

28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IAIA08 Session Chair's Report

Session number and name: CS1.11 The significance of natural resources inventory

Day: Tuesday **Date:** May 6 2008 **Time:** 16:00-17:30 **# Persons attending session:** ca. 20

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Toshiaki Ohkura and Ryunosuke Hamada

Contributors

Akira Tanaka, Masanori Okazaki, Ryunosuke Hamada, Toshiaki Ohkura

(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes discussed in this session

A breakthrough to find effective IA and further progress to establish an epistemology and axiology of natural resources which will be shared sustainably in global community.

(b) One or more emerging trends

An opportunity for alloying biophysical science including NRI with human activity. How to maximize natural resources utility and its sustainability through explicit inventory interpretation among the society.

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

(i) dimensions of IA effectiveness (i.e. what are the characteristics of effective IA?)

Degree of agreement of the result of IA among the community and/or society.

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

Asymmetric information of the object we assess.

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

Dismantle the fog covers the information through providing and sharing by public.

(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)

Increasing significance of NRI concept for the future of the world

Since IAIA06 and IAIA07, NRI (Natural Resource Inventory) concept has been discussed. IAIA08 was the third opportunity to have an understanding more in depth and practical applications of NRI in planning for sustainable future of the world, including the process of SEA, and participatory activities. In principle, NRI concept is a way of thoughts based on the framework of epistemology and axiology. Though this is usually practiced unconsciously in the area of assessment, concerns are for more to popularly attractive subjects such as risks and endangered species.

In this session, we tried to step forward into more concrete example such as soil carbon sequestration, which is overlooked but is significant meaning to prevent global warming. Some other examples of NRI concept are WHO health city program, Habitat sustainability index, Sago palm as a NRI.

We are confident that it is essential to apply NRI concept to establish sustainable global land use planning since our action of inventory itself turns us thought to recognition and interpretation of natural resources. Global commons would be conserved well when world human societies share the thought of natural resources inventory as the earth semiotic.