

***35th Annual Conference of the International Association
for Impact Assessment (IAIA15):***

**Way to strengthen
implementation of EIA in Asia**
- Based on six country study in Asia-



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1. Background

- Most of the East and Southeast Asian countries are about finalizing establishment of basic EIA system, but **need to strengthen its implementation and further establishment of EIA policies.**
- **Existing activities** on strengthening EIA system and its implementation by ADB, WB, IFC, USAID/EPA, Australian government, JICA and others in Asia
- Increasing **Japanese private sector investment** in Asia

2. Objectives of the research

- **Identifying common challenges and opportunities** to strengthen EIA system and its implementation in Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam) in a deferent development stage
- **Providing guidance for Japanese private sector** to understand basic EIA system in Asia and its implementation challenges

3. Research framework

- **Scope:** EIA system (policy and capacity), its implementation, and challenges and opportunities in six Asian countries
- **Methods:** literature review; interview to key stakeholders in six countries including government officials from different ministries, EIA consultants, lawyers, academics, development agencies and NGOs; reviewing case studies in six countries

4. Common Challenges (1): Upstream EIA/SEA

	Common Challenges	# of Country
System	Lack of SEA legislation and guidance	4
	Lack of systematic training on SEA	6
Implementation	Permission of projects before EIA approval	2
	Weak SEA implementation capacity	4
	Weak collaboration with other ministries regarding SEA	5

4. Common Challenges (2): EIA Quality

	Common Challenges	# of Country
System	Lack of sector guidelines and technical guidance for assessment	4
	Lack of registration system for EIA consultants	2
	Absence of a mechanism to ensure objective EIA review, such as EIA review by Independent EIA review committee (IRC)	2
Implementation	Limited quality of baseline data	4
	Limited technical skill for EIA review by gov't staff	2
	Insufficient technical/financial capacity of EIA consultants to conduct sound investigation	4
	Absence or insufficient higher education basis to foster EIA experts	5

4. Common Challenges (3): Info disclosure/ public participation

	Common Challenges	# of Country
System	Unclear procedures or requirements for information disclosure and public participation	4
	Limited public access to EIA reports during review stage	4
Implementation	Insufficient or ineffective public participation	5
	Limited access of EIA information such as insufficient web-based communication system	3
	Limited awareness on information disclosure and public participation related to EIA by project proponents	5
	Limited capacity of NGOs and local communities to effectively respond to EIAs	5

4.Common Challenges (4): Environmental management plan/monitoring

	Common Challenges	# of Country
System	Limited financial basis for responding to unexpected situations, such as by environmental bond	5
	Lack of systematic review of monitoring reports by independent body	5
Implementation	Limited implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring by project proponents	6
	Insufficient quality of monitoring reports prepared by project proponents	5
	Weak monitoring capacity of government	6

5. Opportunities (1)

Opportunities for mutual learning among Asian countries based on existing good practices

- Examples:
- Development of SEA legislation and guidance,
- Establishment of sector guidelines and technical guidance for assessment
- Improvement of technical skill of government staff for EIA review, and capacity of consultants for EIA preparation
- Development of guidelines for information disclosure and public participation
- Establishment of web-based communication system
- Mutual learning to improve implementation of public participation, and strengthen monitoring capacity of government agencies

5. Opportunities (2)

Opportunities for learning from international communities based on global good practice

- Examples:
- Systematic training to strengthen implementation capacity of SEA including strengthening collaboration with other ministries regarding SEA
- Development of materials on capacity building for EIA consultants, and university curricula to study EIA
- Development of guidelines for information disclosure and public participation, and establishment of web-based communication system
- Support to mutual learning for improving implementation of public participation, and to strengthen monitoring capacity of government agencies
- Advice for improvement of implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring by project proponents

5. Opportunities (3)

Opportunities for the future activities from this study

- *Examples:*
- Facilitation of mutual learning in Asia
- Information sharing including private sectors
- Promotion of knowledge and experience sharing

Thank you !
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