

Summary of 2012 workshop on EIA in a transboundary context

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General Information

Title : Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
in Eastern Asia

Venue : Seoul, Korea

Duration : June 13 – 15, 2012

Schedule : Expert forum and discussion (2 days)
Field trip (1 day)

Organizers : Korea Environment Institute (KEI), ROK
Ministry of Environment (MOE), ROK
UNECE Espoo Convention

Workshop Objectives :

1. To draw attention to the opportunities of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context
2. To provide a basis for future cooperation between states/ authorities in Eastern Asia

Workshop Overview

The workshop provided expert opinions on introducing TEIA and prompted useful discussions by participating experts from 10 countries in Europe and Asia and international organizations.





Workshop Overview

Subject	Speaker
1. Introduction to Existing System of TEIA and Related Approaches	
An Overview of Legislation and Practice for TEIA in the Pan-European Region	Jerzy Jendroska (Opole University)
Approaches to TEIA in Law and Practice	Tea Aulavuo (Esspoo Convention secretariat)
2. International Experiences of TEIA	
Cooperation of the Caspian Littoral Countries in Preparation of the EIA Protocol to the Tehran Convention	Serik Akhmetov (Ministry of Environment Protection)
Implementation of the Espoo Convention in the Republic of Croatia with Neighbouring Countries	Nenad Mikulic (INVEST Ltd.)
Practical Experience with TIEA; Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Jerzy Jendroska (Opole University)
Indonesia EIA System in Transboundary Context	Ary Sudijanto (MOE)
SEA and EIA System in Vietnam and its Transboundary Concerns in a Regional Context	Hoai Nam Le (Vietnam Environment Administration)
Development of Framework for TEIA in the Lower Mekong Basin	Van Duyen Nguyen (Mekong River Commission Secretariat)



Workshop Overview

Subject	Speaker
3. A Introduction of TEIA Mechanism in North East Asia	
Potential Activities of Application of the EIA in a Transboundary Context; Mongolian Case	Munkhtsetseg Zorigt (National University of Mongolia)
Japan and Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	Mari Koyano (Hokkaido University)
Which Stepping Stone should be Needed for Implementation of TEIA in NE Asia?	Nankyong Moon (KEI)
4. Getting Strategic; Environmental Assessment of Plans and Polices in a Transboundary Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment Practice in Europe and Asia	Jiri Dusik (Integra Consulting Ltd.)
5. Frameworks for Cooperation in Transboundary Impact Assessment	
Pilot Projects as Tools for Improving Transboundary Impact Assessment and Cross-border Cooperation	Tea Aulavuo (Espoo Convention secretariat)
The Key Role of the Public in Environment Assessment Procedures	Csaba Kiss (EMLA)
6. Discussion on Possibilities for Future Cooperation, Including a Pilot Project in Eastern Asia	

- Introduction of the TEIA system
- Preceding countries' share of experience
- Discussion about the introduction of TEIA into Northeast Asia
- Contents of the international cooperation plan

12 participants gave an in-depth lecture and presentation, and discussed the matter on each country's sharing of the findings, the further plan to be promoted and continuous cooperative measures.



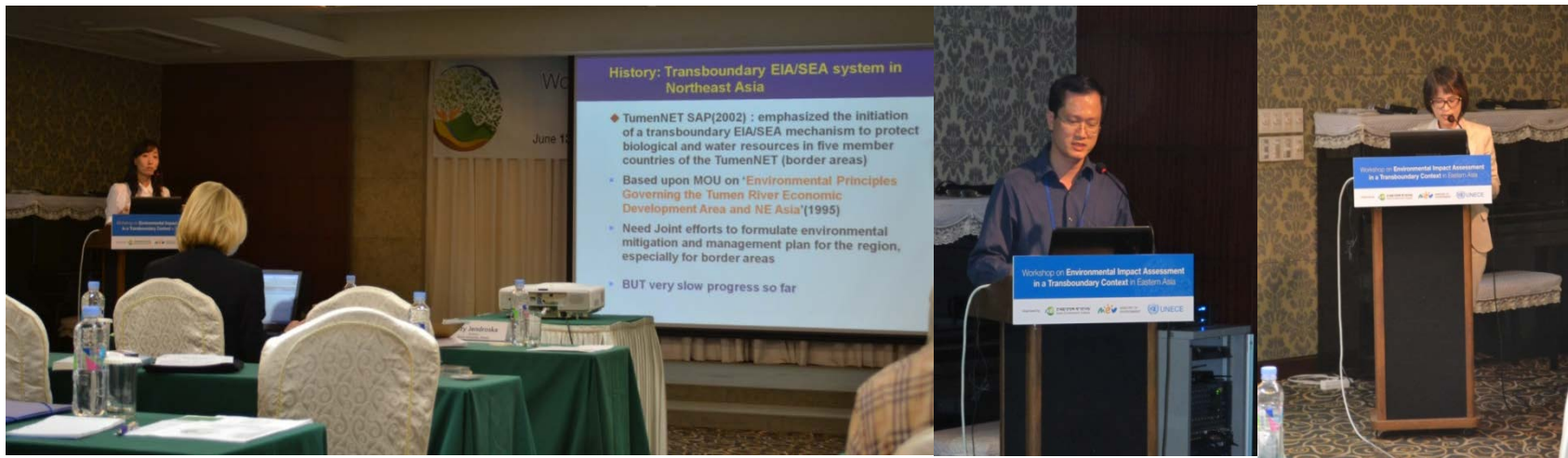


The contents of each presentation :

- An overview of legislation and approaches of TEIA. Provisions and their practical implementation under the Espoo Convention, its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and the Aarhus Convention (Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters)
- Key elements to introduce TEIA and importance of pilot projects and public involvement
- Introduction of EIA/TEIA systems from each participating country
- Experiences from Europe and Central Asia and pilot projects of TEIA in East Asia

Presentation Issues

- The methods to strengthen partnerships between the governmental authorities and academic circles. Importance of the bilateral/ multilateral agreements
- Environmental issues and efforts for the introduction of TEIA in NE Asia
- The effectiveness and progress to introduce TEIA in the region



Panel Discussion

Panelists described some of the key issues to increase cooperation and to introduce TEIA system in NE Asia. Many experts strongly agreed on the need to find out specific and practical methods to introduce legally binding TEIA system in the region.





Suggestions to introduce TEIA into NE Asia region were as follows:

- Developing regulations which suit NE Asia's reality
- Establishing secretariat can push forward TEIA
- Expanding the bilateral and multilateral agreement
- Enhancing the interest of governments through Pilot Projects
- Encouraging international organizations to participate in introducing TEIA in NE Asia

- This workshop served as a momentum to provide political direction and academic proposals prior to the working-level discussion at the government level to be discussed later on.
- Also the workshop served as a stepping-stone for the continuous exchange through the formation of the TEIA expert network covering Europe and Asia.
- Particularly, the workshop was very useful in that not only experts of NE Asia but also those from Europe and other Asian countries participated to produce much broader and in-depth presentation and discussions.



Thank you