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Capacity Building: Follow-up on the Marrakech Declaration

An important outcome of IAIA'03 was the Marrakech Declaration, which reaffirmed IAIA's commitment to building impact assessment capacity. It also committed IAIA to developing an action plan that would provide a coherent and coordinated approach to fulfilling its commitment.

This workshop will continue the process of developing IAIA's action plan for implementing the Marrakech Declaration. The workshop will explore the role that IAIA could play in improving the professional practice of impact assessment; in disseminating information about available professional training; in supporting institutional capacity building; and in the general promotion of impact assessment.

The chairpersons of IAIA'03 will lead the workshop. Their objective is to leave Vancouver with a working plan for commencing implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in the upcoming year.

For more information, please contact Peter Leonard (leonard.peter@hydro.qc.ca), Jean-Roger Mercier (jmercier@worldbank.org), or Jaafar Boulejjouch (dpe@minev.gov.ma).

Impact Assessment of Infrastructure Projects

Developing and developed countries alike are very actively engaged in the creation, expansion and replacement of basic infrastructure vital to supporting their social, environmental, and economic goals. Worldwide, both the private and public sectors are undertaking numerous water supply, wastewater management, and solid and hazardous waste management projects. Impact assessment plays an important role in ensuring that these essential infrastructure projects are implemented in ways that support sustainable development.

This session will identify key issues, relevant experience, methodological and technical innovations, key stakeholder concerns, participation strategies, ongoing challenges, lessons learned, and proposed ways forward.

Impact Assessment and International Finance, with Specific Reference to the Equator Principles

Financial institutions are increasingly using the instrument of impact assessment (IA). The recent announcement of the Equator Principles (agreement that private banks would employ impact assessment) highlights the international financial community's recognition of the importance of impact assessment.

For multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions, export credit agencies and commercial banks, impact assessment is becoming an integral aspect of project financing. The quality and intensity of its use does vary widely, however.

This session will cover the spectrum of issues and concerns, lessons learned and best practice for IA in the financial community. Topics of interest include:

- Equator Principles
- OECD Common Approaches on the Environment
- Policies, guidelines and directives for IA
- Integrating multiple regulatory requirements
- Financial institutional processes and implementation
- Consultation and disclosure requirements
- Monitoring capacity of finance institution staff, costs and responsibilities
- Selection and management of IA consultants
- Case studies
- Comparisons among development finance institutions
- Relationships with stakeholders, including civil society
- Integrating IA into financial project decision-making
- Social impact assessment
- Strategic IA and the bigger picture
- IA and corporate reputation/risk management
- Socially responsible investment implications
- Impact assessment as a financial risk management tool

Impact Assessment and NEPAD: Environment, Poverty and Development in Africa

Recently certain important initiatives, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD), have been launched on the African continent. It is essential to consider the environmental issues related to those initiatives. In this context, it is important to discuss problems that have been identified in individual impact assessments in individual countries.

Development must take into account the three main types of environmental problems that are affecting the African continent:

- human health problems (hygiene, parasitic diseases, armed conflict, etc.)
- degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity
- global environmental problems (depletion of the ozone layer, climate change)

More than any other region in the world, Africa is affected by the convergence of all three of these types of environmental problems, and by the immense challenges that they pose to its society. Taking environmental factors into account, particularly through the mechanism of impact assessment, can and must play a key role in economic development. This session will provide an opportunity to address the major questions concerning impact assessment in relation to those initiatives.

Corporate Social Responsibility, Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development

In this era of globalization, decreasing government intervention in the economy, and increasing influence of local communities and special interest groups, how should corporate social responsibility be defined? Can the concept of corporate social responsibility lead to better impact assessment, better management of the environment and stronger communities?

There are arguments that corporate performance should be judged not only on the basis of economic success, but also on the basis of success in protecting the environment and supporting community values and aspirations, in accordance with the evolving principles of sustainable development.

This session will explore whether initiatives related to corporate social responsibility should be limited to encouraging deregulation, enhancing corporate image, creating good relations with communities affected by corporate operations, and deflecting the criticism of opponents. It will discuss whether

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corporate social responsibility initiatives should also address the fundamental questions at the core of the sustainability debate, namely, those related to the interdependence of economic activity, the environment and human social systems.

Impact Assessment and Decision Making

This workshop will focus on the relationship between impact assessment and real-world decision making. Barriers that impede the effectiveness of impact assessment as a decision-making tool will be examined. These include:

- the involvement of a multiplicity of parties in decision making
- the contestable nature of information provided in impact assessments
- the capriciousness of the decision-making process

The workshop will address the following aspects:

1. Analysis and understanding. What is the nature of the relationship between impact assessments and decision making? What are the reasons that the impact assessment tends to have a limited effect on real-world decision making? What conditions favour or impede successful outcomes?

2. Design. What can be done to make impact assessment a more effective decision-making tool in the real world?

We invite papers addressing this central issue, including empirical studies, illustrative case studies, and conceptual or theoretical contributions.

Impact Assessment and the Transportation and Communication Sectors

Developing and developed countries alike are very actively engaged in the creation, expansion and replacement of transportation and communication infrastructure vital to supporting their social, environmental, and economic goals. Worldwide, both the private and public sectors are undertaking numerous road, rail, public transportation, airport, port, and telecommunication projects. Impact assessment plays an important role in ensuring that these essential projects are implemented in ways that support sustainable development.

This session will identify key issues, relevant experience, methodological and technical innovations, key stakeholder concerns, participation strategies, ongoing challenges, lessons learned, and proposed ways forward.

Industry and CIPEC: Making Progress in Achieving Kyoto Objectives

The Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation (CIPEC) is a unique partnership between Canadian Industry and Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency. This program promotes voluntary industry efforts to conserve energy and reduce atmospheric emissions, with a view to achieving Canada's Kyoto Protocol targets for reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Industries participating in CIPEC embrace innovative development, adoption and adaptation of new methods and technologies to conserve energy and reduce atmospheric emissions. Improved financial performance is often a by-product of their efforts.

CIPEC encourages and rewards industry innovations by sponsoring the Voluntary Challenge and Industrial Energy Innovators initiatives.

Industries participating in CIPEC use techniques widely used in impact assessment to identify, measure, monitor and track atmospheric emissions and energy use. Independent organizations analyze data and publish annual reports charting progress in reducing GHG emissions. CIPEC provides a model of an approach to GHG emission reduction that could be applied internationally in market economies.

The session will explain the CIPEC initiative and provide information on its results. A discussion of the suitability of CIPEC as a model for achieving reductions in GHG emissions will also take place.

Integrated Impact Assessment: The Sydney Tar Ponds, Nova Scotia, Canada

Sydney, Nova Scotia, is home to one of the largest contaminated sites in Canada. Some 700,000 tonnes of soil are contaminated with PAHs, PCBs and heavy metals, a result of almost one hundred years of steel making and coking operations. As well, the discharge of raw sewage and the leaching of contaminants from a landfill site affect the Sydney area. Approximately 26,000 people live within five kilometres of the site of contamination, and a number of environmental, health and social issues have been identified. The Canadian federal and provincial governments have commenced clean-up efforts, which are subject

to environmental assessment under both federal and provincial legislation.

The proposed session will bring together a number of presentations that will highlight the roles of the various impact assessment disciplines and show how they must be integrated in order for decision-makers and the public to have a holistic view of the situation.

Tourism, Recreation and Impact Assessment

People like to play. Recreation, tourism and special entertainment events are components of the "fun" industry, which is a major generator of economic activity throughout the world.

Pursuits like ecotourism typically occur in areas such as national parks where protection of the environment is paramount. Major international sporting events, like the Olympic Games to be held in the Vancouver area in 2010, create "legacy" facilities which create impacts in their own right, and which may spur further post-games development. Sporting events at this global scale also raise the profile of their venue, which may stimulate further development activity. Other types of events, like rock concerts or travelling exhibits, may involve intensive use of a site for a short period of time, and may require the installation of temporary infrastructure and services for a large number of people.

The purpose of this session is to examine the environmental and social impacts of the "fun" industry. Papers related to a variety of aspects of managing and controlling the environmental and social effects of tourism, recreation and special events are invited, including:

- management policies to guide event selection and regulation
- social and environmental planning initiatives related to managing recreation, tourism and special events
- balancing property rights, security, economic opportunity, protection of the environment and protection of human society
- case studies of environmental and social impacts of recreation, tourism and special events

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Cumulative Effects Assessment

Many jurisdictions require that impact assessments address cumulative effects, which are commonly defined as the effects of a proposed project in combination with the effects of other human activities. Some of these jurisdictions provide guidance on how to assess such effects. Notwithstanding this, there is considerable debate as to what constitutes an appropriate cumulative effects assessment (CEA).

Often there are significant differences among (a) what is desirable, (b) what is feasible, (c) what is actually done and (d) what regulators expect. Such differences may pertain to a specific discipline (e.g., ecological or human health impact and the effects of multiple stressors), or they may pertain to the integration of inputs from a number of disciplines contributing to an assessment.

Practitioners, regulators, industry and stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions that illustrate approaches to CEA, either as case studies or as presentations of theoretical concepts and/or experience that will address items (a) to (d). Papers by teams of practitioners and papers reflecting industry perspectives are encouraged. The objective of the session is to advance the practice of CEA towards a better understanding of what is feasible in characterizing cumulative effects, and how well current approaches to CEA are meeting the needs of industry, regulators and other stakeholders.

Impact Assessment Follow-up

The primary objective of the workshop will be to identify and discuss pertinent experiences in impact assessment follow-up, with particular emphasis on the use of follow-up in various industrial sectors. There will nonetheless be room to explore follow-up from many other perspectives.

Because proponents are normally responsible for implementing environmental management plans that flow from impact assessments, the results of follow-up programs are of particular importance to them. Moreover, follow-up is a key element of such industry-led approaches as ISO 1400 environmental management systems.

The workshop will provide a forum for discussing recent case studies, as well as theoretical ideas on impact assessment follow-up. The workshop will address follow-up not only from the perspective of project impact assessment, but also from the perspective of

strategic environmental assessment (SEA). Follow-up of SEA has not been adequately addressed in past IAIA conferences, and workshop participants will have the opportunity to influence, at an early stage, the practice of this evolving aspect of follow-up.

New Methods for Impact Assessment and Other Technology Futures Analyses

European and American researchers have been working on an initiative to advance the methodology of technology futures analysis (TFA). Technology futures analysis aims to integrate aspects of impact assessment, national and regional foresight exercises, competitive technological intelligence, and technology forecasting and roadmapping. These disciplines share a number of comparable approaches and concerns.

Activities to date have illuminated the important role of process management in conjunction with TFA analytical efforts. Serious attention to processes (e.g., engaging key stakeholders in analyses) can significantly affect outcomes.

The primary focus of the TFA initiative is to stimulate attention to the advancement of methodology. We will share important drivers such as the significant changes associated with "emerging technologies" (the progression from industrial to information to molecular technologies). These changes necessitate the development of new methodologies. A number of novel approaches are being proposed to take advantage of electronic information resources, new understanding of chaotic regimes, and more interactive modes (e.g., scenario simulation and gaming).

This panel/workshop will present some of the latest thinking and then invite suggestions from various impact assessment perspectives on candidate methodologies and process management approaches. Results will be summarized and shared, particularly at a TFA Methods Workshop tentatively planned for 13-14 May in Seville, Spain, at IPTS.

Public Involvement and Risk Management: Managing for Public Good and Investor Confidence

In the 21st Century, companies are learning that public involvement is an important part of their risk management process. The days when investors viewed public involvement as a non-strategic expenditure are gone. Today's investors expect companies to understand and anticipate the implications of social and environmental phenomena in order to avoid "shocks" to stock prices. This workshop will cover:

- how leading companies are integrating public involvement and risk management
- how to ensure that your company (or agency) understands and anticipates the implications of evolving social and environmental phenomena
- how to integrate science and community perspectives into solid strategic decisions
- how to incorporate cumulative impact assessment into strategic thinking
- six key requirements to achieve risk management objectives through public involvement
- three ideas that will change the way executives view the role of public involvement in risk management
- corporate social responsibility: how to convert community involvement into company legacy

This session will build on the conference theme, Impact Assessment for Industrial Development – Whose Business Is It? It will address the role of investors, boards of directors, management and stakeholders in the risk management process. It is the "business" of the corporation to be in impact assessment and issue management, and it is the "business" of the stakeholder communities to suggest how the company can respond effectively.

Environmental Management Systems

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a structured process for integrating environmental considerations into an organization's overall management system to help ensure it is on track in meeting its environmental commitments. Policies, procedures, and resources committed to meeting environmental requirements are all part of an EMS.

As well as providing focus, an environmental management system can be used as a systematic framework for tracking environmental objectives. An EMS can be structured to include and build upon the evaluation, assessment, monitoring, reporting, reviewing and other management activities associated with impact assessment. An EMS can be utilized as a mechanism to provide

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feedback loops in an organization as well as provide follow-up for impact assessment.

This year's conference theme is Impact Assessment for Industrial Development – Whose Business Is It? This theme will serve as an excellent focus for sharing practical experiences in linking IA and EMS. Aspects to be explored include linking EMS with project impact assessment by developing an EMS during the planning stages of a project, integrating EMS and IA during operations, and adopting EMS within municipalities. There will be a related innovative poster session to generate structured discussion on a range of EMS topics.

Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a discipline that has developed rapidly over the past ten years. Health impacts are now routinely considered in project-level impact assessments. Moreover, health is explicitly addressed in SEA (e.g., the UN-ECE SEA protocol, 2003), and methodologies for integrating Health and Social Impact Assessment are also being explored. Finally, HIA is being carried out as a stand-alone exercise, for instance, in assessing health consequences of governmental or municipal programmes related to such diverse areas as transportation, education, tax systems, and housing.

HIA practitioners are invited to share their experience and knowledge, especially as it pertains to the conference theme.

Also, as the body of experience in HIA grows, a need for evaluation instruments and procedures is developing, both for stand-alone HIA and health-related components of other impact assessments. Topics warranting further discussion in sessions related to HIA include integrated (health) impact assessment, policy and planning, and tools and procedures.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts, and we particularly welcome presentations in poster format.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been a key focal point of discussion at many past IAIA conferences. This tool continues to evolve in terms of its usefulness, practicality and applicability in achieving environmental sustainability.

At IAIA '04 there will be three SEA workshops with invited speakers, and three sessions for the presentation of papers on SEA topics.

The three workshops will respectively address:

- the purpose of SEA and its relevance to the decision-making process. How can we ensure that SEA is an integral part of decision making?
- integrating environmental, social and economic aspects in the SEA process
- sustainability assessment and appraisal: an examination of current practice and emerging opportunities in the application of impact assessment tools and methods for sustainability appraisal

The three sessions for presentation of papers will respectively address:

- practicalities in follow up and monitoring. This session will examine the success of SEA in influencing the decision process, and will discuss tools and techniques for monitoring the usefulness of SEA.
- experiences of EU member states in implementing the EU SEA directive
- practical experiences linking SEA and Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Urban Impact Assessment

Urban areas provide increased economic opportunity, access to education and delivery of social services. On the other hand, many urban dwellers experience great poverty and hardship. Local authorities are challenged by requirements of national and international policies and by deteriorating social and environmental conditions that render cities inefficient. Industry and investment decisions have an increasing impact on urban development. Sustainable urban management and development have become a collaborative initiative, at the same time necessitating and fostering decentralisation, participation and public-private partnership.

Urban problems are of great concern to both developing and developed countries. With half the world's population already living in urban areas, urbanisation is certainly one of the most important factors affecting the sustainability of human society. Key issues on the urban agenda are human shelter, social development and eradication of poverty, environmental management, economic development, good governance and international cooperation.

Government, civil society (including NGOs) and private industry must develop the necessary capacities to understand and deal with development needs, to improve their abilities to

solve problems related to the key issues, and to define and achieve objectives and perform necessary functions within the urban system.

This session will provide a forum for the exchange of experiences in developing necessary capacities for sustainable urban management and development.

Impact Assessment of Disasters, Accidents and Conflicts

Natural disasters, industrial accidents and conflicts pose important challenges to society and sustainable development. They may result in significant loss of human life, loss of livelihood, and damage to the natural and built environment. Natural disasters and industrial accidents typically have serious environmental repercussions. Conflicts are often associated, directly or indirectly, with natural resource issues. Moreover, all three types of occurrences are linked intimately to, and often are the direct result of, human actions. Yet despite their dramatic effects on the environment and on human life and society, these types of occurrences have received little attention from the impact assessment community.

Three sessions dealing with the theme Impact Assessment, Disasters, Accidents and Conflicts will be offered. Two will focus on the presentation of relevant papers. The third will be a workshop that uses the papers presented in the two previous sessions as a point of departure. It will provide an opportunity for discussions on more clearly defining the role that impact assessment should be playing in helping to avoid or reduce the impacts of disasters, accidents and conflicts.

Workshop results will be shared with the impact assessment community through communications to IAIA members and through publications. We encourage the submission of papers describing practical experience in applying impact assessment techniques to disaster, accident or conflict situations.

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Environmental Law, Policies and Institutions

The instruments chosen to address environmental and social impacts of projects are critical to the success of impact assessment. Ongoing improvement of instrument design and implementation is necessary to meet the environmental, social, economic, cultural and health assessment challenges of today and the future.

Increasingly, industries argue that legislated approaches are over-used. They often advocate instead voluntary approaches that may include a mix of environmental management systems, third party or internal environmental audits, environmental standards (e.g., ISO, EMAS in the European Union), corporate self-reporting, environmental information and economic instruments.

Although legislated approaches have been proven effective for certain sectors, they have been less effective for others. Similarly, the effectiveness of legislated approaches varies greatly from one country to the next.

In some developing countries where strong enforcement of environmental laws is lacking, industrial corporate social responsibility initiatives and the voluntary application of industrial ecology have proven necessary for environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources. These instruments have complemented legislatively-based approaches to ensure that impacts are appropriately assessed and mitigated.

Do voluntary approaches work? What is the right mix of legal and policy instruments?

This session invites discussion of best practices, case studies and perspectives that explore the pros and cons of voluntary and legislated approaches to addressing the impacts of industrial development. Topics for consideration include:

- determining whether some industry sectors are more closely regulated than others
- determining whether a legislated approach is essential for effective impact assessment of industrial projects
- determining whether voluntary initiatives or legislative approaches are more effective in advancing the practice of impact assessment
- improving the regulatory framework for impact assessment

Public Participation

The active participation of the public is a necessary ingredient of reliable and effective impact assessments. The mechanisms that are most appropriate for engaging the public differ widely, however, depending on culture, traditions and the political environment. This session, building on last year's session in Marrakech, solicits presentations and discussions on:

- case studies of public participation in impact assessment, especially in the private sector
- other papers on capacity building, evaluation, cultural adaptation and other aspects of public participation

Social Impact Assessment

There are rarely opportunities to apply rigorous Social Impact Assessment (SIA) methodologies to industrial projects. National legislative and regulatory frameworks seldom require it. Political, economic and timing factors often do not favour it. Problems in coordinating engineering, environmental and SIA work often exist. Moreover, industrial enterprises are often disinclined to become involved in social issues.

The challenge is to undertake SIA that contributes both to identifying and addressing legitimate issues of people potentially affected by a project and to minimizing social and consequent financial risk to project proponents.

The purpose of this session is to explore the application of SIA in constrained contexts. Papers are invited that provide insight on constraints and means to overcome or manage them so that the integrity of the final product is maintained. Papers by teams of practitioners and papers reflecting industry perspectives are encouraged. Suggested topics for submissions include:

- comparisons of theoretical approaches, national legislation, international best practice and industry (corporate) sustainability policy
- social risk and SIA
- consultation, monitoring and evaluation processes as supplements to front-end data gathering and analysis
- case studies that demonstrate successful innovation or that analyze failure and its consequences

get involved!

Exhibitors

IAIA'04 offers an ideal marketing opportunity if you want to reach potential clients and customers from 80+ countries in a number of professional fields. Space is limited, so contact IAIA HQ today to reserve your booth!

Sponsors

Not only do you demonstrate that your organization is environmentally conscious, but you also contribute to the improvement of impact assessment around the globe! Sponsors reach impact assessment practitioners from a wide variety of fields, network with 500+ conference participants, are recognized by IAIA members living and working in over 100 countries, open avenues of communication with impact assessment professionals, and enhance their commitment to the environment. Contact IAIA HQ or the Canadian organizers today for information on how to get involved!

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THIS IS THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

ALL IAIA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE.

Council Meeting

The IAIA Council serves as an advisory resource to the Board of Directors. The Council is comprised of the Board, all Committee chairs, representative(s) of Branches and language Secretariat(s), the CEO and Headquarters representatives. All IAIA members are welcome to attend the Council meeting.

Committees and Sections

Much of IAIA's progress takes place through the activities of its Committees and Sections. All delegates are invited to join these meetings. See the IAIA web site for information on IAIA's Committees and Sections.

