

## ASPAC EIA Seminar 2017 - Role of Consulting Engineers –

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ASPAC CBC Chair

Toshio Kurashige

### 1. Background

At the ASPAC Executive Committee meeting held in Queenstown 2016, chair of Capacity Building Committee (CBC), Toshio Kurashige proposed the action plan in which promotion of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in infrastructure projects and raising capacity of consulting engineers (CE) in charge of EIA were the main subject. ASPAC CBC conducted EIA fact-finding survey and collected answers from 10 member associations out of 21 in September 2016. The survey identified many challenges on EIA such as inconsistent institutional framework, improper monitoring, lack of financial and human resources. At ASPAC GAM in Jakarta 2017, CBC proposed to hold EIA seminars in Indonesia and Vietnam based on the survey results and interest expressed by INKINDO and VECAS.

On request by CBC chair, ECFAJ agreed to financially support the seminar as well as to get support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Institution of Professional Engineers, Japan. INKINDO and VECAS assumed role of logistics for the seminar.

### 2. Purpose of EIA Seminar

Purpose of the seminar is to examine the way to promote and improve the quality of EIA which is expected to be an effective means to build sustainable society. The seminar overviews challenges and practices on EIA carried out by local government and compare those by global institutions. Through the seminar, it is expected that consulting engineers and employers are well informed about challenges and effective measures on EIA such that it will provide a meaningful opportunity to improve quality of infrastructure as well as capacity of people concerned.

### 3. Seminar Outline

Theme: ASPAC EIA Seminar - Role of Consulting Engineers-

#### (1) Program (refer to attached programs for detail)

The EIA seminars were held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December in Jakarta and on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> in Hanoi.

Number of participants were approximately 80 and 90 respectively.

#### (2) Presentations

Dr. Noriaki Murase, Director of JICA and Mr. Norihiko Inoue, General Manager of Nippon Koei presented JICA's Social & Environmental Guidelines and its application to JICA projects respectively. Local expert from Indonesia, Dr. Fadjari Nugroho, Director, PT BITA Bina Semesta presented EIA policy & procedures and challenges observed in Indonesia whereas Mr. Nguyen Thai Vu, Environmental Engineer, Power Engineering & Consulting Company- 3 presented EIA policy in Vietnam and case studies.

#### (3) Remarkable Comments Raised in Q&A Session

##### 1) Harmonisation of Guidelines

There are discrepancies in EIA guidelines between international body (WB, ADB, JICA, etc.) and local government. In many projects funded by international body, local consultants are often requested to draft EIA report by local government due to the different criteria. As this is a big burden to local consultants,

harmonization of guidelines between local and international bodies were expressed.

- 2) In general, approval of infrastructure projects is implemented according to EIA guidelines. Once approval is granted, results and recommendations described in EIA report are likely to be treated lightly in construction. In order to guarantee quality of infrastructure, proper monitoring should be mandated.
- 3) There are cases that government official in charge of EIA issue project approvals without careful examinations due to lack of ability or budget limitation. This creates many projects that are not sustainable.
- 4) Gender considerations should be clearly specified in EIA guidelines. Women face difficulties in field work.
- 5) There are cases that many stakeholders are involved across the regions. It is necessary to have EIA guidelines that can be commonly used in which responsibility of concerned parties, applicable standards, measurement tools and methodologies are identified.
- 6) There are strong needs of EIA training supported by international bodies that could be held locally.



ASPAC EIA Seminar, Jakarta, 11 Dec. 2017



ASPAC EIA Seminar, Hanoi, 14 Dec. 2017