



British Columbia Chapter

News, Events and Information

The **International Association for Impact Assessment** (IAIA) is the world's leading professional association in the field of impact assessment.

The **Western and Northern Canada Affiliate** includes members from the federal and territorial government, consultancies, co-management boards, industry and NGOs. Its goal is to promote and develop best practice in environmental impact assessment.

The **British Columbia Chapter** works to bring news, information, events, professional development and networking opportunities to BC practitioners and students.

The Role of Impact Assessment in Transitioning to the Green Economy - 30th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment

6-11 April 2010 | Geneva, Switzerland

More than 600 delegates from 75 countries gathered in Geneva for a week in April to discuss the role of impact assessment in the global transition to a green economy. This annual conference for the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and focused on the five sectors that have been identified as key green investment opportunities: agriculture, industry, tourism, cities and transportation.

The diverse sessions of the six-day conference provided an excellent forum to discuss and share ideas about impact assessment that have global concern. Perhaps even more valuable, making new connections and strengthening old ones with the international community will strengthen the practice of impact assessment at home and abroad.

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Events

Chapter Social

Date: Wednesday July 21, 5pm.

Location: Elephant and Castle at the corner of Burrard and West Georgia in Vancouver.

Join us for networking with other EA practitioners.

Future Events

There are no events planned for the summer when many members are away. However, the Chapter Organizing Committee will be busy planning a slate of interesting events for the Fall. Possible topics may include statistics in environmental monitoring and adaptive management in EA.

If you have any suggestions for topics or presenters, please contact us at IAIA.WNC.BC@shaw.ca. Or better yet, join the Organizing Committee and contribute to improving the practice of EA in British Columbia.

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Some general messages that emerged during the conference were:

- Increasing importance is placed on understanding and improving the effectiveness of impact assessment to promote sustainability (an emerging area of study)
- Policy level research and development is key to use impact assessment as an effective tool for promoting green industries
- Public education of the value and use of impact assessment is an ongoing challenge and needs the help of all practitioners

Achim Steiner, UN Under Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, spoke of the growing international focus on understanding the full environmental, social and economic impacts of policies and activities. "Professionals involved in impact assessments thus have an important role to play in delivering more intelligent and sustainable choices to their customers and clients including governments, business, local authorities and civil society: choices that can direct investments to fit local, national and regional needs while addressing the broad agenda of low carbon, resource efficient development, poverty eradication and higher levels of decent employment," he added.

As usual, Canada had a strong showing and several presentations were delivered to provide the Canadian perspective. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency hosted a breakfast for the Canadian delegates and Peter Sylvester, President of the Agency, provided an update to attendees on evolving federal policy. Yves Leboeuf, Vice-President of Policy Development for the Agency, participated on a panel with Australian and American counterparts to compare and contrast the influence of Canada's shared jurisdictions on resource development and environmental assessment. Our regional body of IAIA, the Western and Northern Canada affiliate, participated in an Affiliates Forum to discuss the year's activities and debate the need for an international accreditation for impact assessment practitioners. More to come on this topic!

Next year's IAIA conference titled "*Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business and Industry*" will be held in Puebla, Mexico, 28 May – 4 June, 2011. The deadline for submission of paper and poster abstracts is January 31, 2011.

For more on the 2010 conference and the papers presented, visit <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10>.

Matt Hammond (mhammond@pggroup.com)



IAIA and FNEATWG – Strengthening Ties

Pascale Mera (Golder Associates) and Matt Hammond (PGL) represented our chapter of IAIA at the annual workshop for the First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group (FNEATWG), held March 10-11, 2010 in Victoria. FNEATWG “acts as a resource body on First Nation environmental assessment (EA) practices for interested First Nations, First Nations organizations, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and other concerned agencies and organizations.” With IAIA’s mission to improve the practice of impact assessment in all areas, IAIA and FNEATWG have mutual objectives and will look to continue collaboration. Thanks to Lisa Webster-Gibson and Kathleen Johnnie for hosting the event. Visit www.fneatwg.org

WNC and BC Chapter Host Dialogue on EA Implementation

. On April 29, 2010, the BC Chapter of the International Association of Impact Assessment (Western and Northern Canada Affiliate) hosted a workshop to provide an opportunity for practitioners to discuss current and emerging topics related to environmental impact assessment in British Columbia. Approximately 130 registrants representing government, both federal and provincial, industry proponents and EA practitioners attended the workshop. Key workshop objectives included:

- Providing an opportunity for federal and provincial EA agencies to give practitioners an update on current policy trends;
- Providing an opportunity for dialogue among practitioners on emerging trends/challenges etc.; and
- Identifying the need/interest in future EA related professional development events.

The workshop consisted of presentations by federal and provincial environmental assessment agencies, followed by breakout sessions on specific EA topics.

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Join IAIA WNC

Get involved and benefit from a stronger regional base of environmental assessment practitioners. Visit <http://www.iaiawnc.org/index.html> for more information and to join. Membership in IAIA WNC supports the BC Chapter activities directly.

Contact Us

To receive IAIA BC news and events information; to be included on our email contact list, or to be removed from the contact list or to update your contact information contact:

IAIA.WNC.BC@shaw.ca

Suggestions and EA news can also be sent to us at the above address.

WNC and BC Chapter

Host.... *Continued*

Key themes discussed in each of the above noted dialogue sessions included:

- **Environmental Assessment in BC**
 - Application Information Requirements (AIR)
 - BC EAO cumulative impact assessment requirements
 - Public engagement
 - Post approval compliance monitoring
 - Role of the BC EAO
- **Project Scoping**
 - Red Chris decision implications
 - Need for new scoping guidance
- **First Nations Consultation**
 - Challenges
 - Best FN Consultation practice
 - Improving the flow of information



A workshop summary report will be soon posted on the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate - IAIA website:

<http://www.iaiawnc.org/eventsBC.html>

From the IAIA Journal

Selected articles from the Journal of the International Association for Impact Assessment: "Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal" (IAPA)

Volume 28 ♦ Number 2 ♦ June 2010

[A critical appraisal of EIA screening practice in EU Member States](#)

Authors: *Pinho, Paulo; McCallum, Sabine; Cruz, Sara Santos*

[Technology Assessment in Social Context: The case for a new framework for assessing and shaping technological developments](#)

Authors: *Russell, A. Wendy; Vanclay, Frank M.; Aslin, Heather J.*

[Biodiversity in strategic environmental assessment \(SEA\) of municipal spatial plans in Finland](#)

Authors: *Söderman, Tarja; Saarela, Sanna-Riikka*

[A value-rational view of impact assessment of mega industry in a Greenland planning and policy context](#)

Authors: *Hansen, Anne Merrild; Kørnøv, Lone*

[Case study of an integrated assessment: Shell's North Field Test in Alberta, Canada](#)

Authors: *Orenstein, Marla; Fossgard-Moser, Titus; Hindmarch, Trevor; Dowse, Susan; Kuschminder, Jordon; McCloskey, Pádraig; Mugo, Robert K.*

[The inefficiency of environmental impact assessment: reality or myth?](#)

Authors: *Middle, Garry; Middle, Isaac*