

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: CS5.11 Impact Assessment in the Transport Sector

Day: Thursday **Date:** 8 May 2008 **Time:** 11:00-12:00 **# Persons attending session:** 30-40

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Josh LAM

Contributors LAM, Josh and Prof XU, He
(TEMBE, Emilia & NUNES, Deolinda – not able to participate)

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

- SEA in China
- Cross-boundary cumulative impacts – air quality from adjoining provinces not included in the Hubei transport SEA case study)
- Scope of transport SEA (the Hubei case study only covered road transport, and did not cover others eg. railway)

(b) One or more emerging trends

See (a)

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

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

- Transparent, engagement, scientific based

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

- Lack of trust, participation and equity in stakeholder engagement process
- Regulatory requirements not clear
- Inadequate project proponent commitment

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

- Sound and clear regulatory system and requirements
- Educate project proponents (design teams), as well as public parties

(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)