

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: CS6.7 The Practice of SEA

Day: Thurs **Date:** 8 May 2008 **Time:** 16h-17h30 **# Persons attending session:** cc 40

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Maria Rosário Partidário

Contributors

Ryo Tajima, Maria Delfina Flores, Yuki Shibata, Olena Borysova, Ineke Steinhauer

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

- Independency in SEA
- Role of long-term planning, visions and scenarios
- SEA when development is investor-driven

(b) One or more emerging trends

- SEA is moving away from traditional EIA-based and is increasingly following more strategic approaches
- SEA is not restricted to biophysical issues but is encompassing sustainability issues, even when it is not named sustainability assessment

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

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

- value-added to decision-making

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

- need to go beyond legal requirements

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

- smart and strategic thinking

(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)

Crucial – there is much more beyond technical and scientific assessment - preparatory stages in SEA and EIA is not the availability of information and techniques as often considered, but it is the set up of the powers relationships across the various inter-players

Likewise the preparation of reports should be a happening along the process rather than the leading motivation for doing EIA or SEA