

Pre-Conference Special Meetings

Indigenous Peoples and Impact Assessment: How Has Impact Assessment Measured Up to the Challenges of Indigenous Peoples' Development?

Sunday, 29 May
9:00am-5:00pm

Free for IAIA'05 delegates/\$50 for others

After more than three decades of experience, how effectively has impact assessment served Indigenous Peoples? How has impact assessment—as a process and a tool—been measuring up to the challenges of Indigenous Peoples' development? What exactly has impact assessment contributed to the fulfillment of Indigenous Peoples' aspirations and their particular development requirements? What are the main lessons learned from past and recent experiences and ongoing efforts?

The event is meant to provide a technical forum for Indigenous Peoples leaders, practitioners of impact assessment and other stakeholders to discuss, exchange and share successes and failures of Indigenous Peoples with impact assessment.

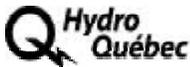
In doing so, this special conference event will contribute tangibly to fostering better understanding and enhanced agreement among Indigenous Peoples, impact assessment professionals and stakeholders. Through the review of good practices and difficult experiences, participants will discuss, debate and provide recommendations on creating more effective and widespread participation of Indigenous Peoples in impact assessment as a tool for sustainable development.

The one-day forum will be structured around the three following themes illustrating the state of experiences of Indigenous Peoples with impact assessment:

- Indigenous Peoples and Hydropower Development
- Indigenous Peoples and the Extractive Industries (oil, gas and mining)
- Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas

Irrespective of the themes, several cross-cutting issues will be addressed throughout the day such as free, prior and informed consent, assessment of social and cultural impacts, intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge, benefit sharing, particular TOR and time requirements for IA and the relationships among Indigenous Peoples, private companies, government and IA practitioners.

The format of the special full day event will be participatory. Short presentations and comprehensive case studies will be followed by structured and free discussion periods. In the afternoon, the emphasis will shift to roundtable and panel discussions on cross-cutting issues.



The special conference event on Indigenous Peoples and Impact Assessment is a collaboration between the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee; the Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines; the World Bank Group; Hydro Québec; and IAIA. A series of partners will be solicited to contribute and complement the core group of organisers.

For further information:

- **John-Paul Murdock**, GCC of Eeyou Istchee
- **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines
- **Navin Rai/Nicholas Flanders**, World Bank Group
(nrai@worldbank.org)
- **Réal Courcelles/Peter Leonard**, Hydro Québec

State-Level Environmental Impact Assessment

Monday, 30 May
9:00am-5:00pm

\$105 for IAIA'05 delegates/\$185 for others

Approximately twenty-five US states have their own programs for preparing environmental impact assessments of proposed governmental and private actions. These are often called "little NEPAs," but in the aggregate they are responsible for the preparation of far more impact assessments than are created under the National Environmental Policy Act. This special one-day program is being organized by the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy & Resources, the nation's leading organization of environmental lawyers. The program will provide a unique opportunity to compare the impact assessment practices in the different states, to identify best practices, to highlight emerging analysis techniques, and to understand the role of the courts in the impact assessment system.

World Bank Group Day: New Developments in Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures

Monday, 30 May
9:00am-5:00pm

Free for IAIA'05 delegates/\$50 for others

This seminar provides an overview of new developments in environmental and social safeguard policies and procedures used by the World Bank Group. Key topics to be covered are the IFC Safeguards Update (IFC) and the Use of Country Systems for Safeguards (IBRD/IDA). The seminar will include presentations on these new developments and opportunity for discussion of their application in World Bank Group supported projects. An overview will also be presented concerning internal and external training provided by the World Bank on environmental and social safeguard policies.