



Regional Workshop Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in Environmental Impact Assessment in Asia

25-26 October 2011

Siam City Hotel

Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Climate change poses a serious challenge to development globally and increases complexity in planning and development at the project level. While projects have traditionally been assessed for their potential impact on the environment, the reality of a changing climate requires both policy makers and project proponents to consider the impacts of climate-related changes on the performance and sustainability of the project itself.

One approach for addressing climate risks in project planning is to incorporate climate change considerations into existing modalities for project design, approval and implementation. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is particularly relevant in this context. As an important environmental decision-making tool, EIA can play a key role in ensuring that future developments are themselves resilient and that their environmental impacts do not exacerbate climate change's effects on human or natural systems.

While governments and multilateral development institutions have increasingly recognized the need to integrate considerations of climate change into EIA, actual implementation remains at an early stage globally except in a few countries. In Asia, several countries have expressed their intention at the policy level to use EIA as a tool to adapt projects to climate change but actual progress is limited. While a few countries have taken concrete steps to introduce formal legal requirements to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation in EIA processes, inadequate data and operational guidelines as well as lack of practical experience pose a great challenge to practitioners in mainstreaming climate change in EIA.

Workshop Objectives

The Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN) and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) organize a regional workshop to raise awareness and build capacity for EIA practitioners in Asia to incorporate climate change adaptation in EIA processes. As a side event to the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2011, the workshop complements the Forum in sharing knowledge and information to mainstream climate change adaptation into development in the region. It is also a follow-on event to the Regional Workshop on "Environmental Impact Assessment in Asia: Good Practices and Capacity Needs" held in June 2010 in Manila by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and AECEN. Specifically, the workshop aims to:

- raise awareness and understanding of EIA practitioners in Asia on the implications of climate change in the context of development and project planning;
- explore opportunities and constraints in using EIA as a tool to enhance climate resilience of projects and plan for climate change adaptation;
- take stock of progress towards integrating climate change considerations with EIA in Asia and other regions;

- discuss key considerations in determining whether climate change impacts and adaptation need to be considered at the project level in a particular context;
- identify actual entry points for climate change considerations at different stages of EIA;
- review an emerging set of international principles and guidelines on the incorporation of EIA and climate change;
- discuss data and other resource requirements for incorporating climate change in EIA; and
- share experience from countries with more advanced practices in incorporating climate change considerations in EIA, using examples from actual projects.

Resource Persons

- Practitioners from Asian environmental agencies with responsibility in EIA
- Climate change practitioners from within and outside Asia
- Experts from multilateral, research and private sector organizations

Participants

30 practitioners

Workshop Language

English

Dates

25-26 October 2011

Venue

Bangkok, Thailand

Organizers

- The Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), with support from Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Website

www.aecen.org