Editorial

Recent and ongoing changes with IAPA

Angus Morrison-Saunders and Francois Retief

WELCOME TO IAPA for the start of Volume 28 and possibly of a new decade. Although we officially took up the editorship role in May 2009, this is the first issue in which manuscripts appear for which we have been responsible for conducting the peer-review process.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the former Editors, Christopher Wood, Carys Jones and Colin Kirkpatrick (along with their assistant Leyli Bektashi-Brown) from the University of Manchester for their services to the journal over the years. In particular, we are especially appreciative of the help that Carys Jones provided in the handover period, which ensured a smooth transition of the editorship. We would also like to thank the Selection Panel who have entrusted us with the editorship for the next stage in its life. We understand that there was considerable interest in the role, underscoring the high esteem in which IAPA is held by its readers and authors.

The main reason for reading a journal such as IAPA is to receive cutting-edge information on the theory and practice of impact assessment, and not necessarily for the editorial. We will continue the practice established by the former editors of only including an editorial when we have something specific to communicate with our readership. We consider this issue to warrant an editorial simply to highlight a few changes occurring with the journal.

We do not step into the editorship with an agenda for major changes. 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it!' We greatly respect the journal and consider it to be the best in the impact assessment field. We consider its greatest strength to be an ability to serve both a practitioner and academic audience, meaning that it has a wide (and potentially practice-influencing) readership. We are also proud that it is printed on totally post-consumption recycled paper and easily accessible on the web.

Maintaining the quality and status of IAPA as probably the most widely circulated and read international impact assessment journal is our core mission. IAPA has the advantage of going to all members of a large international association covering 130 countries, as well as to libraries around the world. It is regularly in the top 100 most downloaded publications on Ingenta — out of 32,000 publications.

Although it will not change the outward appearance of the printed and online versions, the forthcoming move to online submission via Manuscript Central is an important step. It will provide IAPA with a web-based submission and peer-review system. This will benefit authors, reviewers, the editors and publisher alike and brings us in line with many other international journals. We look forward to taking this step in the evolution of IAPA.

Finally, we hope that you enjoy the articles within this Issue. They demonstrate the broad range of topics addressed by impact assessment academics and practitioners worldwide and have much to contribute to our ongoing conversations and initiatives for improving practice. We look forward to receiving your manuscripts in the near future. If you have an interesting impact assessment case study, concept or experience to share with fellow academics and practitioners, please don't hesitate to make contact with us about it.

Angus Morrison-Saunders and Francois Retief
IAPA Editors

Dr Angus Morrison-Saunders is at the School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University, Australia; Email: a.morrison-saunders@murdoch.edu.au.

Dr Francois Retief is at the School of Environmental Sciences and Development, North West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa; Email: Francois.Retief@nwu.ac.za.