

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: CS3.14 Impact Assessment in the Energy Sector

Day: Wednesday **Date:** 7 May 2008 **Time:** 16.00-17.30 **# Persons attending session:** 32

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Rocio Diaz-Chavez

Contributors

Jenny Becher,
John Glasson
Pawan Labhassetwar,
John Phylip-Jones,

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

- Sustainability considerations (e.g. ghg emissions) from energy projects such as coal power plants, hydroelectric projects and oil sector
- Use of environmental assessment, particularly SEA for decommissioning and new build nuclear projects
- EA approaches in different EU countries applied to renewables.

(b) One or more emerging trends

- Is it possible to apply the methodology suggested to decommissioning large scale projects such as nuclear plants to **other infrastructure projects?**
- Incorporating climate change considerations particularly for energy generation projects

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

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

- Stakeholder participation
- Government will for EA
- Use of available methodologies or development of new proposed methodologies (e.g. nuclear)

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

- Differences in EA application (e.g. procedures) between different countries on the same topic.
- SEA lack of experience in some countries specifically to the energy sector
- Incorporation of climate change issues in the sector not well developed

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

- A recognized uniform methodology applied to same sectors
- Political will to use them
- SEA in the sector exchange of information between countries with more experience and countries with less experience

(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)

The art of incorporating "new" considerations such as climate change in the energy (renewables and traditional) sector and the science of incorporating "new" methodologies to the decommissioning of infrastructure projects particularly special ones such as nuclear.