

Transitioning to the Green Economy



IAIA 30th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment
6-11 April 2010 | Geneva, Switzerland

“ We invite international experts, IA practitioners, sector leaders, and policy makers from industry, government, consultancies, donor agencies, and academia to collaborate on what needs to be done and how to attain this vision.”

- Hussein Abaza, IAIA10 Program Chair | Chief, UNEP Economics and Trade Branch

In order to prepare our global societies to face a transition toward green economies, it is important to conduct assessments that will demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy development, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises.

Global economic growth over the past 50 years has been accompanied by accelerated environmental decline. From 1981 to 2005, global GDP has more than doubled. In contrast, 60% of the world's ecosystems are now considered degraded or are being exploited in an unsustainable manner.

Meanwhile, the global economy is in a multi-dimensional crisis. The financial crisis has been driving much of the developed world into recession, affecting businesses and jobs around the world. The fuel crisis, reflected in wildly fluctuating prices, is threatening the reliability and security of energy supply. The food crisis in 2007 cost developing countries US\$324 billion, the equivalent of three years' worth of global aid, and last but not least, the water crisis, where one in five people in the developing world lacks access to sufficient clean water. At the same time as these crises, climate change is aggravating these challenges and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals.

These prevailing crises are providing a rare opportunity for government and business to seek new opportunities and adopt alternative strategies that lead to investments for economic and environmental sustainability.



Program

In addition to conference sessions, workshops, and training courses, you will also be able to choose technical visits and sightseeing tours, possibly including Geneva's historical Old Town, cruises along Lake Geneva to Medieval Castles, tours to the panoramic Swiss and French Alps, excursions to country side vineyards, Chocolate/Cheese tasting tours in Montreux, and more.

Preliminary program and registration materials will be available on the web site and from IAIA HQ in October 2009.

Objective, Topics, and Outcome

The objective of IAIA10 is to provide policy makers with tools to help address the global crises and to mobilize support for creative and credible initiatives.

IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment:

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Tourism
- Cities
- Transport

We are seeking abstracts for papers and posters that address the theme and sectors. Following accepted abstracts, five-page papers will be requested in October. These papers will be reviewed and posted on the web site in January, providing immediate material for discussion and development prior to the conference exchange.

We would like the abstracts and subsequent papers to look at sets of assessments focused on:

- One of the specific sectors listed above: examine the current policies and practices, consider their impacts on natural resources (water, energy, land, biodiversity, forests, soils and sub-soils), and propose policies and the enabling conditions (trade, finance, institutions, technology, capacity building, training and education, public participation, and public awareness) that will facilitate the transition to a green economy and the potential positive impacts on the environment, natural resources, jobs, the economy, and human welfare.
- The sustainability impacts of a) the financial and economic crisis on groups of countries (developed, emerging, and developing), and (b) the stimulus packages proposed by the USA, the EC and the emerging economies on their respective economies and globally.

Papers addressing transboundary issues such as health and ecology, as well as methodologies like Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment, and cumulative effects are expected to be prominent within the sector discussions. IAIA's special-interest Sections are asked to mobilize their members to submit abstracts which will highlight their Section's special contribution to each critical sector noted above. The response to policymakers by conference participants and IAIA must be both practical and creative. And in light of the urgency:

**Second Announcement and Call for Papers
(extended deadlines)**

THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.

Submission Information

Procedure

Authors/presenters will submit an abstract; authors/presenters of accepted abstracts will then submit a 5-page paper, which will be posted online prior to the conference.

Language

English

How to Send

Follow the instructions at www.iaia.org > Conferences > IAIA10.

Acceptance and Registration

Authors will receive an immediate confirmation of successful online submission. The Program Committee will notify authors of acceptance status for abstracts between 15 September and 15 October, and for papers after 15 December.

All presenting authors, speakers, and session chairs to be listed in the final program are required to submit a registration form, with full conference fees paid, by 16 February 2010. Individuals not able to comply with this requirement will be dropped from the program.

REMEMBER: Early registration will also save you money! IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and travel expenses for program participants.



Important dates

- **May 2009**
Session proposals, paper and poster abstract submission opens
- **31 August 2009**
Session proposals, paper and poster abstracts due
- **15 October**
Authors notified of abstract acceptance
- **15 December 2009**
Five-page papers due
- **15 February 2009**
Paper reviews completed; papers posted online
- **16 February 2010**
Registration deadline for presenters

Special Meetings

Contact IAIA HQ for information. Requests or proposals are due by 31 August 2009 for inclusion in the preliminary program.



Geneva's Lakefront
Photo by AMAeschlimann. Courtesy of Geneva Tourism.



The Palais des Nations



Switzerland

Host Organization



Welcome to Geneva

Geneva is a worldwide centre for diplomacy and international cooperation, and is widely regarded as a global city. It is the home of numerous international organizations, including the headquarters of many of the agencies of the United Nations and the Red Cross. Geneva has been referred to as the world's most compact metropolis and the "Peace Capital."

Geneva is the second most populated city in Switzerland (approximately 186,825 people). It is located where the Rhône River exits Lake Geneva (Lac Léman) and is the capital of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Visiting Switzerland

Switzerland lies at the heart of Europe and is famous for its watches, chocolates and cheeses. It is the main route linking northern and southern Europe and runs through the Alps.

Switzerland borders Germany in the north, Austria in the east, Italy in the south and France in the west. This means that three important European cultures meet in Switzerland; German, French and Italian.

Switzerland is endowed with some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe. Within a 1 to 3-hour train trip through Switzerland you can experience its various landscapes, including lakes, glaciers, mountains and vineyards.

Come and experience the international flavor and appreciate both the tranquility and the idyllic beauty of this little Alpine country.

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 30 years IAIA has been holding annual conference events all over the world to promote best practices in impact assessment.

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