

32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Energy Future

The Role of Impact Assessment

Centro de Congresso da Alfândega | Porto, Portugal

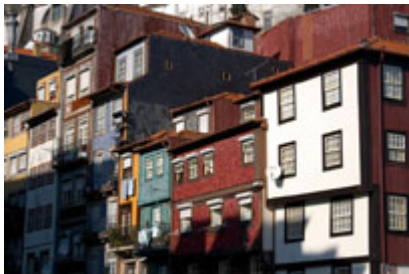
27 May - 1 June 2012

IAIA12 Energy Future: The Role of Impact Assessment

Porto, Portugal 27 May - 1 June 2012

The 32nd annual conference of the International Association For Impact Assessment, Energy Future: The Role of Impact Assessment will take place in Porto, Portugal from 27 May - 1 June 2012.

A defining issue throughout human history has been how societies have pursued the supply and management of energy. Our view of the world and the world economy over the last 3-4 human generations has been shaped by assumptions of infinite energy supplied primarily by fossil fuels. Impact assessments have scrutinized thousands of energy projects, but few have considered the long-term future supply and sources of non-renewable and renewable energy as critical to decision-making. Now, however, the basic principle of limitless energy is under challenge.



Impact assessment has proven to be a powerful evolving tool able to incorporate environmental, social and health concerns, among others, in decision-making processes. More integrated approaches are being tested for biodiversity and climate change. Understanding the future of energy must also be one of the highest priorities for impact assessment professionals.

What is the role of impact assessment on future global, national and local energy decisions and choices? How can we tackle the environmental and social risks that will appear as a result of our quest for the development, production and management of new energy sources?

IAIA is the leading global network on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans and projects.

Members of IAIA believe that impact assessment is a practical tool for helping meet today's needs without compromising the opportunities of future generations.

Impact Assessment: The Next Generation
Calgary, Alberta, Canada 13-16 May 2013

"I valued the networking at the conference –

meeting with other professionals in the same field and sharing stories and experiences,

across so many professions, cultures and countries." IAIA's conferences are held in a different location each year, drawing 500-700 environmental professionals from 70+ nations. Lively exchange and learning opportunities are provided through technical visits, training courses, workshops, theme forums, concurrent sessions, poster displays, networking, and social activities. Recent conference hosts include Mexico, Switzerland, Ghana, Australia, Korea, Norway, USA, Canada, Morocco, The Netherlands, Colombia, Hong Kong, Scotland, Portugal, South Africa, and New Zealand.

"I learned how similar issues are being handled elsewhere,

that some of the issues we are struggling with are also challenges elsewhere and our approach is novel."

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Energy Section

Members: 84

IAIA Section: Energy / Oil & Gas

Energy (non-renewable) focuses mainly on environmental and social impacts caused by the oil and gas industry, including from exploration, drilling, transport, and industrial exploitation. Non-renewable energy also includes coal mining and other mining activities for energy purposes. Precautionary steps to avoid impacts from oil spills, transport of oil and gas, and industrial pollution is a key focus of this section.

Renewable energy encompasses hydropower, hydrokinetics, wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and other forms of renewable energy that reduce our dependence on traditional energy sources. However, all development has its own types of environmental impacts and this section focuses on sharing ideas towards identifying and reducing the environmental footprint caused by use of renewable energy.