

## TOPICS : Procedure for Environmental Consideration at earlier stage

Before the amendment of the EIA Act, the framework of the project (location, scale, etc.) was determined prior to the EIA stage thus it was difficult to deal with alternative plans in some cases.

In contrast, Primary Environmental Impact Consideration, introduced by the amendment of the Act, made it more flexible to deal with alternative plans at the planning stage, and is expected to provide more effective way to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.

In the system of some foreign countries, EIAs are carried out at even earlier stage of planning or policy making, to provide even more effective way to consider the environment. In the future, it is necessary for our country to consider these types of EIAs at the earlier stage of the project.

### Stage of Primary Environmental Impact Consideration in Japan

