

<p>^{28th} Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT IAIA08 Session Chair's Report</p>
<p>Session number and name: TF3.2 Technology Assessment in the 21st Century: The State of the Art and Science of TA</p>
<p>Day: Wednesday Date: May 7 Time: 10.30-12.00 # Persons attending session: c50</p>
<p>Names of Session Chairs Frank Vanclay</p>
<p>Contributors Wendy Russell, Frank Vanclay, Dr Leonhard Hennen, Dr Robby Berloznik, Dr Sergio Bellucci, Dr Walter Peissl</p>
<p>(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shift from a classical (expert-based) approach to a participatory approach • Acknowledgement of the effectiveness of multidisciplinary approaches. • Technology assessment (TA) needs to demonstrate value and credibility to the public and the public authorities.
<p>(b) One or more emerging trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and political involvement are key issues in technology assessment • Technology assessment and IAIA have developed in parallel, but both will benefit by coming together again. • Many innovative forms of participation have been explored and found effective e.g. citizen juries, consensus conferences, forums, workshops etc.
<p>(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:</p> <p>(i) Dimensions of IA effectiveness (what are the characteristics of effective IA?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of the institutional context of TA agencies (political, scientific, public) and their political and social support • Use of mixed methods • Effective networks for collaboration between national agencies <p>(ii) Challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maintenance of legitimacy and being able to show that TA is valued <p>(iii) How these barriers might be overcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish more contact and influence between the TA society and public and political bodies • Emphasize that TA enables a fair process • Develop better understanding of the TA process and the outcome
<p>(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)</p> <p>There is a need for linking impact assessment methodology together with a participatory approach. For IA to be effective, it has to be considered valuable to the society.</p>