

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: TF1.3 Climate Change: Health Impacts and Adaptations

Day: Tuesday **Date:** 06 May 2008 **Time:** 14:00-15:30 **# Persons attending session:** 109

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Dianne Katscherian and Jeff Spickett

Contributors

- Dianne Katscherian: Convener, Manager HIA, Department of Health (DOH) WA
- Andrew Robertson: Director, Disaster Preparedness, DOH WA
- Jeff Spickett: Director WHO Collaborating Centre HIA, Curtin Uni
- Richard Theobald: Senior Scientific Officer Water, DOH WA
- Shane Maloney: Senior Lecturer Physiology, University of WA
- Sue Harrington: Senior Scientific Officer Mosquito Borne Disease, DOH WA

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

- Health Impact Assessment to address the climate change effect. It is focusing on adaptation approach and mitigation measures for health impacts caused by Climate Change,
- Screening, scoping and profiling the people group in the HIA which is more or less similar process to EIA, and
- There will be uncertainties surrounding the potential health impacts of such changes. Uncertainties in both instances need to be acknowledged, questioned, adjusted and readjusted but NOT used as a platform for inaction.

(b) One or more emerging trends

- Health impact due to climate change,
- Human well being and life style impact/change due to climate change, and
- Severe impact with extreme event of climate change.

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

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

HIA is just starting recently, the measurement of effectiveness of this HIA can not say for now. But this tool can have more attention and support from publics as it is direct related to their health as individual privilege.

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

- Uncertainty and slow of scientific research in regard to the impacts of climate change.
- Capacity for assessment and also complexity of health issues link with other environment, social and economic component.
- Resilience capacity of the peoples and community.

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

- Promote this HIA application to apply now
- Capacity building to officer in charges and relevant peoples,
- Encourage and mobilise research funds for HIA as result from climate change, and
- Prevention approaches should be introduced with uncertainty and risk manners.

(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)

Science just appears in the modern human life society; in contrast the art is on the planet since primitive human society. Science works behind event/needs and very slow with regards to local, regional and global change and its impacts. In order to address impacts and effects to human well being or society, the art of management, and use of resources/environment are the key element for sustainable development. The linkage between art and science of impact assessment must be built up.