



## South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference 2013 (SAEAC 13)

South Asia is one of the most unique regions of the world; comprising diverse communities that are reliant on the environment and ecosystems for sustenance. The last decade has witnessed a rise of impact assessment on national agendas in the region. There is now an increased realization that pursuit of sustainable economic growth has to account for the social and environmental impacts.

SAEAC '13 is being organised in partnership with the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) ([www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)) and will serve as the first step towards enhancing regional cooperation within South Asia. As the first IAIA-supported conference in the region, the main objective of SAEAC '13 is to serve as a platform to enable knowledge transfer between international impact assessment professionals and local & regional practitioners. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is now a legal requirement in all South Asian countries and is a practice that has matured over the past 3 decades. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) is still a fairly new tool, and while countries have started building capacity around it, no country has been able to make it a part of legal requirement.

Pakistan is hosting this year's conference with the theme: *Raising the Bar on Regional Cooperation*. It aims to increase visibility for impact assessment in Pakistan and serve as a forum to showcase the achievements and share learning from the National Impact

Assessment Program. It will also address important questions regarding the future of impact assessment in the region. The conference will also mark the re-launching of Pakistan Environmental Assessment Association (PEAA) as a major player in the impact assessment landscape of the country.

## About National Impact Assessment Program (NIAP)

National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) is a joint initiative of the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCN) with the aim to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan by strengthening EIAs and introducing SEAs in Pakistan's development planning process. The 4 and a half year program is being funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) and technical assistance is being provided by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). More information about NIAP can be found on [www.niap.pk](http://www.niap.pk)

## Important Dates

- Final date for Registration: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013
- Participants arrival: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013
- Pre-Conference Training: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013
- Conference Dates: 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

In partnership with



## Conference Structure and Participants

- Keeping in view the varying levels of progress in EIAs and SEAs, the conference is being divided into two themes: EIA and SEA. Proceedings within these two themes have been tailored taking into account the differing level of knowledge and practice in the region.
- Participation is expected from international impact assessment professionals, relevant government representatives, political representatives, local/regional/transnational authorities (regulatory, coordinating), civil society representatives, international organisations (consulting firms, corporate sector), media personnel (journalists, television and social media) and academia (faculty and students).
- There will be four pre-conference training courses to be held on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2013. These courses will run concurrent and are optional. Participants will have the choice to pre-select training courses according to their needs. The trainings will be conducted by world-renowned experts on Impact Assessment. Registration for pre-conference training courses will be subject to availability of space.

## About the Venue - Islamabad

- Islamabad is the scenic federal capital of Pakistan located at the foothills of the Margalla Hills.
- The city is home to a large international community and most natives are bi-lingual English speakers.
- The temperature in the first week of December ranges from a low of 7°C to a high of 22°C.

## For more information:

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**Please E-mail your queries to [info@saeac13.pk](mailto:info@saeac13.pk)  
More information about the conference can be found on [www.saeac13.pk](http://www.saeac13.pk)**

