

PROSPECTUS



37th Annual Conference of the
**International Association
for Impact Assessment**

4-7 APRIL 2017

LE CENTRE SHERATON MONTRÉAL HÔTEL
MONTRÉAL, CANADA



Montréal skyline from the Parc Jean-Drapeau. With permission from © Tourisme Montréal.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

The only international, interdisciplinary, educational conference dedicated to advancing the art and science of impact assessment. The only one!

In December 2015, the world's first comprehensive climate agreement was established, with the objective of a carbon-neutral world some time after 2050.

The agreement limits the amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted by human activity to the levels that vegetation, trees, soil, and oceans can absorb naturally and supports adaptation efforts and resilience to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change we are experiencing today and in the future.

The agreement also calls on developed nations to provide substantial support and resources by 2020 to help developing countries build capacity, reduce their emissions, adapt to climate change, and foster greener economies.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

Conference topics will include:

- Integration of climate change in EIA, SEA, and environmental and social management plans
- Revised IA baselines integrating climate change data, uncertainties, and impacts
- Adaptation and resilience from developed and developing countries
- CEA and climate change in regional planning and territorial assessment
- Climate finance and risk management
- Climate change impacts on populations (health, socioeconomic, cultural)
- Major infrastructures adaptation measures and risk assessment
- Innovation and best practices to integrate climate change in regional and project planning
- Capacity building transfer and communication about climate change to decision makers and different stakeholders
- Influence of the carbon market and carbon pricing
- Climate change impact on policies and regulations
- Impact assessment legislation, policy, and "climate justice"
- Climate change compensation and reduction/ carbon capture and storage
- IAIA's role in "climate smart(er)" impact assessment and the future
- Climate change, extreme events, and impact assessment
- Impact assessment, water and climate change

General discussions will also address general IA topics and the work of IAIA's special-interest Sections:

- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Mining and other large industries
- Transportation infrastructure
- Biodiversity and ecology
- Corporate stewardship and risk management
- Cultural heritage
- Disaster and conflict
- Energy: Oil, gas, and renewable fuels
- Energy: Power generation and transmission
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- Governance and regulations
- Health impact assessment (HIA)
- Impact assessment law and policies
- Indigenous Peoples
- Gender relations and environmental impact assessment
- Public participation
- Socioeconomic impact assessment
- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- Sustainability assessment
- Large-scale territorial developments and assessment
- Cumulative effects assessment (CEA)
- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
- Capacity building in EIA
- Social impact assessment (SIA)

Climate change represents a key challenge to the sustainability of global ecosystems and human prosperity in the 21st century. The impacts of climate change are predominantly adverse, exacerbating environmental and social/economic issues and challenges linked to the degradation of ecosystems; loss and change in biodiversity; desertification; air, water, and land pollution and more.

Climate change goes beyond project impacts, as it affects many diverse global issues: from water, food, and energy security to impacts on human rights and vulnerable peoples. Global climate change raises important questions of international and intergenerational justice.



The IA community's contribution is vital at all levels, from global to project-specific.

IA science and practice are strongly challenged by climate change. IA will contribute to ensuring that future development outcomes are not jeopardized by present-day decisions, and to identifying resilient adaptation measures to reduce and manage the adverse effects of climate change.

IA calls for better use and integration of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in decision making; paying more attention to risk assessment; and reviewing the way we predict, design, and mitigate for long-term cumulative impacts and how we deal with new uncertainties in our analyses. In addition, it is anticipated that the IA community will put more emphasis on the effects of climate change on projects themselves.

Due to climate change, more major floods, hurricanes and storms will happen with greater frequency, and will also likely be more severe. The insurance industry and other key economic actors are attentive to the contributions IA can make to better link climate change to risk management. In fact, they are already experiencing the direct and indirect financial and economic impacts of climate change due to increased insurance payouts from losses incurred from extreme weather.

Indigenous Peoples' local and traditional knowledge provide significant contributions in identifying the impacts of climate change as well as mitigation and adaptation measures. Of course climate change not only affects scientific knowledge: Indigenous Peoples' ways of using and occupying their lands are changing and challenging them to adapt to climate change.

The IA community's contribution is vital at all levels, from global to project-specific. Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and cumulative effects assessment (CEA) are needed more than ever to incorporate climate issues in policies, programs and plans. To date, we have much yet to do to promote their widespread application by governments and the private sector around the world.

Climate data has always played a key role in the planning and design of infrastructure, but now reality has shifted. With the uncertainties of climate change, the use of historical baseline data alone can no longer be relied upon. Analysis of climate change impacts on projects requires new variables, baselines, and risk assessments, which call for re-evaluation of mitigation measures and design recommendations.

Using our skills to adapt or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face as professionals and citizens.

You are invited to contribute to this important Montréal event as a delegate, a sponsor, or an exhibitor. You will be first in line with experts, government, and other company representatives from all over the world.

SPECIAL FORUM ON NORDIC/ARCTIC ISSUES

Climate change is occurring faster and with more severity in the circumpolar regions than in the rest of the world: these regions are warming at a rate almost twice the global average. Climate change is already causing unprecedented impacts in infrastructure stability, transportation, energy supply, and weather patterns. Many dramatic changes are occurring to the social and cultural webs of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who live in these regions. Climate change effects are no longer issues to be dealt with some time in the future. These effects are happening now.

A Nordic/Arctic forum will involve the countries and experts directly concerned, to exchange ideas on policies, adaptation approaches, potential collaborations, and interventions.



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ABOUT YOUR HOST

The **Association québécoise pour l'Évaluation d'Impacts (AQEI)** is honored to host the 2017 IAIA conference in Montréal. AQEI is comprised of 275 members from different sectors (private, government, non-profit organization, university), many of them working around the world in impact assessment. AQEI's objectives are to gather all individuals, professional or non-professional, generally interested in impact assessment in view of:

- Exchanging information on experiences and problems encountered
- Raising the professional standards of impacts assessment
- Broadening and improving the use of impact assessment
- Establishing links, cooperation, and exchanges with Canadian and international associations that share similar objectives

See www.aqei.qc.ca/ for more information.

ABOUT IAIA

IAIA is the **International Association for Impact Assessment**, organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. IAIA involves people from many disciplines and professions. Our members include corporate planners and managers, public interest advocates, government planners and administrators, private consultants and policy analysts, university and college teachers and their students. IAIA has members from over 120 nations.

For 35+ years IAIA has been holding annual conference events all over the world to promote best practices in impact assessment. See www.iaia.org for more information.



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WHO WILL BE THERE?

One of the strengths of IAIA conferences is its diversity in participants from different sectors and regions. You can expect to meet up to 1,200 delegates from 80+ nations around the world who represent:

- Corporate and industry leaders
- Not-for-profit lenders (e.g., World Bank)
- Policy makers and decision makers
- Aboriginal organizations
- Practitioners and users of impact assessment
- Consultants providing impact assessment services
- Government agency staff
- Legislators
- Industry practitioners
- Insurance companies, banks and other economic stakeholders
- Risk assessment community
- Major infrastructure proponents and consultants
- Educators, researchers, trainers and students
- Non-government organizations (NGOs)
- Others with an interest impact assessment

