

Social Impact Assessment Section Meeting Agenda

IAIA'12, Porto, Thursday 31 May 2012

1. Introductions and apologies
2. Finalisation of agenda
3. Adoption of minutes of IAIA'11 (Frank Vanclay)

Minutes taken at the SIA Section Meeting at IAIA 11 Puebla, 2 June. 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 by Daniel Franks on 27 July 2011.

4. Report from Section Co-Chair's (Daniel Franks & Rauno Sairinen)
5. Activities at IAIA'12
6. Reflections on IAIA'12

What worked? What didn't?

7. Looking to IAIA'13 Calgary - ('The Next Generation')

What are the key topics that should be discussed? What sessions should the SIA section be involved in? What should be done differently/better?

8. SIA section role between conferences

How can we work better as a network of practitioners? Are we getting the most out of IAIA Connect? Is this the right platform? What activities should section members be involved in? How can we use the section as a vehicle for professional development in SIA?

9. Other Business

Report from SIA Section Co-Chairs

Daniel Franks & Rauno Sairinen

May, 2012

Activities at IAIA'12

- IAIA'12 was another active conference for the section. The section was involved in 19 sessions, including 2 theme forums and another 5 sessions within the conference theme.
- The section has continued to collaborate with other IAIA sections (Indigenous Peoples, Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management, EIA and Health).
- IAIA connect was used (in addition to the section meeting in Puebla) to generate session ideas and develop and coordinate proposals.
- Topics discussed at Porto include: FPIC, partnerships, HRIA, gender, community responses to energy development, resettlement, SIA policy and Social Impact Management Plans.
- The SIA section supported a successful nomination for the corporate achievement award for 2012. The award was won by Anglo American for their Social and Economic Assessment Tool.
- The section also participated in a meeting hosted by the Biodiversity section at Porto to further collaboration on ecosystem services.
- Section members, Frank Vanclay and Ana Maria Esteves again hosted a training workshop on SIA at this year's conference.

Ongoing Projects

- The SIA section are continuing to develop International Guidelines on SIA. The project is being led by Frank Vanclay.
- The SIAhub, an online portal for SIA practitioners, established with the support of an IAIA Challenge Grant, was launched in early 2011. The development of the site was driven by Ana Maria Esteves and is overseen by a management group. The site has more than 250 subscribers, of whom two-thirds were not in IAIA thus confirming that it would not detract from IAIAconnect and that it would bring SIA practitioners into IAIA.
- A book titled 'New Directions in Social Impact Assessment' was published by Edward Elgar in late 2011. The book was edited by Frank Vanclay and Ana Maria Esteves and includes contributions from many of SIA section members.

New Projects

- In collaboration with the Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management section, the SIA section supported the development of a special issue of IAPA on the topic of human rights and impact assessment to appear in 2013. The issue will be guest edited by Deanna Kemp and Frank Vanclay (both SIA section members).
- Section members contributed a paper on SIA to the special issue of IAPA on The State of the Art of Impact Assessment.
- SIA section members are supporting a two-day workshop of practitioners and academics to be held in Australia in 2012 on 'State of the EIA'.
- The SIA Section has started a Twitter account (@SIA_IAIA). The feed currently has a modest total of ~170 followers. The Section suggested expansion of the use of Twitter at the Porto conference and worked alongside the conference team to do so.
- Daniel Franks is participating in the peer review of the Commonwealth Secretariat guidelines on foreign investment as part of the working group on environmental and social impact assessment. A meeting of the working group is being held in London the week following IAIA'12.

Challenges to the section

- The section has at times been relatively active on IAIA connect, but is still coming to terms with the potential of the portal and the role it could play in between conferences to foster networking and activities. A number of networking attempts have not generated active participation.
- The section has unrealized ambition to play a greater role in networking practitioners between conferences.
- One issue raised on IAIA connect by section members related to the role IAIA could play in promoting the importance of social qualifications for social impact assessment roles in international organisations. This issue was raised due to a number of job advertisements that advertised positions responsible for SIA without requirements for social qualifications.

Links with other sections

- The SIA section in recent years has developed good collaborative relationships and joint conference sessions with the Indigenous Peoples, Corporate Stewardship & Risk Management, Public Participation, Biodiversity, EIA and Health sections. The section anticipates that it will expand on these connections.

Attendance sheet

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