

Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment

Conference Topics

- **Who is our client?** To whom do we owe our allegiance? The profession, the client, country procedures and standards, international practice criteria?
- **Who is our audience?** How do we frame questions and critical issues and for whom?
- **How can impact assessment better support transparency in decision-making and good governance?** What are the roles of decision-makers, civil society, NGOs and watchdogs?
- **What are the criteria and standards for independent reviews and independent monitoring?**
- **When things go wrong, what roles do independent panels, ombudsmen and court cases play?** How do these actors set the standards for ethics and quality in impact assessment?
- **How do we improve communication?** In what languages? What techniques for which audiences?
- **How much is enough?** How much data and how much analysis?
- **How do we achieve quality while also developing capacity in impact assessment?** Are there trade-offs?
- **Do project level and strategic assessment require different approaches to quality?**

Practitioner's Forum

What ethical and quality dilemmas do we face and how do we respond? Actual and anonymous and/or hypothetical case studies and questions are encouraged in informal, impromptu practitioner-developed forums held at the close of each conference day.

In 1980, a small group set out boldly to make impact assessment an international, professional endeavor based on common values and shared experiences. The IAIA Code of Ethics reflects our ideals. Now 2,500 strong, let us join together on our 25th anniversary to explore the fundamental questions of ethics and quality in our profession.

What is ethical conduct in impact assessment? Political forces and business pressures challenge our independence and integrity.

What are the standards of quality for impact assessment? Should there be a global standard?

Is quality determined by the document, the process or the outcome?

We all face the competing demands of quality, deadlines and budgets. Let us discuss our aspirations for ethical conduct and quality impact assessment. Can we have one without the other?

We hope you will raise these and many other questions at IAIA'05. Share in this thought-provoking debate among those who practice, pay for, review, are affected by and litigate impact assessment.

Please send your abstracts, ideas and comments.

IAIA Code of Ethics

The member shall carry out his or her professional activities, as far as possible, in accordance with emerging principles of sustainable development and the highest standards of environmental protection. The member shall at all times place the integrity of the natural environment and the health, safety and welfare of the human community above any commitment to sectoral or private interests. The member shall ensure the incorporation of environmental protection and social or socioeconomic impact considerations from the earliest states of project design or policy development. The member shall not conduct professional activities in a manner involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or bias. The member shall not advertise or present the member's services in a manner that may bring discredit to the profession.

Visiting the Boston Area

The City of Boston is one of America's oldest cities. It is home to nearly 590,000 residents, many institutions of higher education and numerous cultural attractions.

A sampling of things to see and do while you are in Boston (in addition to attending IAIA'05 sessions):

- Walk the 3-mile Freedom Trail past 16 historical sites from America's early beginnings
- Tour Boston Harbor, Cape Cod, and the Islands
- Visit the campuses of Harvard, MIT, Boston University and others
- Visit nearby Concord where the American Revolution began—site of Walden Pond, cradle of the American environmental movement, home to authors Thoreau, Emerson, Alcott and Hawthorne
- Shop at the Quincy open air market, fashionable Newbury Street, and the most famous store for bargains—the original Filene's Basement

Possible technical visits include:

- The Big Dig Central Artery Tunnel Tour (www.bigdig.com)
- The new Deer Island sewage treatment plant project servicing 2.5 million people (www.bostonislands.org/deer.html)
- The proposed Cape Cod windfarm combined with whale watching (www.capewind.org)
- A visit to historic Concord to assess the impacts of further expansion of the Airport at Hanscom Field (www.saveourheritage.com)

Submission Instructions

Deadlines

- 15 August 2004 (workshops and sessions)
- 15 November 2004 (papers and posters)
- 1 March 2005 (presenting author registration)

Language

English

How to Send

Follow the instructions at www.iaia.org.
(Conference > IAIA'05)

Acceptance and Registration

Please allow 2-3 weeks for IAIA HQ to notify you that your abstract has been received and reviewed according to Program Committee guidelines.

Following preliminary acceptance by HQ, the presenting author is required to submit the registration form and full conference fees before the submission will be confirmed and forwarded to the Program Committee for placement on the final program.

The deadline for presenter registration is 1 March 2005. After that time, submissions without registration by the presenting author will be dropped from the program.

Remember: early registration will save you money!
IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and travel expenses for program participants.

Anyone who registers and pays fees in full by 1 March will receive a free IAIA T-shirt at the conference!

Registration and Fees

	Early Bird	Regular	Late/On-site
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(by 31 December 2004) (by 1 March 2005)

IAIA Member	\$420	\$470	\$550
Non-member*	\$520	\$570	\$650
Student*		\$285	

* The non-member and student rates automatically register you for a 1-year membership to IAIA.

IAIA'05 Activities

IAIA'05 pre-meeting activities will begin 29 May. Activities include training courses, special sessions, workshops, technical visits, social events, and more. The preliminary program and registration materials will be available on the web site and from IAIA HQ in October 2004.

State-Level Environmental Impact Assessment

A one-day, first-of-a-kind conference of environmental lawyers and others involved in the preparation of environmental review documents under little NEPA laws, examining comparative and methodological issues.

Date: 30 May 2005

Fee: US\$185

Reduced fee for IAIA'05 delegates: US\$105

Presented in conjunction with the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources of the American Bar Association.

Announcing a Special Meeting

IAIA SEA-Prague

26-30 September 2005

See www.iaia.org for details

About IAIA

The International Association for Impact Assessment is an interdisciplinary society dedicated to developing international capacity to anticipate, plan, and manage the consequences of development. The Association has over 2,500 members in over 100 countries. IAIA seeks to ensure that political, environmental, social and technological dimensions of decisions are understood by those making them.



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25th Annual Conference Event

International Association
for Impact Assessment



31 May - 3 June 2005
Hyatt Regency Cambridge
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT
AND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

"Integrity is your destiny —
it is the light that guides your way."
Plato

IAIA 1980-2005 • Celebrate the Spirit!