

## **Social Impact Assessment Section meeting**

### **Confirmed Minutes of meeting held at IAIA'11, Puebla, Thursday 2 June 2011.**

(was circulated 3 June 2011 to emails of those present for confirmation, minor corrections received and made, declared confirmed)

PRESENT: Daniel Franks (Section co-Chair), Frank Vanclay (notes), Ilse Aucamp, James Baines, Eleanor Gill, Tim Hart, Valentina Invernizzi, Andrea Jardine-Orr, Caitlin McElroy, Julia Nowacki, Paul Sage, Irge Satioglu, Nick Taylor, Anura Widana, Charlie Wolf (15 in total)

APOLOGIES: Ana Maria Esteves (outgoing SIA Section Chair), Rauno Sairinen (incoming co-Chair)

1. Frank Vanclay (standing in for Ana Maria Esteves) opened the meeting at around 6.15 pm.
2. Frank announced that Daniel Franks and Rauno Sairinen were the only applicants for the position of Section Chair, and that it was agreed that the best arrangement was for them to be co-Chairs. Frank asked the meeting to confirm this. There being no objections, Frank invited Daniel Franks to chair the meeting, and to introduce himself, which he did.
3. Finalising the agenda. Daniel asked for any additional items to the agenda. Matters requested included having a discussion about the SIA Bibliography, and to have a discussion about the rise of Social Impact Management Plans (SIMPs).
4. Minutes and matters arising. Frank Vanclay (as note-taker in 2010) gave a quick summary of last year's minutes which had been circulated, approved and posted on the IAIA listserv shortly after the meeting last year. Frank indicated that there had been follow-up on all items and that there were no real outstanding issues. As one of the items related to the potential for new sections (including human rights impact assessment and gender), Nick Taylor made mention of the need to differentiate between sections and interest groups.
5. Report from the (outgoing) section coordinator on activities of the past year. Speaking on behalf of Ana Maria Esteves, Frank Vanclay gave a report on significant developments over the past year, mentioning:
  - the large presence of SIA in this year's program and all the collaborations with other sections;
  - the launch of the SIAhub ([www.socialimpactassessment.com](http://www.socialimpactassessment.com)), a networking site and resource base for SIA practitioners which had been developed with the support of a startup grant from IAIA. As 1 June, it had 190-odd subscribers, of whom 62% were not in IAIA thus confirming that it would not detract from IAIAconnect and that it would bring SIA practitioners into IAIA. SIAhub is overseen by an International Advisory Board (including Nick Taylor), and a meeting of that group had been held in Puebla;
  - that Frank Vanclay and Ana Maria Esteves had completed editing of their book, *New Directions in Social Impact Assessment*, being published by Edward Elgar which would come out in February 2012;
  - that a group of IAIA members based in Europe had been involved in working with the Belgium Presidency of the European Union to promote the use of social impact assessment, and that as a result of that work were able to have a workshop to progress discussions on the International Guidelines for SIA (which had been presented here in Puebla);
  - that in October 2010 the First Iranian National Conference on Social Impact Assessment had been held in Tehran with 200 delegates. Ana Maria and Frank Vanclay attended as invited speakers (Frank as an international expert and Ana Maria as representative of IAIA). This led to a considerable interest in IAIA in Iran, and four people from Iran had come to Puebla as a result;
  - IAIA had conducted a survey of members, especially in relation to the functioning of sections. The full report will be posted on IAIAconnect shortly. The survey revealed that the SIA section was one of the more active sections, and had amongst the highest satisfaction ratings;
  - Finally, the need to be on IAIAconnect and to nominate that you were a member of the SIA section was paramount. All section communications in future would be through IAIAconnect, thus people would be left out if they were not IAIAconnected.

As a comment on this report, Anura Widana mentioned that he would like more section activity between conferences – or at least that as a new member of IAIA he felt that he was not aware of what was going on and that there had been little use of IAIAconnect. In response, it was indicated that IAIAconnect was very new and that it would take a while for everyone to get used to using it. Tim Hart asked that the thanks of the group be conveyed to Ana Maria for her excellent leadership. Many other comments of praise were made.

6. Reflections on IAIA'11 conference in Puebla. Several comments were made about how well thought-through some of the sessions were. It is good that we can connect with the non-SIA people. The sessions that were really good were the ones where the papers build on each other, and are thought-through – in other words, not contributed papers just clumped together but where there had been planning and discussion to create a discussion across several papers. What was also good this year was the focus on a broad range of emerging issues like agreements, partnerships, Indigenous peoples, the concept of free, prior and informed consent, and applications such as mining. One negative comment about this year was that the Program was not easy to read, and it was confusing where to look for things. [postscript – in fact, this led to some people not attending the section meeting because it was on some pages of the conference program but not others]. Another comment raised was about recording the discussions of presented papers. Daniel explained that there were session summary reports completed by each session chair. Daniel indicated that he ask IAIA Headquarters whether a summary of all of the session chair reports of the SIA related sessions could be placed on IAIAconnect.

7. Discussion relating to IAIA'12 in Porto (theme: *energy future: the role of impact assessment*). Potential topics to be considered for next year that were raised included: resettlement, human rights, SIMPs, management, SIA and social media, more effective use of websites, practical tools, new (theoretical) concepts in SIA practice e.g. resilience, sustainable livelihoods and how they can be translated into practice, conflict, FPIC, developments with IFC and the World Bank, Social monitoring, (equitable) access to energy, fracking. Charlie Wolf suggested that there should be a session around the book, *New Directions in SIA*. Julia Nowacki (from the Health section) indicated interest in collaboration with SIA. Charlie Wolf reminded us that 2012 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rio World Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) and that maybe some reflections on the Rio conference and the concept of sustainable development and its prospects would be worthwhile. Tim Hart suggested an open workshop on the topic: “so where to from here?” discussing who SIA/IA is of value to, and how to get greater implementation of the issues being discussed (which should be near the end of the conference). Nick Taylor (speaking as Past President of IAIA) indicated that IAIA Board discussions revealed that it was important to realise that DEADLINES FOR 2012 WILL BE TIGHT, not flexible.

8. Other Business. SIA section members were encouraged to sign up to IAIAconnect, as well as to the SIAhub ([www.socialimpactassessment.com](http://www.socialimpactassessment.com)). There being no more time, Daniel encouraged James Baines and Frank Vanclay to discuss the SIA bibliography off line.

The meeting was closed at 7.10 pm.

History: minutes finalised by Frank Vanclay 3 June 2011; sent to those present on 3 June 2011 for confirmation with a request any changes to be notified before 30 June 10. There being only minor corrections, posted on IAIAconnect 27 July 2011.