

Summary of the IAIDQ General Meeting (Sep 2005)

By Keith Underdown

The IAIDQ General Meeting was held during the IQ Conference at Houston, Texas in September 2005. The meeting was open to all conference attendees, and was attended by roughly 40 people.

During the meeting, IAIDQ President Ben Reed explained the Board Structure and membership benefits, as there were non-members in the audience. In summary, the benefits are: (1) Discounted registration fees to IQ Events; (2) Access to forums to share practical experiences in I&DQ; and (3) Membership in Communities of Practice (local interest groups)

It is worth noting that the annual membership fee costs less than the conference discount available to members. The membership fee is also tax-deductible for US citizens.

Ben Reed then listed the accomplishments of the past year:

- Nominated & Elected the first Board Of Directors;
- Announced the creation of the IAIDQ to the Industry;
- Completed the IAIDQ Bylaws for Board Elections;
- Obtained 'Non-Profit' status from the US-IRS; and
- Partnered with Information Impact in organizing conferences.

It is also worth pointing out the work that has been done by IAIDQ members in Ireland to create the IQ Network (www.iqnetwork.org) in conjunction with the Irish Computer Society.

In the past year, member services and other products were also made available, thereby improving the member proposition still further. These include:

- Association Website (including a Members-Only Zone)
- Broadcast Email Tool
- IQ Forum—List Cast
- Quarterly Membership Newsletter
- Job Postings for the IQ Industry
- Conference and Events Calendar
- Directory of Relevant IQ Links
- Bibliography of Publications
- IQ/DQ Glossary
- Periodic Email Updates to Members

The next twelve months are expected to bring further improvements. The Board has begun work on the association's long-term Strategic Plan, and is now defining an Operational Plan and Planning Process. Elections for some of the Board positions will take place soon, the details of which will be posted on the association's website. The association is also working to develop corporate sponsorship and to increase the membership.

IAIDQ's Communities of Practice

By Keith Underdown

Editor's Note: A breakfast session was originally scheduled to present the "Communities of Practice" (CoP) concept during the IQ Conference in Houston. Unfortunately, the session was preempted by the approach of Hurricane Rita. The main points of the presentation are summarized in this article.

Strategic Drivers

During the IAIDQ's strategic planning sessions in the weekend leading up to the IQ Conference in Houston, three strategic drivers were identified, namely:

- To deliver value to Members & the Community;
- To be a truly international and inclusive organization; and
- To create an effective organization.

These drivers led to the decision to use the generic term "*Communities of Practice*" rather than "Chapter" and "Special Interest Group." The term "Chapter," in particular, does not travel well outside the United States.

'Community of Practice' Defined

A *Community of Practice* is defined as a group of IAIDQ Members working to achieve best practices in Information and Data Quality. The Community may be based locally to form a geographic CoP (pronounced see-o-pee), or it may be focused on a specified intellectual domain (e.g., Professional Certification), or in a specific vertical segment (e.g., Healthcare). The geographic CoP corresponds to a Chapter, while the latter two CoPs correspond to Special Interest Groups.

While all CoP's must be endorsed by the Board, they can be relatively informal in structure. They should be focused on ends, rather than means. Details of the process for creating CoPs will be published soon, once the Board endorsement has been obtained.

Communities of Practice are seen as a key service of the association, and are expected to significantly improve the membership proposition. Communities are also forums for promoting growth and activity. Their purpose is to build products and services that contribute to the effectiveness of IQ professionals and to the formalization of the discipline.

What does a CoP Do?

Non-geographic CoP's are likely to operate virtually, while the geographic CoP's are more likely to organize real events. In other respects, however, both types of CoPs will share strong similarities. A CoP provides opportunities to develop stronger networking relationships between IQ professionals (and perhaps more importantly – would-be IQ professionals). The community is also expected to build knowledge-based products and services that will enhance the knowledge of the IQ professional.

To support this process, the Association will provide web-based facilities such as a sub-domain for each CoP, email addresses and email lists, as well as advice on the use of appropriate software to enable virtual working (e.g., Skype). The Association will also provide assistance in developing a brand identity and in promoting the CoP.

The first step in establishing a CoP is the development of the Concept and Proposal. A CoP may be proposed by any group of at least three IAIDQ members in good standing. The Proposal should define its domain and demonstrate how it relates to similar CoP's. It should outline the services proposed and any expected deliverables, along with any associated costs. The proponents should outline the organizational structure and submit a short CV, to indicate the skills and experience they bring to the CoP. The Board will then review the proposal and endorse it as appropriate.

The following CoP's were suggested at the conference. Those marked by an asterisk (*) are currently being established.

Geographic

- United Kingdom*
- Ireland*
- Australasia*
- South Africa*

Products & Services

- Establish IQ taxonomy and Build Book of Knowledge*
- Improving Quality Controls in Election Data
- Develop Professional Certification Process
- Develop Supra-national IQ Regulations & Laws

Vertical Segment

- Healthcare
- Insurance
- Education*

You are encouraged to take part in the process by helping to establish and run any of the above CoP's – as well as any others you may wish to propose.

The Board and their advisors will be contacting all those who have expressed interest in the including CoP's in the Association's Operational Plan. Facilities will be added to the website in the near future.

For further information about CoPs or to request assistance and support in joining or creating a community, please email Andrew.Kinnear@iaidq.org

IAIDQ Meetings slated for November in Europe, Australasia

The **2nd Official European Meeting** of the International Association for Information and Data Quality (IAIDQ) will be held in **London** on Tuesday **November 8**, 08:00-08:45 am, in conjunction with the 2005 Data Management and Information Quality Conferences.

The **1st Official Australasian Meeting** of IAIDQ will be held in **Sydney** on Tuesday **November 29** in conjunction with the Enterprise Data Quality 2005 conference.

This is an exciting opportunity to find out what is happening in the association in Europe and Australasia, and to get involved and network with other professionals who are passionate about the principles and best practices in managing information and data quality.

These meetings are open to all members and interested parties whether or not you will attend the conference. If you are not registered for the conference, but would like to come to the IAIDQ meetings, please call to register at UK + 44 (0)20.8866.7081 or email the organizer at customerservices@irmuk.co.uk. For the Australasia meeting, call +61 (0)413.271.147 or email Grant.Robinson@iaidq.org

For additional information, please visit our web site at iaidq.org or e-mail Andrew Kinnear, IAIDQ VP-Member Services at Andrew.Kinnear@iaidq.org (UK) or Grant Robinson, IAIDQ VP-Web services at Grant.Robinson@iaidq.org (Australia).

For conference attendees, please note that these conferences are endorsed by IAIDQ. Members of the association are entitled to a 10% discount.

Forthcoming Events

Up-to-date **Calendar of Forthcoming Activities** is online at iaidq.org/main/calendar.shtml

4-6 Nov 2005	10th International Conference on Information Quality www.iqconference.org	Cambridge, MA, USA
7-10 Nov 2005	Data Management and Information Quality Conferences 2005 IQ2005, DAMA Conference Europe 2005 and Metadata Europe Conference 2005 www.irmuk.co.uk/dm2005 <i>Endorsed by IAIDQ – 10% discount for IAIDQ Members</i>	London, UK
28-29 Nov 2005	Enterprise Data Quality 2005 <i>Keynote presentations by:</i> - Keith Underdown, Information Architect, AKMA (UK) [IAIDQ member] - Daragh O'Brien, Senior Project Manager – Data Quality eircom (Ireland) [IAIDQ member] http://www.marcusevans.com/EventIndex.asp?EventID=10273 <i>Endorsed by IAIDQ – 10% discount for IAIDQ Members</i>	Sydney, Australia

Although care has been taken in preparing this Calendar of Events, the Newsletter's Editorial Board and the International Association for Information and Data Quality does not and cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained herein.

IAIDQ Website: Help Wanted

IAIDQ seeks help to assist with compiling content for the website. If you can assist us in compiling the Calendar, the Bibliography, or the Glossary, or can assist with preparing other web content of interest to IAIDQ members, please contact our webmaster via email at grant.robinson@iaidq.org

Call for Contributions

to Future Issues of the IAIDQ Newsletter

IAIDQ Members are invited to send in their contributions to be considered for the **January 2006** issue of the Newsletter.

WHEN: December 19, 2005 (Monday) Submission Deadline

WHAT: Articles (1000-1200 words)
Tips / Best Practices (400-650 words)
Recent DQ News (40-500 words)
Upcoming DQ Events (event title, location, link to more information)

HOW: Send contributions in editable electronic medium
(preferably MS Word)
via email to editor@iaidq.org

Detailed submission guidelines are available by request. Please email the editor.

We also welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding our Newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Dy [michelle.dy@iaidq.org] or Andrew Kinnear [andrew.kinnear@iaidq.org].

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If you are interested in joining the Newsletter Working Group, please contact the Editor-in-Chief via email [editor@iaidq.org].

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