IN THIS ISSUE
From the President 1
Professional news 2
IAIA12 by the numbers 3
IAIA matters 4
Resources 5
Members in the news 6

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR IA PRACTICE

Worldwide, IA practice evolved largely shaped by legislation. Therefore, considerable differences exist around the globe in the scope of assessment, comprehensiveness and level of detail of baseline studies, timing and openness of public involvement and other assessment components.

In contrast, a set of internationally applicable guidelines and standards have been slowly taking shape since the early 1990s. Two recent events held in São Paulo exemplify the promotion and development of these impact assessment standards.

The first was organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to disseminate the second version of their Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Responsibility, which were approved a few days before IAIA11 in Puebla and came into force in January this year. IFC is promoting the standards through a series of workshops in several countries and through presentations in international fora like IAIA12 in Porto last June. In the São Paulo workshop, IFC officials explained the main changes in relation to the original 2006 version of the Performance Standards.

The second event was organized by the Equator Principles Banks and was hosted by a Brazilian private bank on 14 September. The Equator Principles (EPs) are a set of commitments voluntary subscribed by financial institutions, first launched in 2003 by a group of ten such organizations. Updated in 2006 (the “EP II”), the principles are under revision to reflect an extension of its scope of application and to better integrate the 2012 version of the IFC Performance Standards. A draft of a third version (EP III) has been released for comment by stakeholders. The update process was launched in July 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.

As more and more financial institutions adopt the EPs (there were 77 as of September 2012), IFC Performance Standards tend to become more disseminated and progressively more familiar to impact assessment practitioners. The environmental and social impact assessment process is broader than legal requirements in many jurisdictions and calls for a strong integration, in the assessment phase, of both biophysical and socioeconomic impacts. It also promotes impact assessment follow-up, aiming at linking ex ante assessment to ex post management, by means of an environmental and social management system which is broader in scope than the ISO 14001 environmental management system.

IAIA, as the leading global network on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making, welcomes both the IFC and the Equator Principles Association for continuing to refine and update their standards and principles. These efforts essentially promote the use of the impact assessment process, spread its application, and monitors or evaluates its effectiveness. All of these activities support the mission of IAIA.
THE IMPACT OF BIODIESEL ON AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS: NORTHERN PORTUGAL CASE STUDY

The proposed European energy-climate package reduces GHG emissions by 2020 and has a goal of 10% renewable energy use in the transport sector by 2020, as described by the European Renewable Energy Directive (RED – 2009/28/EC). Portugal intends to meet these targets and also consider at least 10% biofuels, especially biodiesel. The EU also needs to reduce atmospheric pollutant emissions to improve air quality (AQ) for European citizens, according to the Clean Air For Europe (CAFE) programme.

The study quantified impacts on emissions and AQ due to biodiesel use, using three emissions scenarios (0, 10, and 20% biodiesel blending/use) and AQ simulations. Road traffic emissions were calculated by Transport Emission Model for line sources (TREM), using emission factors suggested by the 2009 EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook.

Biodiesel use can help to reduce 3.5% of CO2 emissions. Contribution to AQ is lower, reducing 2% of SO2 emissions in and 1% of PM10. Reductions in CO, NOx and NMVOC concentrations are all less than 1%. The MM5-EURAD-IM modeling system was applied for each emission scenario. For PM10, CO, O3, Nox and SO2 the maximum concentration variation found was 0.1%.

This work verified that biodiesel use in road transport resulted in minor changes in pollutant emissions and no changes to AQ patterns. However, biodiesel use can help reduce greenhouses gas emissions which could be important in terms of climate change policy.

A report is available in the IAIA12 proceedings (http://www.iaia.org/conferences/iaia12/Final_Paper_Review.aspx#). Click on “Lopes, Myriam. The impact of biodiesel on air pollutant emissions.pdf” to download.

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QCUMBER SELECTED BY THE STARTUP 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES AS TOP WORLD PROJECT

Qcumber, the Google Maps-based Wiki Web Geo Social Forum for sustainability, was selected by the Startup Olympic Games in London 2012 as one of the 100 most interesting projects in the world. The event, commissioned by the British Government (UKTI) as part of the promotion of the new “Silicon Valley,” recently born in East London, was held in the capital from 29 August–1 September. Among Qcumber were names like Google, Intel, Cisco Systems, and many other big IT major companies.

Qcumber is a free tool that allows anyone to know the environmental impacts/risks of the place in which he lives. Its Geodatabase contains data related to facilities and infrastructure of countries and a series of applications to actively involve citizens in environmental control of territory. Citizens can report environmental problems by inserting Post “Red,” and situations to be protected by Post “Green.” Qcumber applications notify authorities of information received. The idea of Qcumber is to promote environmental sustainability through strategies of collaboration and sharing at regional, local, national, and international scale thanks to new web social networks. Qcumber is involving the main actors: citizens, associations, public administrations, companies, and control agencies, in a kind of game that is very connected with reality, promoting e-government, e-democracy and social participation. These are the ingredients that have allowed Qcumber to attract users in several nations and to open new opportunities for all IAIA members to join the project in their part of the world.

Qcumber’s first steps were taking within the IAIA community in 2011, so this important selection in London Tech City is the positive consequence of interest and passion for impact assessment and sustainability of IAIA members! See the project at www.q-cumber.org.

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Almost half of the IAIA12 delegates (49%) completed an online conference evaluation after the event. Of those who responded, 99% said they would recommend future IAIA conferences to a colleague. When asked about the most valuable aspect of IAIA12, the most common response by far was networking. Learning and training opportunities were also considered valuable, as were various conference sessions. The survey results showed that 96% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall conference program.

More than half of the respondents thought IAIA should keep the same amount of time for plenaries (76%), theme forums (72%), concurrent sessions (68%), and social and networking events (67%). Of those who wanted more or less time for these items, the percentage of respondents who wanted more time allocated was consistently higher for each than the percentage of respondents who wanted less.

Among the 377 respondents who indicated whether or not they submitted a complete paper for review, (29%) indicated that they had. Those who did submit their papers for reviews most commonly indicated they did so to get feedback and improve the quality of their papers and exchange of ideas. For the 71% of respondents who did not submit a complete paper for review, lack of time was the most frequently mentioned reason.

Respondents were asked what they would like to see included in the conference proceedings. (Because they could select multiple items, the percentage total exceeds 100%) Seventy-one percent said they would like to see PowerPoint slides; 66% would like to have access to the optional 5-page papers; 54% indicated their interest in the text of the keynote speeches; photos were mentioned by 44%; session videos (as available) by 34%; text of award winners’ speeches by 29%; session audio (as available) by 20%; live blog outputs by 9%; tweet streams by 8%, and 3% of respondents gave other options.

In response to feedback on overcrowded sessions, too many speakers per session, and lack of discussion time, IAIA asked whether it should more strictly enforce its guideline that each author limit himself/herself to one submission. Of the respondents, 68% agreed that IAIA should more strictly enforce its guidelines, while 32% disagreed.

When asked the various ways they learned about the IAIA12 conference, 50% noted it was due to their IAIA membership, while 41% learned about the event from a friend or a colleague. (We hope you will all spread the word about IAIA13!) Over half (56%) of the respondents had never attended another IAIA conference before, while 27% said they have attended between two and four IAIA conferences. Surprisingly, only 7% of respondents had purchased carbon offsets for their travel to IAIA12, while 19% were unsure whether this had been done, and 74% had not purchased offsets.

Private consultants (24%) and government (19%) were the largest two sectors represented at IAIA12, followed by education (17%). Research institutes/laboratories represented 11%, industry 10%, inter-governmental organizations 4%, multilateral development bank 3%, donor agencies 2%, NGOs/ENGOs 2% and 8% indicated “other.”

We appreciate those who took the time to complete the IAIA12 conference evaluations. This is valuable information that helps IAIA improve future events. Thank you for sharing your comments and suggestions with us.

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NEW IAIA MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS

IAIA is pleased to announce a 30% discount off the individual membership dues for seniors (ages 70+).

When you are ready to join IAIA or renew your membership, simply contact info@iaia for the discount code.

BE A MENTOR. FIND A MENTOR.

The best mentoring relationships are intentional, where an older, wiser, seasoned person agrees explicitly to take some promising young person under his or her wing. Usually, not only do the mentor and protégée profit, but the organization or profession does as well. IAIA has a mentoring program as part of its annual conferences, where Sustaining Members and others in the organization agree to share their wisdom, experience, and contacts with those new to the profession.

New to IAIA and new to IA? Why not find yourself an IA mentor?

Is there a member of IAIA you would like to be like when you are an experienced IA professional? Someone who seems to know a thing or two about life in the impact assessment world—in your part of the world or a half a world away? Someone wise in the ways of impact assessment? Ask. Make the contact. You just might find yourself inheriting the mantle of a saint in the world of IA.

Sustaining Members: Sustaining Member status is automatically given to IAIA members who have signed the Code of Conduct and have four years or more of continuous membership. This status acknowledges a member’s commitment to IAIA’s objectives and the principles of ethical practice over time. The list of Sustaining Members is updated annually and posted on the IAIA web site.

THERE’S SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU: IAPA SEPTEMBER 2012 ISSUE

The newest issue of Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal (Vol 30, Issue 3, 2012) is available online. IAIA members, log in as a member to access the full text articles. Non-members may view the Table of Contents online. In addition to the following articles, professional practice papers and book reviews are featured.

- Survey of current methods and guidance for strategic environmental assessment (Noble, Gunn & Martin)
- Improving access to biodiversity data for, and from, EIAs: a data publishing framework built to global standards (King, Rajvanshi, Willoughby, Roberts, Mathur, Cadman & Chavan)
- How strategic dynamics complicate the framing of alternatives in strategic environmental assessment: the case of the Danish natural gas planning (Lyhne)
- Learning from the social impacts associated with initiating a windfarm near the former island of Urk, The Netherlands (Langbroek & Vanclay)
- In full retreat: the Canadian government’s new environmental assessment law undoes decades of progress (Gibson)

Want to ask a question of all IAIA members? Get Section members’ opinions on a topic? Continue a discussion started at a conference to involve those who didn’t attend the conference?

Just log in at http://iaiaconnect.iaia.org, choose a group, and post your question.

While only IAIA members are allowed to post, reply and upload to IAIAConnect, non-members are able to view discussions, announcements and resources posted there.

Messages and replies on IAIAConnect are archived and accessible, much like an electronic bulletin board. Members can upload resources, collaborate on wiki documents, post event notices, and add a profile picture. Because IAIAConnect is integrated with our membership database, members can easily search for and view each others’ profiles, so it serves as a membership directory as well. Activity on the site can be sent to members via e-mail notifications, with either a daily or weekly “digest.”

If you have any questions, please contact Bridget John (bridget@iaia.org) or download two resource documents posted at www.iaia.org/iaia-connect: 1) Frequently Asked Questions and 2) a quick reference guide to the navigation system used in Connect.

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IAIA WEB SITE SURVEY: DID YOU AGREE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES?

In September 2011, IAIA surveyed its membership regarding their use of the IAIA web site. Twenty-three percent (316) of IAIA members responded, representing 75 countries. While the Publications Committee is still reviewing and analyzing the responses, we wanted to offer a few highlights based on preliminary analysis carried out by headquarters staff.

Nearly half (47%) of IAIA members visit the IAIA web site on a monthly basis, while 19% report visiting it daily. Of those who visit less often, 28% visit the site quarterly to semi-annually, and 6% of members visit less than once per year or never.

Members were asked how well they felt the IAIA web site worked on a scale of one to five, with one being very difficult to use and navigate, and five being very easy to use and navigate. The average response was 3.75.

From a list of various pages on the IAIA web site, members rated the conference/special meeting home pages as the most helpful, with 77% of members rating it either a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5. The next most helpful pages were the Publications page (75%) and the registration page for conferences/special meetings (71%).

The most helpful part of the survey was the responses to the open-ended questions. Many new resources and links were suggested for inclusion on the site, along with ideas for new features and suggestions for improvement. Some of the responses confirmed the need for things IAIA is already developing, and some were new ideas. The Publications Committee is evaluating all of the open-ended responses to prioritize a list of resources to develop and add to the site as well as updates and improvements to make.

Thank you to all the IAIA members who participated in the survey. Your feedback is truly important to IAIA as we look for ways to better serve our membership.

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- The Knowledge Centre on Cities and Climate Change (K4C) has been launched. A partnership between UNEP, Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat and World Bank, this online centre will serve as an information portal on climate change for future development and decision making. To learn more about it or contribute to its content, visit www.citiesandclimatechange.org.

- “Publishing EIA-Related Primary Biodiversity Data: GBIF-IAIA Best Practice Guide” (IAIA Special Publication Series No. 7) is now available in Portuguese: www.iaia.org/publications-resources/downloadable-publications-translated.aspx

- Now available: the book Furthering EIA, edited by IAIA members Anastássios Perdicoúlis, Bridget Durning, and Lisa Palframan, represents collective knowledge and experience. For more information on the book, see www.e-elgar.co.uk/bookentry_main.lasso?currency=US&f=14412. The editors have also created a networking group in LinkedIn on the subject, called Impact Continuum, which can be accessed at www.linkedin.com/groups?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr&gid=4538786.
In Memory

Roger Creasey passed away suddenly on Sunday, September 16, 2012, at his cottage on Mayne Island B.C., Canada. Roger was a long-time and well-liked member of IAIA who, in addition to his current professional duties as Owner/Operator of TerrainFX, generously donated his time and talents in various capacities to IAIA over the years, including serving as a newsletter editor and IAIA13 program committee member. For more information on Roger’s accomplishments, see his LinkedIn page at http://ca.linkedin.com/pub/roger-creasey/12/73b/710. IAIA colleagues who wish to sign the guest book for this family may do so at http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/calgaryherald/guestbook.aspx?n=roger-creasey&pid=160155806.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

1 June 2012 - 31 August 2012


Get to know our newest members: see selected profiles on IAIAConnect!


Have you or an IAIA member you know recently made news, celebrated a promotion, retired, published a book, or completed a major project? Please send the information to the newsletter and share it with the IAIA community!

WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE PHOTO

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

Martin Birley’s book Health Impact Assessment: principles and practice has been awarded the status of “Highly Commended” in the annual British Medical Association book awards, public health section.

The British Medical Association noted that “It is a comprehensive description and discussion of an important area of public health where there are few/no alternative texts. The quality of the arguments is very high. This is a key text in an undersupplied and important area for public health practice.” (September 2012).

For more information about the award and a complete list of winners, see http://bma.org.uk/about-the-bma/bma-library/medical-book-awards.

ROSS APPOINTED CHAIR OF FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL

The establishment of a three-member review panel for the federal environmental assessment of the proposed New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project in British Columbia was announced earlier this year by the Honourable Peter Kent, federal Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

The Minister appointed IAIA member Bill Ross as the Panel chair.

The Panel Terms of Reference and EIS Guidelines were finalized following consideration of comments received from Aboriginal groups, the public, government authorities, the proponent, and other interested parties. The Terms of Reference and the Guidelines, as well as additional information on the project, are available in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry on the Agency website at www.ceaacee.gc.ca, under reference # 11-05-63928.

To be added to the distribution list and be kept informed of activities relating to the panel review process, contact Livain Michaud, Panel Manager, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, NewProsperityReview@ceaacee.gc.ca.

IAPA SEeks inclusion in SSCI

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal is IAPA’s journal. It is one of the few journals in the world fully dedicated to impact assessment. It is within IAPA 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.

Submit papers to editors Angus Morrison-Saunders (A.Morrison-Saunders@murdoch.edu.au) and Francois Retief (francois.retief@nwu.ac.za).

- MARIA PARTIDARIO - INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TECNICO AND CHAIR, IAPA EDITORIAL BOARD - MRP@CIVIL.IST.UTL.PT

INTERNSHIPS INVITED

Employers and students, check it out!

Employers and recruiters can access the most qualified talent pool with relevant work experience to fulfill staffing needs. Special rates for employers seeking interns; for job seekers, the service is always free! See http://jobboard.iaia.org/today.

IAIA & AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES


2nd Korea-Japan-China Tripartite Conference on Development Responsibility and Regional Collaboration with EIA. 31 October-1 November 2012. Jeju, Korea. For more information: ksea92@daum.net

Cameronian association for the Environmental Evaluation (ACAMEE). General meeting. 30 November 2012. For more information, email acamee@acameeonline.org. http://www.acameeonline.org/


CORPORATE MEMBERS

Standard
Czech Academy of Science | Czech Republic
AECOM | USA
Angola Resources Consultants | Angola
Barrick Gold Corporation | Canada
Calliou Group | Canada
Houston Advanced Research Center | USA
NORAD | Norway
Servicio de Evaluación | Chile
Policy Horizons Canada | Canada
Tullow Oil | United Kingdom

NEW ON THE ‘NET ■ WWW.IAIA.ORG

- IAIA13: preliminary program, submissions, registration
- Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment: Special Symposium site

Follow IAIA online! In addition to our own web site, you can find IAIA at
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- IAIA Channel on YouTube
- And more! Visit IAIA’s home page (www.iaia.org) to get connected.

NOTE: For best results on IAIA’s site and others, the IAIA webmaster recommends upgrading your browser to Internet Explorer 9 if possible.

Quotable

The environment is everything that isn’t me.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Is your membership information complete and up to date? IAIA members, is your directory information complete? Have you included your language(s), professional specialties, or areas of expertise? Including these details on your profile increases networking opportunities and helps other members find you in the Member Directory and on IAIAConnect. Update your details online by logging in as a member at www.iaia.org and clicking Manage My Membership > Edit Information.

IAIA IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Subject to change; watch for updates!

November 2012

2-3 .......Midyear Board meeting

December 2012

1 ..........Newsletter articles due
15 .........Poster abstracts due for biodiversity symposium
31 .........IAIA13 paper/poster abstract submission deadline
31 .........IAIA13 student fee waiver deadline

January 2013

3 ..........Newsletter mailed
3 ..........Board election
4 ..........Presenting author registration due for biodiversity symposium
23 .........Registration for biodiversity symposium closes

February 2013

7-8 .......Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment
15 .........IAIA13 last date authors may register and pay in full to be included in final program
15 .........IAIA13 Early Bird rate ends

March 2013

1 ..........Newsletter articles due
1 ..........Board election ballots tabulated; results announced
28 .........IAIA13 draft papers due

April 2013

1 ..........Newsletter mailed
1 ..........Board action items, annual reports and Annual General Meeting action items due
15 .........IAIA13 paper reviews complete

May 2013

13-16 ....IAIA13
15 .........Board meeting

June 2013

1 ..........Newsletter articles due

July 2013

1 ..........Newsletter, IAIA14 first announcement/call for sessions mailed
15 .........IAIA13 deadline for revised papers

IAIA Newsletter

Next issue: January-February-March 2013
Submission deadline: 15 December 2012

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).

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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