Working effectively with other forms of impact assessment

Inclusion of Health into EIA for Mining Industry

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Mining industry is required by the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act 1992 to submit EIS before permission. EIA itself has already included health within quality of life dimension as the EIA guideline said. Community complaints related to impact from mining operation. In 2009, Mining Department and Health Department proposed a project which aims for developing health indicators and mechanism for monitoring health outcome within an EIA.
What did we do?

- Review the impact of limestone and gold mining operation;
- Field work;
- Consultation with health personnel at provincial, district and sub-district levels;
- Organize forum for all stakeholders;
- Develop the Guideline for HIA and EIA health monitoring
What are outputs?

- General health monitoring guideline inc. recommended health indicators, distance of assessment area, risk groups, community concern, area mapping;
- Data collecting tool for local health personnel use in active health surveillance;
- Recommendation for health data collection and analysis;
- Linkage between health and environmental data.
Respiratory system
Cardiovascular system
Central Nervous system
Skin system
Eye system
Environmental Health Surveillance Activities

- Health Data
  - Risk Group
    - Workers
    - Children
    - Elderly
    - Pregnancy

- Environment Data
  - Hazard Emission
    - TSP PM10
    - Noise vibration
Risk Area Mapping: Limestone Mine in Supanburi Province

- Cover 4 sub-districts 3 Km. from limestone mines
- Used by local health personnel and local people for monitoring the impacts
Do EIA and HIA work effectively? Y or N

Some important points shown
- Provide forum for stakeholders for gold mine - leads to conflict resolution.
- Revision of health data base system
- Collaboration and knowledge exchange opportunity for
  - Health personnel;
  - Non-health sector
  - Private sector
  - Community
Key of Success

- Permission authority concern;
- Data should be utilized at lowest level;
- Central organization work as catalyst and coordinator on environmental health problem.
Thank you for your kind attention

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