

(6) Korea: Comparison with International EIA Procedures

In Korea, useful international standards have been adopted by the amendments of environment-related acts based on the investigations by KEI, etc. For example, OECD investigates the status of environmental agenda achievements in member states including Korea, and the results are considered in the decision-making of environmental policies including the EIA regulations in Korea. Reviews of the Korean EIA system in 2009 and 2012 reflect the international environmental impact assessment guidelines and included the adoption of various ways of public disclosure such as the public consultation, expansion of the involvement of stake holders and adoption of preventive policies.

While efforts described above have been made, the environmental impact assessment in Korea, as in Japan, does not list items related to social environment such as citizen relocation as main items as international organizations show. Sufficient measures for social items specified in other acts (Act on the Acquisition and Compensation of Lands, etc., Environmental Health Act, Employment and Labor Act, Labor Standards Act, Child Welfare Act, etc.) are required in parallel to the environmental impact assessment procedures in promoting the project because many opinions of citizens about environmental impact assessment include items related to social aspects.

Cumulative impacts should be added to the assessment when a consideration is needed, but no clear provision exists for the assessments of cross-border impacts and impacts of attendant facilities. However, paying attention to these as specified by international organizations is sensible in terms of avoiding postvention that requires time and labor.

In addition, discussing with scientists and NGOs familiar with the field of natural environment and establishing measures and management plans that convince experts are important because no specific quantitative standards exist in the field of natural environment such as the ecosystem and conservation of biodiversity.