Principles.”

The Section has recently completed a first draft of the Principles document. IAIA members’ comments and input are very welcome. To obtain a copy of the first draft or to be part of this process, please contact Peter Croal at Peter.Croal@acdi-cida.gc.ca.

Bua Port Environmental Impact Assessment: Helping Secure a Future for Rural Fiji

A remote region of Fiji, Bua exists primarily through subsistence agriculture. Fiji’s Department of Fisheries and Forests (DFF) initiated the Bua Port project to help stimulate the timber industry on Bua. It was one of the first significant construction projects in Fiji under the 2004 Environment Management Act, which was enacted to protect natural resources and help manage developments.

The DFF, Department of Environment (DoE), and consultants worked closely to prepare the assessment, which included technical assessments of geology, coastal processes and hydrodynamics, ecology, water quality and economic and social impacts. The remote location was challenging. Consultation specialists spent a week onsite with a Fiji team who translated concepts into the local dialect.

A key to success was taking conventional IA best practice techniques and applying them where interpretations of new legislation had not yet been established. Achieving inclusive consultation in such a remote location was a real accomplishment, and the DoE director said this resulted in an informed community with a greater acceptance of the project.

• Lucy Brake, Beca Group Ltd. Contributed by Richard Morgan • University of Otago • rkm@geography.otago.ac.nz
International Cooperation for a Sustainable World

Sachihiko Harashina
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Sahara@depe.titech.ac.jp

The current economic turmoil has been creating huge impacts all over the world, as the contemporary economic system is borderless and well connected. Industries might be inclined to pay less attention to environmental impacts, but considering the mishandling of financial activities not only in the U.S. but also in other parts of the world, we need to reconsider the role of financing and the real goal of economic efforts.

Japan experienced significant economic growth after World War II based on the development of science and technology and intensive investment in education. In the beginning stage of its economic progress, Japanese economic activities were supported by necessary infrastructures such as expressways, irrigation systems, the high speed train (Shinkansen), and so forth, with the help of financing from the world, especially from the World Bank. Japan could make progress not only by science and technology and ability of the workers, but also by this kind of international cooperation.

To create a sustainable society is a common goal in every part of the world. By pursuing this goal in each area, we could finally construct a sustainable world. Japan has been very active in international cooperation after catching up in the 1960s, and the current target of the activity is this goal. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) changed its structure and function in October 2008, by merging the Yen Loan Division of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The financing of JBIC is limited only to private companies now. JICA also had taken a major part of providing gifts from the Japanese government to developing countries at the same time. JICA became an extraordinarily great organization in official development assistance (ODA) in the world. The annual budget of the new JICA is 10 billion US dollars, which is second largest in the world and more than half of that of the World Bank.

Because of this situation, the activities of JICA need to take more environmental and social consideration. Actually, JICA has been preparing to revise its present guidelines, just as JBIC has done recently. As the activity of the new JBIC was simplified by the shift of the ODA function to JICA, it was much easier for JBIC to revise the guideline than JICA. JICA has now three functions: technical assistance, Yen Loan and gift. It is quite nice that JICA could conduct ODA activities efficiently by combining these three functions. But it is also problematical as the activity become more complex than before. It therefore creates difficulty in revising the existing guideline for the new JICA. My colleagues and I have been advising on the revision of the guidelines as experts. I, as the chairman, submitted the interim report of the advisory committee to JICA last December. As of March 2009, JICA staff are still drafting the revised guidelines. The draft will be examined in committee soon. I hope it will become a more advanced guideline for creating sustainable societies.

The photos below show a comparison of land use patterns in New York and Tokyo, the two biggest metropolises in the world, which was taken by me for my TV program on impact assessment. There

Land use 10km from the central business district. Left: Tokyo. Right: New York.

continued on page 3
IAIA Participates in Launch of Coalition To Address Human Rights Concerns

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has launched a new coalition to foster communication and partnerships on human rights among scientific associations and between the scientific and human rights communities. IAIA was represented by Gene Owens and Anne Miller.

The Coalition is an initiative of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program and was launched during a recent three-day conference in Washington, DC, USA. It is a network of scientific societies that will work together to tackle human rights concerns. Through the Coalition, members will share their work on human rights, explore discipline-specific contributions, and take human rights programs to interested scientific associations.

Within the Coalition are five working groups that will focus on specific areas of activity: Welfare of Scientists, Science Ethics and Human Rights, Service to the Scientific Community, Service to the Human Rights Community, and Education and Information Resources. The Coalition is particularly interested in having its membership as a whole work to promote the rights of everyone to the benefits of scientific progress—invention and technology—at home and around the world.

It will be worthwhile to follow this initiative in order to identify possible future linkages. Certainly, Environmental Impact Assessment has played an extremely strong role in encouraging and/or requiring public participation, which may then occur in other elements of civil society as well, and working to ensure that people (and the rest of the natural environment) are protected from adverse impacts of human activity. A poster and hand-outs regarding the upcoming IAIA09 meeting in Ghana, “Impact Assessment and Human Well-Being,” were made available at the initiative’s launch. Additional information on the Coalition can be found at www.aaas.org. Anne Miller • animiller@aol.com and Gene Owens • Eco-Shore Group • Geneowens@aol.com.

• From the President | continued from page 2

IAIA is a valuable network to support this kind of activity by providing input from all over the world. We will have the annual conference in Accra, Ghana, this May, under the theme of “Impact Assessment and Human Well-Being.” It should be a wonderful occasion to consider international cooperation for creating a sustainable world.

Board of Directors Highlights

At its November 2008 meeting in Calgary, in support of IAIA’s Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and in general business, the Board of Directors:

• Determined that IAIA will not pursue an international registry of IA professionals at this time.
• Tasked the Training and Professional Development Committee with development of guidelines for IA practitioners and administrators.
• Will contact Affiliates to begin translation of key IAIA and IA documents.
• Discontinued the Best Student Poster competition, to be replaced with a paper competition (subject to double-blind peer review and potentially published in IAPA).
• Changed the status of the informal Student and Early Professionals group to a Section.
• Approved the appointment of Angus Morrison-Saunders and Francois Retief as co-editors of IAPA.
• Approved the 2009 budget.
• Discussed marketing of the new membership structure and corporate memberships.
• Discussed development of additional web-related services.

Full minutes are available at www.iaia.org (log in) > Admin & Member Services > Board and AGM Minutes.
China Strategic Environmental Assessment Forum
Implementing the EIA Law in China: Five-Year Review and Prospects

The China Strategic Environmental Assessment Forum “Implementing the EIA Law in China: Five-Year Review and Prospects” was held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 27 February to 1 March 2009. The Forum was co-organized by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Nankai University. We had over 180 participants from mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, Portugal and international agencies, and this allowed us to have very fruitful and stimulating discussions throughout the forum.

Nearly 90 papers covering various aspects of SEA from different parts of China were submitted. With the sponsorship of the Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment (HKIEIA), we organized the “Best Paper Award for Young EA Practitioners” and were able to present five such awards at the closing ceremony.

IAIA members Lam Kinche, Sachihiko Harashina, Maria do Rosário Partidário, Lex Brown, Olivia Bina, CN Ng, Josh Lam, and many others were involved in the Forum. Lam Kinche was the co-chair of the Forum and Sachihiko Harashina, Maria do Rosário Partidário, Lex Brown, and Olivia Bina were keynote speakers.

For more information about the results of the Forum, please visit our web site at http://cseac.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/. We would like to thank the CUHK, HKIEIA and Nankai University for providing photos.


A discussion takes place at the Forum.

Scotland and Northern Ireland Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Getting Better Value from SEA

“Getting Better Value” was the theme at the heart of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The one-day conference explored SEA in the context of the sustainability agenda of Scottish local government and in terms of SEA’s ability to add value and efficiency to the planning system. Held in Glasgow on 20 October 2008, it was part of the wider involvement of the David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability (DLCS), University of Strathclyde, in policy related research, teaching and consultancy.

The conference was organized by doctoral researcher Anna McLauchlan and chaired by senior lecturer Dr. Elsa João, both of DLCS. The conference attracted 112 delegates from central government, local government, environmental consultancies, non-governmental organisations and academia. The conference presentations and a conference report are available from www.ce.strath.ac.uk/sea. • Elsa João • University of Strathclyde • esa.joa@strath.ac.uk
The Green Economy Initiative

There has been marginal attention to the environment in macroeconomic and development policymaking. The prevailing economic crisis is providing a rare opportunity for businesses to seek new opportunities and adopt alternative strategies that lead to investments for economic and environmental sustainability. The objective of UNEP’s Green Economy initiative is to enable global leaders and economic, finance, trade, environmental and other policymakers to recognize environmental investment’s contributions to economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. The initiative will communicate a global plan for a green industrial revolution to be supported by strong evidence for investment into a new generation of green assets. To prepare societies for a transition toward green economies, impact assessment will be crucial to influencing and shaping macroeconomic green policy development, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global economic crisis. For more information, visit www.unep.org. • Hussein Abaza • UNEP • Hussein.ABAZA@unep.org

UK Commissions Research on Noise and Environmental Impact Assessment

The UK’s Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs recently appointed a consultancy to review effectiveness of planning processes in assessing noise with regard to human health, flora, fauna and the built environment. The study will focus on how EIA addresses noise impacts, considering both the environmental statement and the outcomes after development is completed. The project will assess both the technical quality of the noise section of the environmental statement, and whether the impacts are sufficiently described for the benefit of those who might be affected. Post-development, the study will review how well impacts were predicted, if mitigation was effective, and any unexpected noise issues. EIA procedures in other EU member states will also be compared to the UK process, and consideration given to any effects on current planning processes from noise action planning under the European Noise Directive. The team desires to hear of relevant examples, observations or case studies relating to other EU member states. For more information, contact Stuart Dryden at Rupert Taylor (smd@ruperttaylor.com, +44 (0)1993 852 347). • Stuart Dryden

EIA vs. Economic Stimulus in California

For the third year in a row, California’s 28-year old comprehensive EIA law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is at the center of negotiations to resolve the state’s $42 billion budget shortfall. Republican legislators, with the support of groups representing homebuilders and infrastructure construction contractors, are refusing to approve a state budget, in part, unless the requirement to assess greenhouse gasses are removed from CEQA, and unless major public infrastructure projects funded by state economic stimulus moneys are exempted from CEQA review. Governor Schwarzenegger also has proposed retroactive exemptions of 10 major transportation projects from CEQA, and has petitioned President Obama to exempt major federal infrastructure projects from NEPA review. As of this writing, it is unclear how this perceived conflict between environmental assessment/protection and economic stimulus will be resolved. • Richard Grassetti • gecons@aol.com

Context-Specific Criteria for Good Practice in China

Call for Contributions

To contribute to the ongoing debate on improving the practice of Plan EIA and SEA-type evaluations in China, the Centre for Strategic Environmental Assessment for China (CSEAC) (http://cseac.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/) is launching an initiative to define good practice criteria to help in the design and evaluation of China’s Plan EIA and SEA-type evaluations. The proposed initiative reflects on the importance of defining good practice and effectiveness, and is particularly welcome at a time when the need to support the country’s economy through a USD 550 billion stimulus package, largely for infrastructure, will be putting more pressure on China’s already-strained environment. We aim to widely circulate a preliminary set of criteria, and welcome the participation of Chinese and international experts. Please email Dr. Wu Jing (e-mail: wujing@cuhk.edu.hk) if you wish to be involved in this initiative. • Olivia Bina, Programme Director, CSEAC

Mark Your Calendar


• Hussein Abaza • UNEP • Hussein.ABAZA@unep.org


• Olivia Bina, Programme Director, CSEAC


15 September 2009. Climate Change and Development Short Course. Norwich, UK. https://www.1.uea.ac.uk/cm/home/schools/ssfi/dev/odg/prodev/cd


Professional News

Articles Wanted!

The IAIA newsletter features news of interest to a diverse international audience, including (but not limited to) the following:

• Impact assessment news from around the world: legislation, policy, etc.
• Publications, projects, plans or research
• Invitations for input or feedback
• Opinion pieces
• Announcements of upcoming conferences, meetings, and events
• Honors or recognitions

If you have an item of interest that you would like to publish, please contact jen@iaia.org for submission information.

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HIA’09: On the Move! 10th international HIA Conference Planned

After many years of development, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has come of age. HIA now takes place in many different countries. Methods, tools and approaches for HIA have been developed; HIA has moved forward and is still growing.

At this conference, movement will be a central topic. We will discuss matters such as how to move health higher up on the policy agendas, how to move on from incidental HIAs to institutionalization, and how to move on from HIA to a Health in All Policies approach, trying to create win-win situations for health and other sectors. The conference will focus on a number of specific issues, such as Transport for Health. Transport policies and projects have multiple links to health through environmental factors, but also through social aspects and lifestyles. Moreover, it is a topic that connects HIA with other types of impact assessment like EIA and Sustainability Assessment. Other specific topics will include Migration, Physical Exercise and the Obesogenic Environments, and Urban Regeneration.

HIA’09 is the first annual HIA conference to take place on the European continent. The conference will take place 14-16 October 2009 in Rotterdam (The Netherlands), an international harbour city. Movement and transport are vital to this city and it is also a place where cultures combine. All IA practitioners, researchers, policy makers and others are invited to join us in this vibrant environment to network, learn and share experiences.

IAIA members are involved in the HIA’09 conference organisation and opportunities to maximize links between the HIA field and IAIA are being promoted. For more information: www.hia09.nl, or e-mail lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl. • Lea den Broeder • RIVM
Resources

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!

Dictionary and Introduction to Global Environmental Governance
Richard E. Saunier and Richard A. Meganck
‘Indispensable ... a virtual astrolabe for international environmental policy.’
Tom Lovejoy, President, The Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment
This fully revised and updated reference contains over 5500 terms, organizations and acronyms, and over 500 new entries, drawing on hundreds of official sources.
February 2009 ∙ 496 pages

The Handbook of Environmental Policy Evaluation
Ann Crabbé and Pieter Leroy
‘The broadening field of environmental policy is in great need of evaluation and this handbook will be a most welcome, timely and useful tool for this mission.’
Christine Evert Vedung, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Uppsala University
This handbook is the first guide to environmental policy evaluation in practice, and covers both theory and practical examples from around the world.
Hardback • £49.95 ∙ ISBN 978-1-84407-618-5
September 2008 ∙ 192 pages

The Power of Sustainable Thinking
How to Create a Positive Future for the Climate, the Planet, Your Organization and Your Life
Bob Doppelt with foreword by Hunter Lovins
‘A valuable guide book for those courageous enough to transform their traditional cognitive biases towards more sustainable behaviour.’
Dr. Steve Schneider, IPCC member and lead author, Stanford University
This revolutionary book provides proven ‘staged-based’ methods for transforming thinking and behaviour, by changing the reader’s cognitive patterns to a more sustainable way of thinking.
September 2008 ∙ 240 pages

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Have a Web site that is particularly helpful to you? Share it with the IAIA membership! Please send suggestions in care of jen@iaia.org.

YOUR AD HERE

Advertising and sponsorship space is available in the newsletter. Reduced rates for IAIA members! Please contact IAIA Headquarters for information.
Welcome!
New IAIA members 1 December - 28 February


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New on the ‘net

• New login and members area
• Calgary conference proceedings (www.iaia.org/iaia08calgary)
• Reusable site search implemented (currently running only on Calgary proceedings). This will allow us to implement custom search forms throughout our site and give us the ability to have more precise search results in the future.
• Site maps built and implemented. These improve search engine crawlers’ ability to crawl our site and accurately index our content. The benefit is that over time, and in conjunction with other search engine optimization techniques, users will be able to find our site, and information on our site, more efficiently.
• And more... bookmark www.iaia.org today!
• Suggestions for information or services you would like to see on IAIA’s Web site are invited! See www.iaia.org/ website_suggestions/ or contact IAIA webmaster Eff Torreson (webmaster@iaia.org).

To find a fault is easy. To do better may be difficult.

• (Arthur) Clive (Howard) Bell • (1881-1964, British critic)

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. 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). Inclusion in SSCI will improve the international recognition of IA 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 editor at editor.iapa@manchester.ac.uk. • William Page • BeechTree Publishing • page@scipol.co.uk and Maria Partidario • Instituto Superior Técnico and chair, IAPA editorial board • mrp@civil.ist.utl.pt

IAIA Important Dates & Deadlines

April 2009
1........ Newsletter mailed
8........ Board election results announced
23...... Board and Annual General Meeting (AGM) action items due
23...... Annual reports due

May 2009
5........ Pre-registration for IAIA09 closes
16-22, IAIA09
22-23 , Board meeting

June 2009
1........ Newsletter articles due

July 2009
1........ Newsletter, IAIA10 First Announcement mailed