

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment  
**THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**IAIA08 Session Chair's Report**

**Session number and name:** CS1.9 Environmental and Social Considerations in International Cooperation: The Japanese Way

**Day:** Tuesday    **Date:** 6 May 2008    **Time:** 4:00-5:30pm    **# Persons attending session:** 20

**Name(s) of Session Chair(s)**  
Sachihiko Harashina

**Contributors**  
Sachihiko Harashina  
Shigeaki Fujisaki  
Ken-ichi Tanaka  
Stephen Lintner

**(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes discussed in this session**

- Screening process: extension of scope of the applied projects of EIA
- More assistance of public participation to recipient countries
- Requiring more advances information disclosure in recipient countries from assisting bodies

**(b) One or more emerging trends**

There is improvement of safeguard policy among international cooperation organizations in Japan. That is, not only JICA and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) but also JETRO introduced the environmental and social guideline in January 2008.

As JICA will become a huge organization with annual budget of \$10 billion from October 2008 by merger of the Yen Loan section of JBIC, JICA is preparing for revising current EIA guideline towards more sustainable international cooperation. JICA guideline should have a big influence on safeguard policies of many international cooperation organizations near future.

**(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:**

Through introducing EIA guidelines by all of the major international cooperation bodies in Japan, cooperative activities of Japan should become more sustainable.

**(i) dimensions of IA effectiveness (i.e. what are the characteristics of effective IA?)**

Elevating the possibility of better practice of EIA by enhancement of environmental awareness in Japanese society through the permeation of EIA guidelines in all of major Japanese international cooperation organizations.

**(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness**

It is necessary to surmount the differences of the levels of information disclosures among developing countries.

**(iii) how these barriers might be overcome**

By showing good practices of information disclosure within Japanese organizations themselves to the recipient countries as their models.

**(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)**

Scientific analysis had been prevailing in EIA for Japanese ODA activities, though subjective judgment is quite crucial in ODA. But the situation has been gradually changing.