Strategies to promote Transboundary EIA system in Northeast Asia

the 6th MOP to the Espoo Convention

Jun. 4 , 2014

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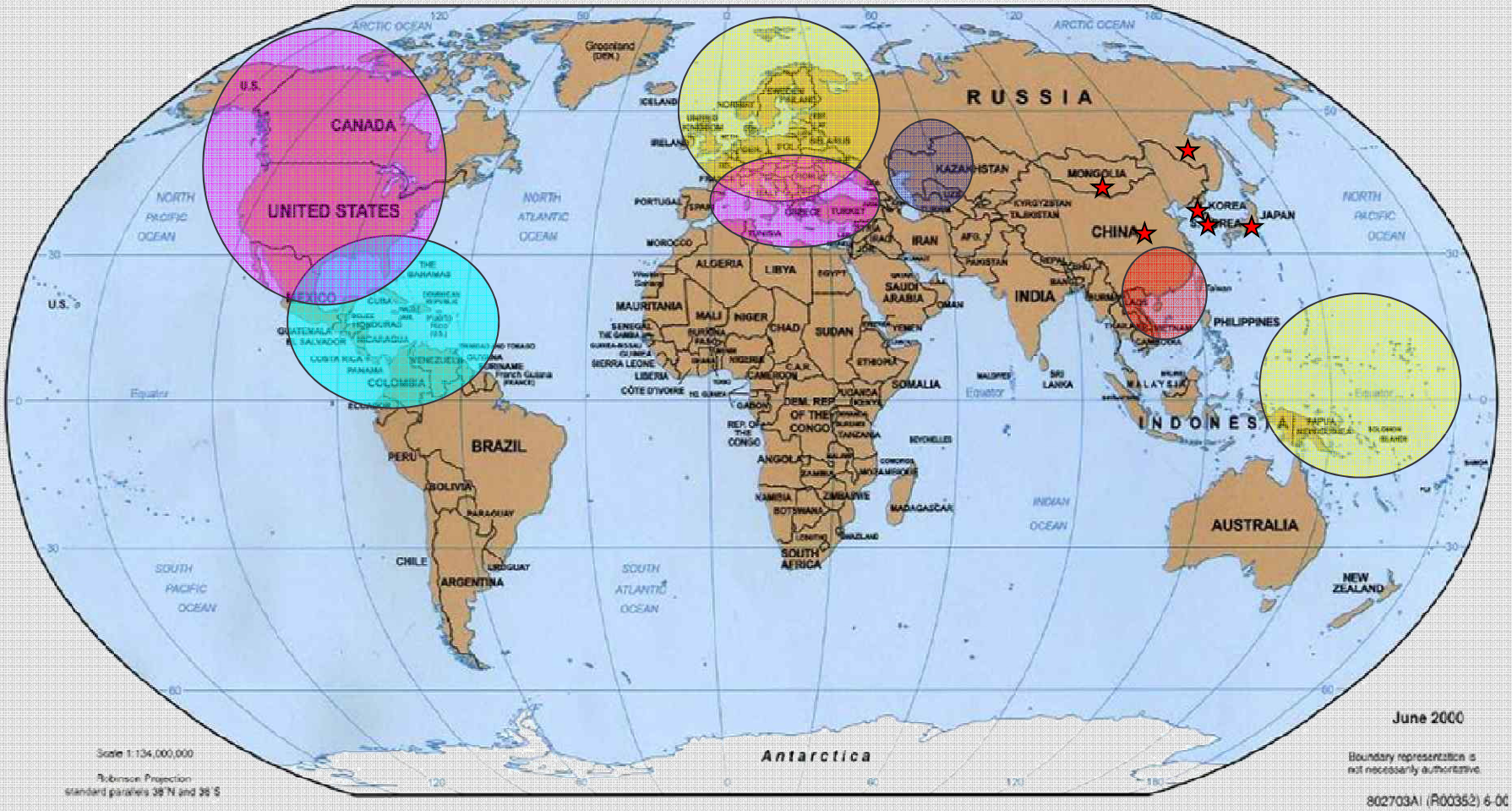
Regional Transboundary EIA System



To date, no such mechanism or other coordination framework exists for TEIA in NE Asia

Transboundary EIA Workshop in NE Asia

(since 2004)

Initially launched as a follow-up activity to the TumenNET

- TumenNET: a regional cooperation mechanism in NE Asia
- changed to Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) in 2008

Objectives

- to promote participants' understanding of EIA system and on-going developments in participating countries
- to exchange information and knowledge concerning EIA in a transboundary context
- ultimately **to develop a regional Transboundary EIA mechanism** with guidelines and regulations of TEIA procedure as well as assessment method for development projects in the region

Organizers

- Ministry of Environment, ROK
- Korea Environment Institute (KEI), ROK

Transboundary EIA Workshop

Year	Place	Participants	Co-organizer & invited speakers
2004	Seoul Korea	Russia(6), China(6), Mongolia(6)	UNEP (invited)
2005	Beijing China	Russia(4), China(9), Mongolia(6), DPRK(6)	SEPA, ACEE
2006	Vladivostok Russia	Russia(15), China(5), Mongolia(6), ROK(5)	MNR RF FELD FSS
2007	Ulaanbaatar Mongolia	Russia(3), China(4), Mongolia(27)	MNE, MAIA
2008	Gwacheon Korea	China(5), Mongolia(5), Korea(40)	Espoo, GTI, UNESCAP (invited)
2009	Jeju Korea	Russia(6), China(4), Mongolia(3)	Espoo, GTI (Invited)
2010	**Incheon Korea**	**Russia(3), Mongolia(6), Japan(2), Korea(10)**	**Espoo, GTI, Tokyo U., Hokkaido U. (Invited)**
2011	**Vladivostok Russia**	**Russia(20), Mongolia(3), ROK(5)**	**FEFU**
2012	**Seoul Korea**	**Poland(1), Czech(1), Croatia(1), Hungary(1), Kazakhstan(1), Japan(1), Laos(1), Vietnam(1), Mongolia(1), Indonesia(1), ROK(5)**	**Espoo**

Transboundary EIA Workshop

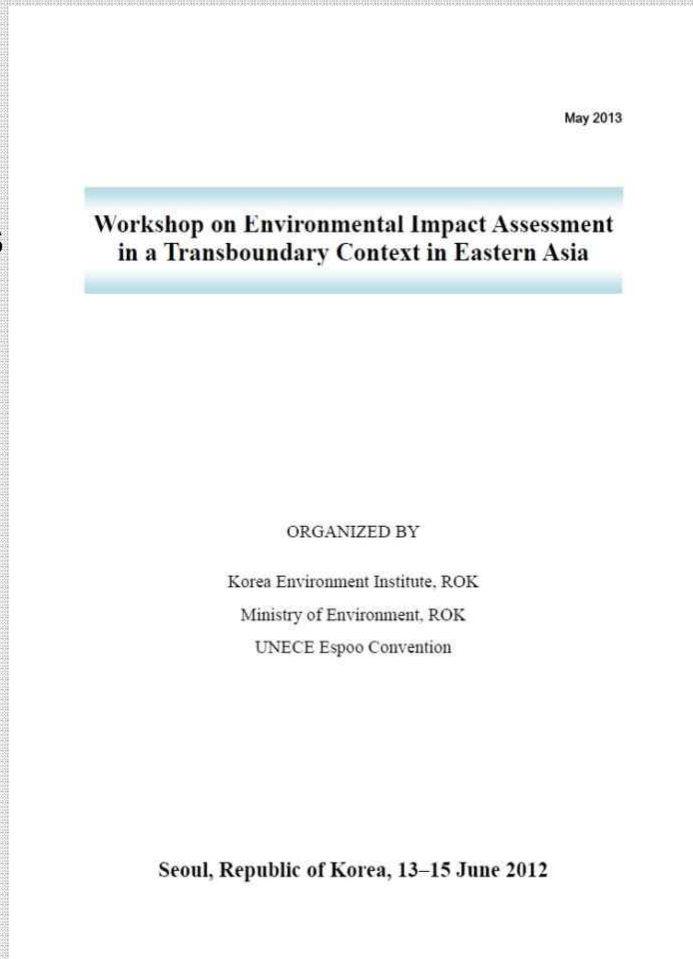
2012 workshop by KEI, MoE and Espoo

- 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 recommended by the Espoo Convention.

Transboundary EIA Workshop

Executive Summary of 2012 workshop

- **Key suggestions to introduce TEIA into NE Asia region**
  - developing regulations which suit NE Asia's reality
  - establishing secretariat that can push forward TEIA
  - expanding the bilateral and multilateral agreement
  - enhancing the interest of governments through Pilot Projects


May 2013

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

ORGANIZED BY

Korea Environment Institute, ROK
Ministry of Environment, ROK
UNECE Espoo Convention

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13–15 June 2012

Transboundary EIA Workshop

Executive Summary of 2012 workshop

- encouraging NE Asian countries to accede to the Protocol on SEA and later to the Espoo Convention

  - The Espoo Convention can play an important role in the sub-region, especially to address specific and practical methods for introducing legally binding TEIA system in Northeast Asia.

- encouraging international organizations (e.g., ADB and WB) to participate in introducing TEIA in NE Asia

  - The NE countries can promote cooperation by proposing collaboration with international organizations and announce their effort and achievement.

How to introduce TEIA in NE Asia?

Current situation

- Different political, economic and cultural backgrounds
- Need a considerable amount of time for actual implementation of TEIA
- But implementing TEIA in the region is still urgently needed because of increased attention related to governmental policies and plans

Double-track approaches

A1 **Establish a regional TEIA mechanism that all countries legally join**

A2 **Prepare a process to carry out TEIA for upcoming projects based on bi- or multi-lateral agreements**

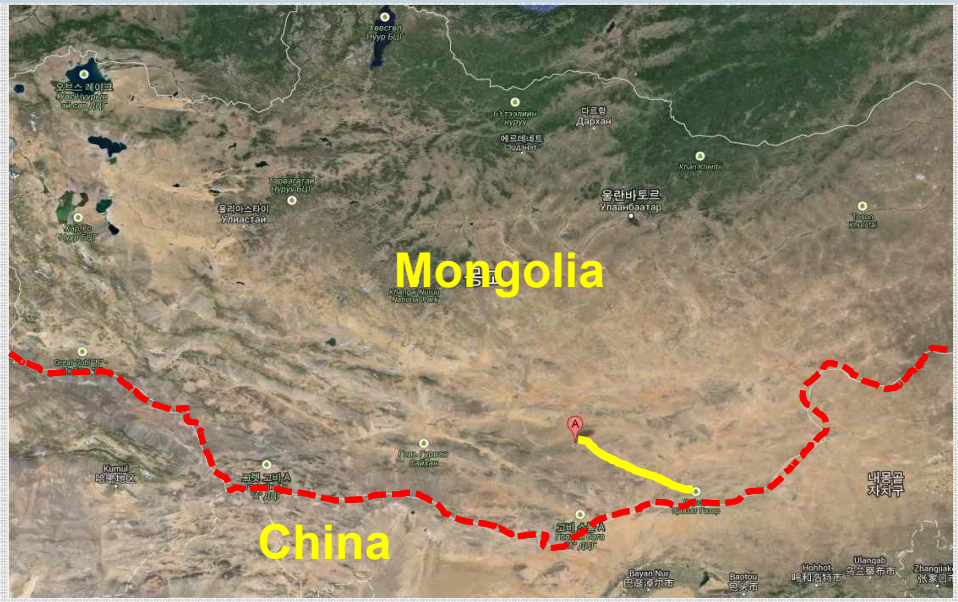
- As the first step, we plan to conduct Pilot TEIAs with relevant countries.

Pilot TEIA

Pilot transboundary EIA b/w Mongolia and ROK

- co-implemented by National University of Mongolia (NUM) and Fresh water and ecosystem research institute (FWERI) with cooperation of Korea Environment Institute (KEI)
- with strong supports from both MoE, ROK and MoEGD, Mongolia

Railway construction from TavanTolgoi to Gashuun Sukhait , South Gobi region



Pilot TEIA

Implication of pilot TEIA

By conducting the practical application of TEIA procedures,

- Transboundary issues in the Gobi area related to the target project
- Assessing the impacts of the target project in a transboundary context
- Defining the factors which could be affected by transboundary impacts
- Checking out what kinds of additional process, prediction analysis, mitigation measures are necessary in a transboundary context

Pilot projects can enhance governments' awareness of the positive effects of introducing TEIA in the region.

Think about Life and the Environment