

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT (OAIA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 12, 2001

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The mandate for the Partnership Committee is to establish liaisons, links and/or partnerships with three large groups of organisations:

1. Non-IAIA Organisations and Associations
2. Student Organisations
3. Other Organisations of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) of which the OAIA is an Affiliate.

1.0 Non-IAIA Organisations and Associations

1.1 Interest from non-IAIA organisations and associations.

The Partnership Committee has had general discussions with the following organisations whom have indicated an interest in forming links with OAIA:

- Canadian Water Resources Association, Ontario Chapter; (CWRA Ontario)
- Arbitration and Mediation Institute of Ontario, Environment Section (AMIO-ES)
- Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario

1.2 Structure and Format of OAIA Links/Partnerships/Liaisons

The type of structure and format of the links/partnerships/liaisons which OAIA forms with other associations/organisations will obviously depend on the mutual benefits desired from both organisations, but the Partnership Committee recommended and the Board of Directors agreed, that OAIA adapt the models used between the IAIA and the United Nations (UN) and other organisations.

2.0 Student Organisations.

2.1 Student Meetings

The Partnership Committee and other Directors met with students attending the OAIA Conference 2000 held in Ottawa during June. The purpose of the meeting was to determine student interest in forming OAIA Chapters for students whose primary academic focus is Impact Assessment. All of these students indicated that student chapters would be useful and provided examples of possible activities a student chapter could initiate (Annex I).

2.2 Student Section

Because of the large number of activities and the time commitments required to fulfill the mandate of the Partnership Committee under the Strategic Plan of 1998, the Partnership Committee recommends dividing the Partnership Committee into two sections consisting of:

- Associations and Organisations
- Students

Both Sections will report to the Chair of the Partnership Committee who will be an OAIA Director unless the Board identifies another Board member (preferably someone in academia) to Chair the Student Section at which time it could become a separate Committee.

3.0 Links With Other Organisations of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

3.1 The Quebec Association for Impact Assessment (AQEI)

A major activity of the Partnership Committee this year has been the initiation of plans for implementation of a partnership between the OAIA and the Quebec Association for Impact Assessment (AQEI). The purpose of this partnership is to foster joint projects which are mutually beneficial to OAIA and AQEI, both IAIA Affiliates. The Partnership Committee sponsored two Joint Meetings between OAIA and AQEI in 2000, and plans a third meeting in June, 2001.

3.1.1 The first Joint Meeting was held during June at the OAIA 2000 Conference in Ottawa and was a get-acquainted meeting followed by dinner hosted by the OAIA. It was attended by members of the Partnership and the AQEI Interface Committees as well as Directors from both organisations.

3.1.2 Members of the Partnership (OAIA) and Interface Committees (AQEI) attended the second Joint Meeting on September 26, 2000 in Montreal. A report of this meeting (Annex II) was tabled at the October 11, 2000 OAIA Board meeting at which the OAIA Board approved its implementation.

3.1.3 The next Joint Meeting between the OAIA Partnership Committee and the AQEI Interface Committee is tentatively scheduled for June 8, 2001 in Toronto.

3.2 Other IAIA Organisations.

The Partnership Committee has received enquiries about possible collaboration on various proposals and projects from other IAIA and potential IAIA organisations, including the IAIA Francophone Secretariat. Due to an extremely short time frame in which to develop the proposal it was necessary for the Partnership Committee to turn down the Francophone Secretariat offer of collaboration. Collaboration with potential IAIA organisations cannot occur until they are formally approved by the IAIA Board as an Affiliate or Branch, but it is possible to provide them with information about the internal workings of OAIA if the Board wishes.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Hansen
Chair, Partnership Committee