

# Health Impact Assessment Quarterly



International Association for Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment

## IAIA07 in Seoul Are you ready?



Seoul, Korea

The 27th IAIA conference is being held in Seoul from 3-9 June 2007.

The registration deadline for IAIA07 presenting authors has been extended to 31 March.

There are a number of other deadlines on 31 March 2007:

- Training course and technical visit registration and payment deadline
- Special meetings (DMZ and HIA-SIA) registration deadline
- Last day to qualify for QuickPass

- Booth & exhibit reservation deadline
- SEP/Mentor/Buddy participant forms due
- Requests for special audio-visual equipment due
- Sponsorship confirmation needed to be recognized in final program

Over 750 abstracts have been submitted, ensuring that IAIA07 will be the biggest IAIA conference ever!



<http://12.15.58.163/modx/index.php?id=242>

### IAIA07

- Presenting authors need to register by 31 March
- More abstracts have been submitted for IAIA07 than any past IAIA conference

## Many Thanks Marleen!

Let us know how you want to

On behalf of the HIA section I would like to thank Marleen Bekker for her hard work editing the HIA Quarterly over the past several years.

If you have any informa-

tion you would like to include in future Quarterlies

please email it to [b.harris-roxas@unsw.edu.au](mailto:b.harris-roxas@unsw.edu.au)

Your submissions could include:

- News and developments in the HIA field

- Information on upcoming events
- Reports on recent events
- Reflections on HIA practice
- Any other items you think might be of interest to HIA section

Ben Harris-Roxas

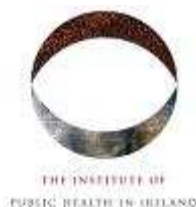
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# Health Impact Assessment Quarterly

## 8th International HIA Conference Healthy Public Policy: Is HIA the cornerstone?

Teresa Lavin



The 8th International HIA Conference is being organised by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland

“The conference aims to provide an international forum to debate different perspectives in health impact assessment”

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland is delighted to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> International HIA Conference. This will take place in Dublin Castle, Ireland on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2007, with pre-conference workshops on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

This conference aims to provide an international forum to debate different perspectives in health impact assessment and explore its role across a range of sectors. It will:

- Provide practical opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding of HIA
- Showcase the HIA work being undertaken in Ireland and internationally
- Consider and demonstrate the evidence regarding the effectiveness of HIA

- Provide opportunities to network with international delegates and speakers

Online registration for the conference, at [www.publichealth.ie/hia](http://www.publichealth.ie/hia) has a special early bird rate available until 5<sup>th</sup> May. To submit an abstract for presentation of your work in poster, oral or workshop format, please complete an

abstract submission form, available on the website. Abstracts will be accepted until 29<sup>th</sup> June.

For further information or to request a hard copy registration or abstract submission form, please contact Tara Burke on +353 1 478 6300 or email [hia2007@publichealth.ie](mailto:hia2007@publichealth.ie)



Dublin Castle

Image: pterofix

## What's the future of the HIA Gateway?

Ben Harris-Roxas

As most of you will be aware the future of the HIA Gateway has been under a cloud for some time, since NICE decided that HIA was outside their core areas of work.

Users were consulted last year and a report on this is now available.

From the report:

“The website was part of the NICE website but is not now being actively maintained. This report provides an analysis of the responses to the feedback form on the Health Impact Assessment Gateway website.”

“Importantly, the exercise has identified a clear

willingness to participate in any developments to the site needs contributing material to the website consequently, to make such contributions easy and accessible.”

<http://tinyurl.com/37qcv9>

## Businesses: HIA's forgotten stakeholder

Salim Vohra

I work with developers and businesses every day and there are times when it can be frustrating to get them to understand why they need to consider health and wellbeing issues beyond occupational health and safety. But often they do engage and do listen and ask pertinent questions.

One of the most striking things about international policy and practice around project-level HIAs is the complete absence of discussion and debate about how we engage with developers and businesses. For me, they are 'HIA's forgotten stakeholders'.

Developers are seen as being, and sometimes can be, obstructive and hostile to HIA. But often the fault lies as much with us in the public health and HIA community as with developers and businesses. We espouse values of openness and transparency but that seems to extend only to communities, NGOs and public institutions. We see developers as antagonists rather than fellow protagonists in the HIA

drama.

Often we don't even see them as stakeholders, let alone important stakeholders, in the HIA process. And in some cases, apart from wanting to access their environmental and health information, they are actively excluded from the process.

Quite rightly, there are concerns that developers have considerable financial power and political influence, but we in the HIA community should not be afraid to engage, discuss and debate with them.

We need to be more active in educating, persuading and lobbying these key stakeholders about HIA, its value and how they can become partners in the HIA process. Okay, so some of you are going to say "enthusiastic partners, never gonna happen!" Maybe so, but with corporate social responsibility, ethical funds and sustainable actions growing in prominence developers and businesses are beginning to understand that

need to grapple with the health and wellbeing implications of their plans and projects.

The lack of an active engagement programme that reaches out to and engages with this group is startling and a critical weakness of current HIA policy and practice. Why so? Because ultimately it is businesses and local communities who tend to foot the bill for HIAs either directly or through taxes.

Having a proactive engagement process with developers and businesses has more pros than cons if we are strong in our values. It is only by proactively engaging with them and winning them over that we can transform their vision of the world and the free market to include health and wellbeing - alongside sustainability and the environment - as a critical factor in enhancing their business success.

Lastly, if Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth can do it, why shouldn't we?

"Often we don't even see business and developers as stakeholders, let alone important stakeholders, in the HIA process."

## HIA2007 South East Asia and Oceania Conference

Ben Harris-Roxas

The first South East Asia and Oceania HIA Conference will be held in Sydney from 7-9 November 2007.

Several speakers have been confirmed:

- Robert Bos, World Health Organization
- Wiput Phoolcharoon,

Thai Health Public Policy Foundation

- Elizabeth Harris, University of New South Wales
- Richard Morgan, University of Otago
- Gareth Williams, Cardiff University
- Ashley Gould, Welsh Local Government Association

Additional speakers will be added in coming weeks.

Pre-conference workshops on *What is HIA?*, *Health Risk Assessment* and *Healthy Public Policy* will be held on 7 November 2007.

For more information go to [www.hia2007.com](http://www.hia2007.com)



The HIA2007 Conference will be held in Sydney from 8-9 November, with pre-conference workshops on 7 November

#### HIA Quarterly

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## Journal Watch: Articles and reports

Ben Harris-Roxas

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