

Proposal of EIA for private business in Japan

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Abstract: We study the way of self regulated environmental impact assessment (SREIA) for private business in Japan. SREIA is not required by Japanese law because the subject of SREIA is a small project. We are considering how SREIA can be accepted by private companies. We think that the incentive (e.g. environmental performance certification, environmental finance) promotes the introduction of SREIA. Therefore, we consider SREIA certification system. A third-party check is required for objective and fair implementation of SREIA. For example, Japan Association of Environment Assessment (JEAS) is able to link between private business company and an environmental assessment expert as a third-party. Also, we think that JEAS is able to act as a certification organization for SREIA. Based on the above, we are making a SERIA guide book.

Keywords: *Private business, Certification system, Guide book, Japan*

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Japan Association of Environment Assessment (JEAS) of a general incorporated association have conducted a questionnaire survey to a member of JEAS in 2013. The purpose of the survey was to know a demand of a member of JEAS. From the survey results, the following two were listed as a new study theme by the JEAS in 2014.

- Measures trends and environmental assessment relating to the renewable energy field such as wind power generation business.

- Progress and trends, on environmental considerations of private business. (There was a opinion about the procedure using the environmental assessment system. For example, SREIA, green finance, environmental finance.)

By the above background, the new area Study Group of JEAS research Group has organized several working groups (WG) in order to work on priority themes. Also, we are conducting research from 2015 in the WG. This paper is an interim report of the results of WG on progress and trends, on environmental considerations of private business.

1.2 The present situation of SREIA

JEAS conducted a questionnaire to JEAS members for the purpose of understanding the implementation status of SREIA (Kawai 2013,2014). We extracted only those related to business activities from the above-mentioned questionnaire. And, we think that it is possible to understand the present situation in business activities by the extracted questionnaire results. Also, we think that SREIA advantages and disadvantages in business activities is an important clue in proceeding the consideration of this guide. Advantages are such as " It can cope with questions or orders for the environment from the government ", " It can respond to residents with confidence ", " It can feedback to the business plan (including construction plan) ", " It can be used as a variety of explanatory material ". Disadvantages are such as " Period is prolonged ", " Cost increases ", " It is Obligated to conduct EIA by the leadership of the government ".

2. Methodology

2.1 SREIA guide

The guide of the study is based on questionnaire result, various manuals and guidelines, experience and knowledge of EIA in the WG members, and the like. However, the subject of various manuals and guidelines is not only private businesses. For this reason, it is focusing on the characteristics of the private businesses.

2.2 The use of the environmental certification system and the environmental finance system

For the consideration of the use of environmental certification system and environmental finance system, we will understand the environmental certification system and the environmental finance system that it has been operating in Japan. And, It was an organized relationship with SREIA for each of the system. For example, environmental impact element and evaluation methods.

2.3 The consideration of SREIA certification system by JEAS

The consideration of 「The consideration of SREIA certification system by JEAS」 is based on environmental certification system that has been operating in Japan.

Also, as the viewpoint of the study, we focused method of application and evaluation, etc.

3. Result and discussion

3.1 SREIA guide

3.1.1 The decision of Implementation

It is an era in which environmental considerations are required in every scene. From CSR aspects of private businesses, we think that SREIA can help smooth relationships with local residents, promote the smooth business operations as a whole. For that reason, we think that it is desirable that SREIA is carried out in all of the private businesses.

3.1.1 Timing of implementation

we propose the implementation of SREIA at an early stage of planning in this guide, as shown below.

- ①The implementation of SREIA at an early stage, it can be reflected the environmental protection measures to design
- ②When there is an administrative guidance and residents demand on environmental considerations, it can be explained immediately by the use of SREIA.
- ③In the explanation meetings, such as a development permit system, since the description of the environmental impact is required, it can be utilized SREIA as explanatory material.
- ④If you want to get the environmental certification and environmental finance, it is possible to use the SREIA.

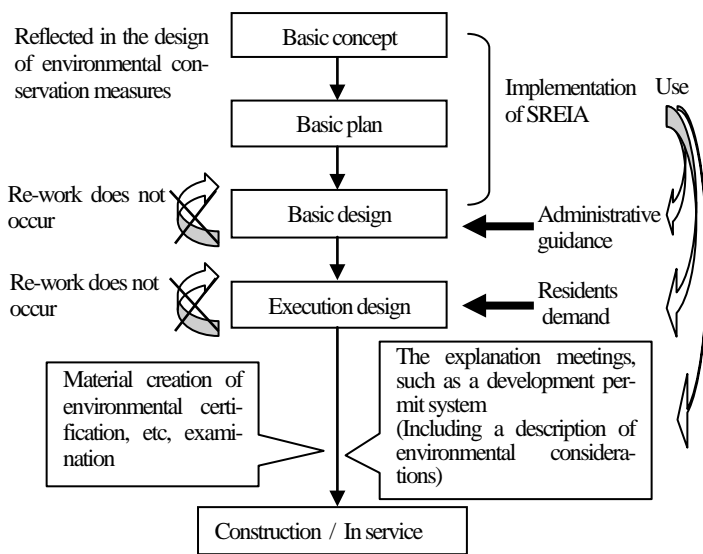


Figure1. Flow of utilization of SREIA

3.1.2 The selection of the items for EIA

When selecting the items for EIA, first to understand the business characteristics and regional characteristics, in the same way as a legal EIA. Then, select the required consideration element by the respective characteristics. On the other hand, it can narrow down consideration element from the characteristics of SREIA regardless of the technical guideline. The basic way of thinking of the items for EIA of SREIA is as shown below.

- ① Referring to the technical guideline of the national and local governments as a basic.
- ② Not subject to the regulations of the technical guidelines
- ③ To target the minimum required elements (From the point of view of cost)

3.1.3 The selection of survey, conservation, evaluation

When carrying out the SREIA, private business person hopes the following: it does not affect the business schedule, low cost, and appropriate assessment. From these viewpoints, it is necessary to select a method of changing the intensity for each item. Also, it is necessary to select a method to allow smooth communication

by presenting the results easy to understand for local residents. In future, based on the point of view of shortening of the period and cost reduction of SREIA, we consider requirements of the field survey and simple conservation method using an existing case etc.

3.1.4 Correspondence between the external

We think the main purpose of the correspondence between the external is 「ensuring the objectivity and quality of SREIA」 and 「communication with stakeholders」. 「ensuring the objectivity and quality of SREIA」 is necessary to check review by a third party. In the legal EIA, a check of the EIA is carried out by the committee composed of academic experts. A check of the EIA period takes several months. This is a major burden for the business who want to rapidly. it is one of the reasons why the businesses want to avoid the EIA. In addition, in the SREIA to implement the private business, the thing that private business gather experts and hold a review meeting, is not realistic.

Therefore, we consider the objectivity ensuring measures by to check review by the third party an assessment experts that not the private businesses side.

3.1.5 The preparation of report

the conventional EIA report has been shown the degree of environmental impact is no problem. However, environmental protection measures and effects and the like is not necessarily easy to understand. For this reason, there is a problem that it is difficult environmental protection measures is reflected in the business plan. Therefore, in this guide, to organize how to show results that can be understood the contents.

3.1.6 follow-up survey

A follow-up survey is usually performed when the uncertainty remains in the forecast evaluation results and environmental conservation measures. One of the purposes of the EIA implementation is a smooth communication with local residents. In the case that high interest

of local residents or exist of a business impact, It is desirable to disclose to local residents Implemented follow-up survey. In the Survey, we think that cooperation with local residents is effective way for the promotion of continual business.

3.2 Utilizing of environmental certification system and environmental finance system

3.2.1 consideration contents

As operated in Japan related to EIA, there is a certification system of real estate such as that shown in Table 2. In future, we will organize object of the certification system, the content of evaluation or method, flow from application to certification, documents of submitting, examination method, certification rating, etc.

Table2. Certification system to related EIA In Japan

Type	Comprehensive evaluation	Green Evaluation-related
Public evaluation and certification system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental risk investigation loan promotes interest subsidy project*(environment partnership council) • ASBEE(comprehensive assessment system for built environment efficiency)(institute for building environment and energy conservation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEGES (Social and Environmental Green Evaluation System) (Organization for Landscape and Urban Green Infrastructure) • JHEP(Japan habitat evaluation and certification program)(Ecosystem Conservation Society-Japan)
Evaluation and certification system of related industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBJ Green Building Certification(Development Bank of Japan Inc.) • SMBC Sustainable Building Assessment Loan System(Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABINC(Association for Business Innovation in harmony with Nature and Community) certification*(Association for Business Innovation in harmony with Nature and Community)

*Author translation Since there is only Japanese name

3.2.2 Relationship between SREIA and environment certification system, etc.

Certification procedure is thought to proceed smoothly by starting from the initial stage of the EIA. (See Figure 2)

Therefore, we are going to organize The relationship between the selection of the items, etc of EIA and certification system, etc in anticipation of the acquisition of certification.

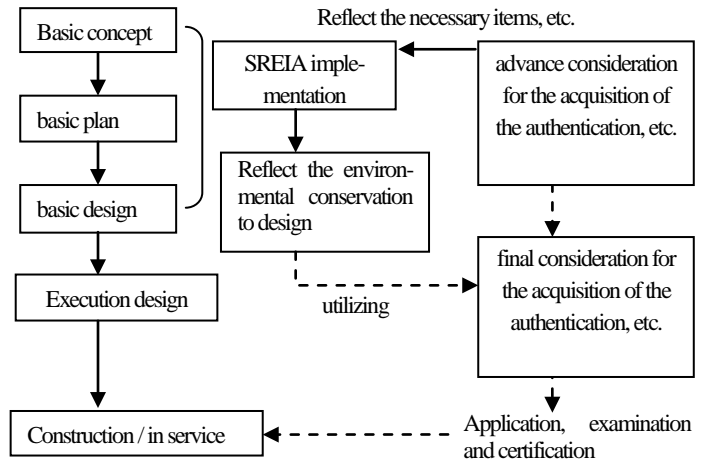


Figure2. Relationship image between the SERIA and environmental certification, etc.

3.3 Consideration of SREIA certification system of JEAS version

In the future, we plan to organize a framework of SREIA certification system of JEAS version. Consideration contents are as shown in Table 3. Also we will use certification system that to is organized at 3.2 as reference.

Table3. Image of framework of SREIA certification system of JEAS version

	Flow	Consideration contents
Application	① Acceptance of such SREIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required the contents of the documents (SREIA,Self-check sheet, etc.)
Evaluation	② Check and review by evaluation Committee(the environmental assessor (of an assessment experts of JEAS operated))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned method of evaluation committee business • Certification criteria • The contents of the evaluation report
Judgment	① Certification of quality, etc. by the judgment committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned method of Judgment committee • Issuance methods such as certification mark

4 . Conclusions

This paper is an interim report of the results of WG on progress and trends, on environmental considerations of private business.

In the future, we will consider for the final report.

5. References

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