

Panama City, December 2015

IAIA and IDB agree to jointly promote sustainable infrastructure in Latin America and Caribbean

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) agreed that a paradigm shift for sustainable infrastructure is necessary and the two organizations will work together to explore the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean multi-sectoral alliance.

The alliance will advance a series of aspirational principles that will take sustainable infrastructure beyond business-as-usual.

The initiative came at the conclusion of a three-day special Symposium on *“Sustainable Mega-Infrastructure and Impact Assessment”* coordinated by the IAIA and the IDB, which brought together more than 200 infrastructure and sustainability professionals and officials involved in different types of mega-projects from Latin America.

The Symposium addressed the environmental and social challenges of, and lessons learned from, the infrastructure boom in Latin America and the Caribbean that is responding to increasing human needs associated with economic growth, through the lens of mega-infrastructure projects.

“As the World’s leading organization for impact assessment, in order to respond to this infrastructure challenge, we need to find new ways to change the business landscape.” said IAIA Director Miles Scott-Brown, at the Events closing plenary. *“Given the estimated annual US\$250 billion required to satisfy Latin America and the Caribbean’s infrastructure needs for the development of the region, and the realities of climate change and biodiversity loss, business-as-usual could be catastrophic, particularly for the communities that bare the brunt of the impacts”* added Janine Ferretti, IDB’s Chief of Environmental and Social Safeguards.

Delegates from more than 30 countries at the symposium discussed ways to change the perception of, and dialogue around, sustainable mega-infrastructure to embrace opportunities that enhance economic, social, environmental and sustainability outcomes and a new way of doing business.

Using case studies from mega-infrastructure projects throughout the region, and examination of different sustainability and planning models, policies, standards and tools, participants discussed the principles and criteria that are needed for effective project design, planning and implementation, and how impact assessment can be a critical process in making infrastructure projects more sustainable.

About IAIA: IAIA is the International Association for Impact Assessment, organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. IAIA involves people from many disciplines and professions. Our members include corporate planners and managers, public interest advocates, government planners and administrators, private consultants and policy analysts, university and college teachers and their students. IAIA has members from over 120 nations. For 35 years IAIA has been holding annual conference events all over the world to promote best practices in impact assessment.

About IDB: The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is devoted to improving lives. Established in 1959, the IDB is a leading source of long-term financing for economic, social and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB also conducts cutting-edge research and provides policy advice, technical assistance and training to public and private sector clients throughout the region.