

2. The Environmental Impact Assessment Act

(1) Objective

The Environmental Impact Assessment Act was formulated from the idea that EIA is essential for preventing serious environmental impacts and promoting a sustainable society.

Its objective is to ensure that projects give adequate consideration to environmental conservation by establishing a procedure for the EIA of large-scale projects that may have significant impact on the environment, and reflecting the assessment results in the contents of the projects.

(2) Revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act

In 2011, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act was revised after it had gone through relevant experts meetings, deliberations in the Central Environment Council, public comments and others. The amendment was to address new issues identified in 10 years experiences during the implementation of the law, such as the need for EIA procedures at an earlier stage, and to address change of EIA roles in diversification and complication of issues and problems on environmental policy, such as conservation of biodiversity.

TOPICS : Issues on amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act

< Main Amendments >

Enforced in April 1st , 2012

- Addition of projects provided with grants to projects subject to EIA
- Obligation to hold a public session at the stage of the assessment method determination
- Obligation for the publication of the documents prepared by the project proponents (environmental impact assessment documents) via internet
- Stipulation of the procedure to have opinions from Minister of the Environment in the selection of evaluation items
- Enabling direct submission of opinion from the designated cities to the project proponent as prescribed by the Enforcement Order of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act
- Stipulation of the procedure to gain advice from the Minister of the Environment when a prefectural governor etc. is the issuer of the license etc.

Enforced in April 1st , 2013

- Establishment of Primary Environmental Impact Consideration
- Establishment of Impact Mitigation Reporting