

Global Trends in EIA Professional Recognition Schemes

Josh Fothergill

**IAIA18 – Durban
17 May 2018**



The Project:

Identify Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) related competency requirements across a range of national and institutional actors, facilitating improved knowledge sharing in this area, and establishing the foundations to enable the IAIA to explore the opportunity of greater co-ordination of IA competency around the globe, in line with the aims of its strategic direction.

Project Context & Approach



Research Grant 2017

IAIA Innovation Grants are designed to fund activities that advance the IA community and can be delivered within a six to nine-month period.

Four key stages:

- Scoping (March – April)
- Data Gathering (April – August)
- Assessment (September - October)
- Reporting (November)

The Project Team



Josh Fothergill

Founder & Director

Fothergill Training & Consulting Ltd



Ross Marshall

Owner - Leading Green

**What individual EIA
recognition schemes
exist globally?**



Number of schemes identified

Over a third of the worlds countries

The research has been able to provide confidence on presence / absence.

Individual professional recognition **present in 39 locations** (38 Countries)

Data available to project gave confidence individual scheme **absent in 34 locations** (36 Countries), but organisational schemes may exist

Types of schemes identified

22 of 39 generated sufficient data to analyse

Two main forms

A) Regulatory (16 Countries + Flanders, Belgium)

B) Voluntary (4 Countries + Hong Kong SAR)

Compendium of National Professional Recognition Schemes: Individual EIA Practitioners

Country:	China		
Individual EIA Practitioner recognition is <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present in this country <input type="checkbox"/> Absent from this country			
Basis:	LEGAL REQUIREMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VOLUNTARY <input type="checkbox"/>	
Operator	Ministry of Environmental Protection / Appraisal Centre for Environmental Engineering		
Weblink/s:	http://datacenter.mep.gov.cn/index!MenuAction.action?name=402880fb250ac78001250acbb7740004 [In Chinese only]		
Description: <small>(Incl. if scheme is specific to a region)</small>	Initial registration via annual national EIA examination, since ~2002. Exam includes 4 subjects: EIA laws & regulations; EIA guidelines & standards; EIA methods; and EIA cases analysis. Applicants must pass all subjects within 2 years to gain EIA Engineer certification. EIA Engineers must work for a (separately) registered EIA firm to practice.		
SCHEME REQUIREMENTS			
Competency Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> EIA Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Wider IA Experience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sector Experience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EIA Knowledge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EIA Skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EIA Behaviours
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Qualifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-qualification Exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-qualification Training
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS			
Application Contents	<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Payment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/> References
	<input type="checkbox"/> EIA Competence Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed Verification
	<input type="checkbox"/> CV	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of EIS content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of ID
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS			
Validity Period	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime <input type="checkbox"/> So long as individual pays annual renewal fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time limited, renewal required every Choose an item.Years		
On-going Registration Requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sign a Code of Practice		<input type="checkbox"/> Act as a Mentor
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual CPD Return		<input type="checkbox"/> Share Knowledge (e.g. Case Studies)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		



About this Data Sheet:

Original Compiler/s: Josh Fothergill & Ross Marshall

Updater: -

Version Control: Version 1.0

Date of Original: 31 October 2017

Last Updated: 31 October 2017

Source of Evidence: ☒ Survey Response
☐ Online Research
☒ In-Country Expert
☐ IAIA Member

Additional Comments: Initial examination and links between individual & firm registration, makes the scheme more complex than most.

Confidence in Data Sheet content: ☐ Verified data
☒ Further verification needed

Example:
China



**What trends exist in
such schemes?**



National
Geographic

Global Trends

The number of EIA legislative systems with an expectation related to professional expertise has **risen considerably in the past 5 years**

Increasing competence expectations in wider arena:

- DFID, World Bank ESF, ISO 14001-2015

Newer schemes moving beyond EIA knowledge to place **more focus on key IA skills / behaviours**

(Sound judgement, Collaboration, Communication, etc)



Regulatory vs Voluntary?

Common Core: Years of experience, academic qualifications, fee, EIA knowledge & skills

Voluntary - all run by professional body

- All have **multiple levels of recognition & code of practice**
- **On-going learning (CPD)** - evidenced and supported

Regulatory - majority central Government managed

- Levels, Code practice and CPD often absent
- Need for **regular renewal** (<5yrs)

**How can we share
experience and improve
standards?**



Recognise IALA is at the core

IALA's membership most valuable data source for this project.

Annual conference & symposia provide opportunity to build momentum linked to SDG3 & 17

Compendium (once available) will provide potential for members to build & maintain a comprehensive record



Your help & enthusiasm!

TODAY: Visit the research poster and add your country data (if absent)

THIS WEEK: Discuss how we build alignment & recognition between schemes

- with me @ LiMETOOLS Booth
- with each other...

THE FUTURE: Support the timely launch of the scheme data sheets and enhance them

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A Challenge

How can we collaborate to
enable the next step/s in
enhancing global IA
competency?

Thank You!



Josh Fothergill
Fothergill Training & Consulting Ltd
E: josh@fothergilltc.com

