Special Events

- **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**
  
  The event provides 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.

  The special conference event on Indigenous Peoples and Impact Assessment is a collaboration between the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee; the Tetebeba Foundation, Philippines; the World Bank Group; Hydro Québec; and IAIA.

- **Opening and Closing Plenaries**
  
  **Monday, 30 May • 7:00pm-9:00pm**
  
  The opening session at IAIA’05 is the professional highlight of this conference. The three keynote speakers are exceptional additions to the IAIA program. See page 5 for the brief biographies of James Gustave Speth, Edith Brown-Weiss, and Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea.

  IAIA’05’s closing plenary will find delegates glued to their seats to hear the summary, integration and lessons learned from the previous days of presentations, discussions, workshops and debates. Don’t miss the discussion on where the impact assessment profession will be 25 years from now.

- **State-Level Environmental Impact Assessment**
  
  **Monday, 30 May • 8:25am-5:00pm**
  
  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 organized by the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy & Resources, the nation’s leading organization of environmental lawyers. The program provides a unique opportunity to compare the impact assessment practices in the different states, to identify best practices, to highlight emerging analytical techniques, and to understand the role of the courts in the impact assessment system.

- **Opening Reception and Poster Session**
  
  **Monday, 30 May • 7:00pm-9:00pm**
  
  An innovation in IAIA conference events, this mix of business and pleasure offers a chance to relax from travel and greet fellow colleagues and friends while also providing a dedicated opportunity to meet poster authors and discuss questions and issues raised by their posters.

- **Theme Forums**
  
  Theme forums are “cut-above” presentations and discussions which draw together major threads of the conference theme. See pages 10-14 for the lists of speakers and topics.

- **How to get the most from this conference**
  - Make a goal sheet. Why did you decide to register for this program? What is it you expect to gain? Take a moment right now to think about your goals. Then clarify them by writing them down in your program. Look over your goal page throughout the conference; it will help you keep your goals focused.
  - Meet other people. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your network of contacts. Sit next to someone you don’t know, even if you’ve come with a group. Mingle during the breaks. Exchange business cards. Every participant has a specific area of expertise; find out what it is instead of chatting about the weather. Let us suggest that one of your goals be to meet at least one person you intend to communicate with again on a business or social basis.
  - Participate! Ask questions. Make contributions. Actively participate in the exercises. Consider the meeting room to be a “mental gymnasium” where it’s okay to run, fall, and get up again. You’ll benefit much more by participating in the game than sitting on the sidelines.
  - Relate what you learn to yourself. Don’t settle for “abstract” knowledge. Have your current problems, conflicts and interests foremost in your mind. As you learn new approaches and techniques, relate them to your own situation.
  - Make a commitment to review your notes. Right now, take out your calendar and make a one-hour appointment with yourself to “retake” the program. Don’t put your good ideas away with your notes. Include a list of your “action ideas” based on your action plan — what you intend to do or change as a result of what you have learned. If you paid your own way, still send the letter. It will show how committed you are to your own professional growth.
  - Orient, inform, and prepare yourself. Register early and then take time to walk through the venue to familiarize yourself with locations of activities before the rush of the conference begins. Read through the program thoroughly. Highlight the sessions you want to attend. Read those abstracts and prepare questions for the speakers.
  - Enjoy yourself. Start relaxed and you’ll leave refreshed, inspired and recharged. Forget about what’s happening at the office — unless you have unusual telepathic powers, you can’t do much about it anyway. This is your conference. Get all you can out of it and have a good time.

- **Practitioners’ Forums**
  
  IAIA provides space for impromptu discussions and “pop-up” topics in unanticipated/scheduled areas of interest. Flip charts are provided in the Ballroom foyer/Courtyard area. In the morning, write in your proposed topic or sign up for a topic of interest to you. In the afternoon, topics are chosen and the locations are added to the flip chart. Groups then meet in those locations to hold discussions. The informality and spontaneity guarantee a lively end to each day’s sessions. Organized by J.B. Collier.

- **Technical Visits**
  
  **A. Environmental Justice**
  
  Organized by US EPA and Chelsea Creek Action Group. Friday, 3 June • 1:00 – 3:30pm

  **B. Central Artery/Big Dig**
  
  Guided tour sponsored by the Central Artery’s Big Dig Project. Friday, 3 June • 1:30 – 6:30pm

  **C. Charles River Watershed (meet in Thomas Paine)**
  
  Friday, 3 June • 4:30 – 9:30pm

  **D. Boston Harbor Tour**
  
  Organized by Coastal Zone Management and MWRA’s Deer Island Treatment Plant. Saturday, 4 June • 9:30 – 3:30pm

  **E. South Shore Coastal Hazards Field Trip**
  
  Organized by Coastal Zone Management. Saturday, 4 June • 12:00 – 6:00pm

  Please plan to check in at the registration desk and (except as noted for Visit C) assemble at the hotel’s main entrance (Amesbury Street) at least 15 minutes prior to the departure time of your visit. Participants must be pre-registered and pre-paid.
The opening plenary features speakers Edith Brown Weiss, Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea, and James Gustave Speth. This is an exceptional opportunity to hear speakers of international distinction.

The opening plenary will start on time. Delegates are encouraged to arrive early.

To minimize interruption, the registration desk will close 15 minutes prior to the start of the plenary and will reopen at the lunch break. Please plan your conference check-in time accordingly.