

EIA implementation and challenges in Myanmar - Survey with possible support from Japan



Kaoru AKAHOSHI
Naoko GENJIDA
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Shunsuke HIEDA
Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

Outline

- Introduction
- Current Problems on the ground
- Possible cooperation projects
- Challenges to be addressed

Introduction

- The Ministry of Environment Japan (MOEJ): has been trying to promote better EIA implementation in Asia for years, and as a part of the activity, MOEJ was considering to support Myanmar which stands at the initial stage of effective implementation of EIA.
- IGES and Nippon Koei: commissioned to conduct a ground survey on this matter, and traveled to Myanmar to interview Myanmar Government officials, Development Agencies, NGOs, Environmental consultants, and Japanese businesses on EIA related issues in November 2017

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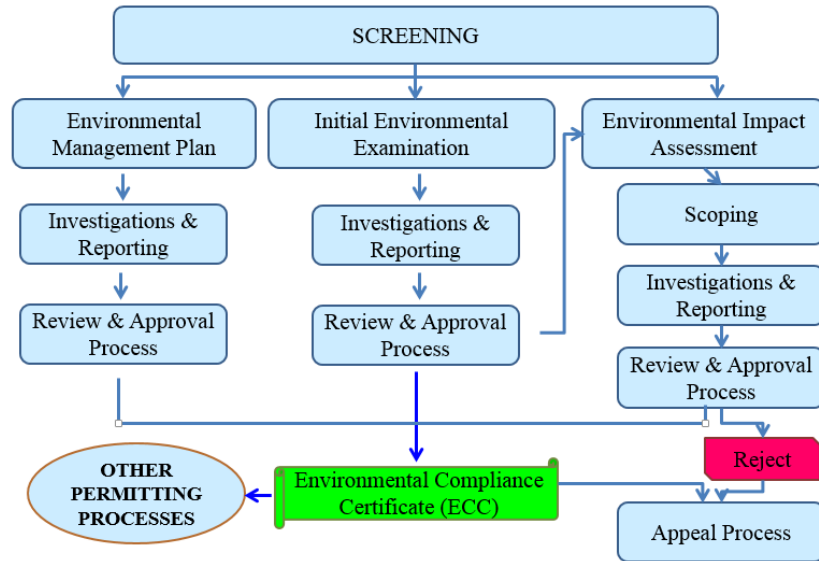
Myanmar's EIA related laws and procedures

- Environmental Conservation Law (2012)
- Environmental Conservation Rules (2014)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures (29 Dec., 2015)
- National Environmental Quality Emission Guideline (29 Dec., 2015)

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Myanmar's EIA process



Source:MONREC

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Current situation and challenges

- Issues related to EIAP institutions
- Issues related to EIAP enforcement
- Lacking in human resources
- Insufficient of technical capability

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Issues related to EIAP institutions

- ✓ Target EIA and IEE case is extensive.
- ✓ Existing cases are also requested to go through EIAP in some cases.

Issues related to EIAP enforcement

- ✓ More than 2,500 cases have been on the waiting list to be reviewed.
- ✓ Limited number of capable staffs working on EIA
- ✓ The frequency of the EIA review meeting is not enough
- ✓ The issuing procedure for ECC has not been defined as of Dec., 2017.
- ✓ Screening criteria are unclear

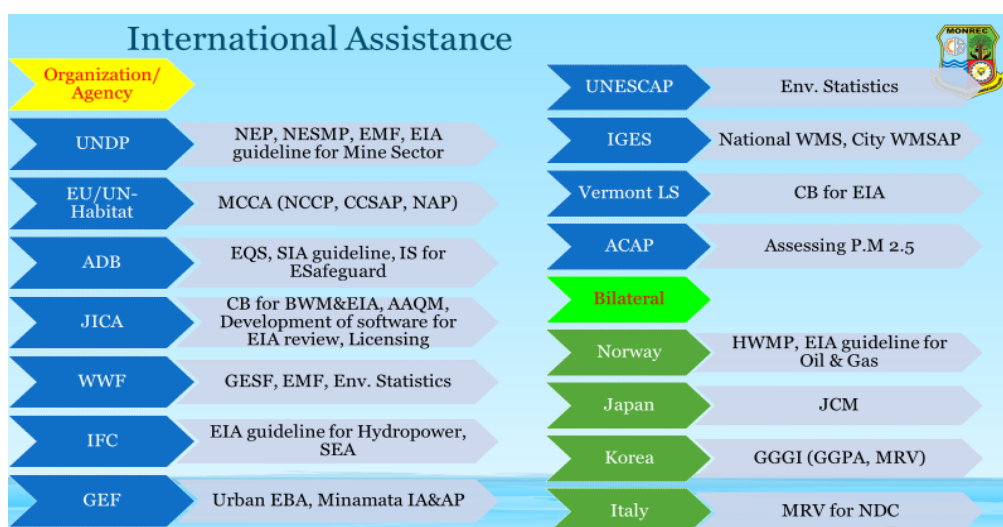
Lacking in human resources / Insufficient of technical capability

- ✓ There is no higher education institution/department specializing in the environment

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Various supports provided to Myanmar from international community



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Source: MONREC

Consideration of Cooperation Plans – We took these in our mind:

- To take a flexible manner as the MONREC-ECD stands at the initial stage of implementation of EIA.
- To avoid overlapping with other donors' supports to the country.
- To utilize Japan's knowledge and experience in EIA, such as Investigation, Forecast, and Evaluation technics; Activities of industry group etc.
- To utilize IGES's research and analysis in EIA in Asian countries.

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Consideration of Cooperation Plans – Possible Support Program

1. Provision of EIA technical guidebook※
2. Technical training for new staff: Basic information and assessment training
3. Setting up a help desk for businesses on EIA (Web-site based)
4. Establishing a monitoring database on EIA implementation status

**1.&2. are going to be provided
by March 2019.**

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Challenges to be addressed

- How we could help MONREC staff to understand the importance of EIA rather than conducting EIA as a simple administrative procedure to get funds.
- How to motivate trainees who could be so-called “training fatigue” by taking lots of training from various donors.
- In the long term, wider scale of institutional reform might need to be also considered (e.g. Restructuring the system such as simplifying procedures and decentralizing to local governments for the smooth implementation of EIA.)

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Thank you very much for your kind attention.

ありがとうございました

Kaoru Akahoshi (赤星 香)

Policy Researcher

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

akahoshi@iges.or.jp

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