



IAIA
International Association
for Impact Assessment

**BALLOTS DUE
30 JANUARY!**

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Impact Assessment
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CANDIDATE BIOS

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This document is a supplement to the formal online ballot.

Enclosed are the biographical sketches and photos of the candidates for the 2023 IAIA Board of Directors election. Please review these bios and then cast your vote via the online ballot. Eligible IAIA members received the ballot link and personalized ballot number via email. Please submit your electronic ballot by **Tuesday, 30 January 2024**.

IAIA members can vote for one candidate in each of the following categories:

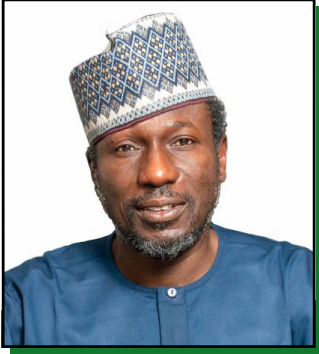
President-Elect:	Ahmed Sanda Lone Kørnøv
Director (Position A):	Akiko Urago Abulele Adams
Director (Position B):	Alex Cisneros Menchaca Joana Pedro

Returning IAIA Board Members:

Edith Birungi Kahubire
Alan Ehrlich
Miguel Repas Goncalves
Kiichiro Hayashi
Mireya Archila
Francesco Mazzei

Thank you for taking time to vote in the 2024 election.

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Ahmed Sanda
Nigeria

Before establishing my consulting firm 24 years ago, I resourced for governments and private firms independently. The desire to contribute to strengthening policy with its dependent and interdependent parts later led me into complementing my environmental science/management background with BSc in Economics. During this period, I led or participated in the successful completion of over 200 impact assessments and related projects across telecommunications, cement, infrastructure, and natural resources management for the World Bank and 10 of the top 30 multinationals.

These experiences and network of professional capital culminated into steering the Nigerian IAIA affiliate (as President) to impactful growth, visibility, and stability. Building partnerships with environmental journalists, Nigeria Defense Academy, and universities grew our membership and financial standing. The catalysts were the development of a new constitution and several operational guidelines and consistently holding annual conferences/AGMs and instituting the Charlie Wolf Symposium.

While holding quarterly discourse with experts strengthened relationships across sectors and between them to foster compliance in Nigeria, my exposure with IAIA deepened my relationship with sister African affiliates, leading me to chair a session and serve as a member of the organizing committee for the Celsius 1.5 symposium in Cape Town. As co-chair of the Climate Change TEC group, I coordinated outcomes that led to partnering with Cities Alliance, which produced useful resources for IAIA. If elected as a Board member, my efforts will be geared towards strengthening systems and sections for the purpose of laterally expanding the reach and performance of IAIA and its tools.



Lone Kørnøv
Denmark

I am honored to be nominated for President-Elect. With a 28-year career as a dedicated environmental engineer, Professor at Aalborg University, Head of The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment (DCEA), and Director of the consultancy, Collabora ApS, my expertise spans impact assessment, planning, governance, and stakeholder-engagement. In recent years, my focus has expanded to include digitalization and SDGs. I have a background in management and leadership roles, with a focus on research, innovation, capacity building, and professional training.

My IAIA journey began in 1997 at the New Orleans conference, a transformative experience that broadened my professional horizons. The vibrant community cultivated meaningful connections, a robust support network, and lasting friendships crucial to both my career and personal growth. Over the years, I have contributed to IAIA by hosting the Climate Symposium in 2010, serving on the Journal Management Committee, and currently, on the IAPA editorial board. Notably, in 2016, I was honored with the Individual Award from IAIA.

IAIA's relevance is clear in today's landscape, demanding expertise, collaboration, and innovation for sustainability challenges. We stand as a unique platform, poised for expansive outreach to influential organizations globally. Beyond our commitment to outreach, my vision centers around four key themes: Propelling digitalization, linking impact assessment to taxonomies for sustainable finances, bridging the gap between IA research and practical application, and continuing to actively involve the next generation.

Excited and humbled, I look forward to collaborating with the IAIA community, and realizing our shared vision as your President-Elect.

DIRECTOR (POSITION A)



Akiko Urago
Japan

I am a private consultant. I studied agronomy at university, and after I started working, I was engaged in EIA botanical surveys and overall EIA compilation work in Japan. For the past 15 years, I have been hired by aid agencies and proponents in developing countries to undertake EIA and construction management work.

At IAIA, I learned SEA and Cumulative Impact Assessment in several training courses and translated many FASTIPS and Best Practices into Japanese to introduce them to the Japanese people.

We consultants are under strong pressure from all sides, including proponents, NGOs, politicians, donors, and governments, so we know their backstage faces very well. Therefore, I have a different perspective from university professors, government officials, and high-ranking people in aid agencies. I also understand why consultants know exactly what an IA should look like but cannot implement it.

My English is weak, I have no PhD, and I may lack expertise, but I believe I can be a voice from the bottom of the IA hierarchy. My dream is to create a sun-like system that makes people want to change their behavior naturally, instead of blowing the north wind of laws, rules, guidelines and training.



Abulele Adams
South Africa

I have been working as an environmental scientist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in South Africa, since January 2014. I hold a Master of Science in Geography from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (now Nelson Mandela University) in Gqeberha, South Africa. My undergraduate degree was a BSc in environmental science with Honors in Geographic Information Systems. I have also completed a year of courses in the Sustainability Economics and Management Masters programme at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany.

My work has been focused on sustainably expanding renewable energy development in South Africa. I have worked on several National Strategic Infrastructure Projects including the Phase 1 and Phase 2 National Wind & Solar PV Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Electricity Grid Infrastructure SEA. In addition, I have worked on a municipal capacity and partnership programme which aims at collaborating with local municipalities to increase capacity in strategic planning.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute towards the growth of the Association to ensure there is continued visibility through targeted content, a stronger social media presence and to ensure there is inclusive growth and representation in the Association. I am keen for IAIA to work more closely with affiliate countries.

I am a past president of IAIA South Africa (2020) as well as the IAIA Students and Young Professionals Section Co-Chair. In addition, I was the chair for the IAIA Climate Change Symposium which took place in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2022.

DIRECTOR (POSITION B)



Alex Cisneros Menchaca
Mexico / United Kingdom

¡Hola! I am a SIA specialist with 14 years of experience working in social baselines, impact assessments, and management plans, including community health and safety and human rights aspects (and hopefully psycho-social aspects in the near future). I have worked in Latin America, West Africa, and Central and West Asia for infrastructure, renewable energy, mining, and hydropower projects.

I was born and raised in Mexico, lived shortly in Finland, and am currently based in the UK working as an Associate Director – Social Specialist at Wardell Armstrong. My academic background is in International Relations, International Cooperation and Development, and currently in Social Philosophy, which I think can contribute enormously to IA.

Attending my first IAIA conference in Puebla (2011) and then again in Calgary (2013) motivated me to continue growing as an IA practitioner, and I have been very fortunate to present in the Seville (2021 online), Vancouver (2022), and Kuching (2023) conferences. Attending these events and learning from you, fellow practitioners and evaluators, has shaped my career over the years, and I would like enhance this formational aspect of the IAIA community as a key feature.

I am very passionate about diversity and inclusion, and I want to help IAIA to continue growing as a safe space for plural collaboration, where anyone interested or involved in IA can feel motivated to participate and support each other. Different knowledges, experiences and ideas will guide the future of IA, and I look forward to it.



Joana Pedro
Portugal/Switzerland/Luxembourg

I started my career in Southern Africa, where for almost a decade I conducted Environmental and Social Impacts Assessments and Resettlement Action Plans. From an early stage in my career, I understood that environment and social justice are tightly intertwined and that engaging and working with communities is a crucial aspect of Impact Assessment (IA). This led me to supplement my Environmental Engineering degree with International Development and Human Rights studies.

Currently, I lead the social and human rights team at the United Nation Environmental Program – Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). I mainly work on the interlinkages between human rights, social, environment, and finance, with a focus on financing a Just Transition.

Prior to UNEP FI, I worked for 6 years at the European Investment Bank (EIB) conducting social due diligence worldwide and developing policy work. While there, I authored EIB's Involuntary Resettlement Standard.

I have followed IAIA work with particular interest for many years and participated in IAIA symposiums and affiliated events since 2009. I attended for the first time IAIA's annual conference in 2021, after which I became a trainer for the PDP Foundations course.

I feel humbled to be nominated for an IAIA Board position. I would love to bring my expertise and enthusiasm to IAIA's ongoing efforts to build bridges between social and environmental aspects within IA. Additionally, I see this position as an opportunity to explore ways to better incorporate voices from the ground into the IA debate and its methodologies, in particular of those most vulnerable.