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International expert in New Zealand

ONE DAY SEMINARS - JULY 2010
Assessing Sustainability

PROF. IAN LOWE

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Adjunct Professor, Sunshine Coast University and Flinders University
Visiting Professor [2010] Tamkang University, Taiwan

HAMILTON - Tuesday 13 July
Hamilton City Council

AUCKLAND – Wednesday 14 July
The Conference Centre, Penrose

ROTORUA – Friday 16 July
Heritage Hotel

WELLINGTON – Monday 19 July
MWH Conference Room, Taranaki St.

CHRISTCHURCH – Wednesday 21 July
MWH Board Room, Hazeldene Ave.

Introduction

There is increasing interest in the concept of sustainability with growing recognition that we should be trying to ensure that new activities can be sustained, at least for the foreseeable future. Determining whether a proposed initiative is sustainable requires assessment across a range of fields: economic, environmental, social, cultural, political, resource security etc. Unless a comprehensive assessment is conducted, it is simply not possible to give assurances that a proposal is sustainable.

Overview

This workshop begins with an introductory analysis of the sustainability of many activities that have been undertaken in recent years, leading to the development of a check-list of questions that need to be considered in assessing new proposals.

Participants will work in groups to use this approach, then share their learnings to develop ways of putting these ideas into practice as a routine activity.

Audience

This workshop is targeted to all stakeholders involved in the planning, design, construction and operation of built facilities and infrastructure systems, as well as those charged with assessing proposals in these areas. It will be particularly relevant for those seeking to implement the principles of sustainability in large organisations.

Aim and objective

The course aims to provide participants with a framework of questions to enable them to evaluate the sustainability of proposed projects. It is an interactive course; those taking part will be expected to contribute actively, with much of the work to be done in small groups. The course materials include a template of questions that participants will modify for future use in assessing the sustainability of proposals.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Summarise the criteria for sustainability of a proposal;
- Assess the sustainability of a proposal;
- Suggest ways to modify a proposal to implement the principles of sustainability.

PROFILE:

Ian Lowe is emeritus professor of science, technology and society at Griffith University, where he was previously Head of the School of Science, and holds adjunct appointments at three other universities. He works predominantly on policy issues affecting science and technology, especially in the fields of energy and environment. He is President of the Australian Conservation Foundation, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author or co-author of 10 Open University books, 12 other books, more than 50 book chapters, over 40 journal articles and several hundred conference papers.

He directed Australia's Commission for the Future in 1988 and chaired the advisory council that produced the first report on the state of the Australian environment in 1996. He chaired Brisbane City Council's Urban Environment Advisory Committee for several years and also chaired its 2006-07 task force on climate change and energy. He is a member of the Australian Environmental Health Council and the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council.

At the international level he has been a referee for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, attended the Geneva, Kyoto and Copenhagen conferences of the parties to the Climate Change convention, worked on the framework for the UN reports on Global Environmental Outlook, was a member of the working group that

developed the principles of “sustainability science” and was a member of the Australian delegation to the 1999 UNESCO World Science Congress. He also reviewed the reports of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program and the Millennium Assessment Project.

Registration / Information

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|-------------------|---|
| Fee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$350 plus gst for Members (NZSSES, IPENZ, RSNZ, NZIA)○ \$450 plus gst for non members○ Student rates available upon application○ Note: A 25% cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations. Cancellations made within 48 hours and non- attendance on the day will incur the full fee. |
| More information? | <i>Details on www.nzsses.auckland.ac.nz</i> |
| To Register | <i>Email to vicky@nzsses.org.nz</i> |

Programme

| TIME | MODULE |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 10:30 | I: Sustainability – How are we doing? Welcome and Introductions Negative brainstorm: how could we ensure unsustainable futures? Sustainability Situation Assessment <i>Inventory: How sustainable are your current activities?</i> |
| 10:30-10:45 | COFFEE |
| 10:45-12:00 | II: Sustainability: Developing a Check-list What are the essential criteria Group activity: developing a possible check-list <i>Sharing our thoughts: toward a usable template</i> |
| 12:00-13:00 | LUNCH |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | III: Trying out the Template <i>Group Exercise: Assessing Two Proposals, one large-scale and one local</i> Considering the usefulness of the approach <i>Developing conclusions to share with other groups</i> |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | COFFEE |
| 15:30-17:00 | IV: Sharing our Learnings Group Presentations Discussion and Codifying Lessons Course Summary and Refinement of Resources Course Evaluations |