PART IV

CONCLUSIONS
Chapter 15

Conclusions:
Globalisation of Transboundary
Environmental Impact Assessment

Kees Bastmeijer and Timo Koivurova

1. INTRODUCTION

The aims of this book were identified in section four of the introductory chapter. The first aim – to provide information on TEIA systems and practice under these systems – has been well attained by the exciting discussions in the previous parts of the volume. The experts discuss the history and content of various TEIA systems (existing systems and systems in development) and show that in respect of most regions of the world there is a rich practice associated with TEIA. It is interesting to observe that (T)EIA is being developed worldwide between states, for human activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction and a central instrument of the environmental policies of international financial institutions and commercial banks.

The other three aims of the book form the central issues of this concluding chapter. The discussions in the previous parts of this book provide the readers with the opportunity to make a comparison of TEIA systems (aim b) and we hope to contribute to this comparison through a discussion of a number of common issues and concerns in subsection 2.2.

Before taking up these more specific issues, we will focus on certain general observations that reflect the worldwide development of TEIA (aim c). To this end, we outline the development of national EIA (subsection 1.1), discuss the limitations of national EIA legislation regarding transboundary environmental impact assessment, and identify the main arguments for developing TEIA systems (subsection 1.2). In view of the development of TEIA worldwide, the question whether TEIA should be considered an independent principle of international law is also dealt with (subsection 1.3). A comparison of the history and content of the TEIA systems also enables a consideration of some other general matters, including the question to what