

(8) Preparing the Procedural Document

With regard to road construction projects, for example, the issues to be dealt with in environmental impact assessment will have differences between road projects proposed in a nature rich mountainous region and other ones proposed in an intensively developed and air-polluted urban region.

With this view, environmental impact assessment shall be implemented in accordance with local circumstances and context. Therefore, opportunities to hear opinions from the citizens and local governments are organized before deciding the assessment method. By collecting the opinions at the earlier stage of the project, those opinions are able to be considered in selecting the evaluation items, and as a result the project can be assessed in a more site-oriented way.

Specifically, each project proponent prepares a Procedural Document that describes the assessment method (survey, forecast and evaluation), sends it to relevant prefectural governor and the municipal mayors, publicly notifies the document (public notification) and allows anyone to see it at local government offices, at the proponent's offices and on websites (public comment) for a period of one month.

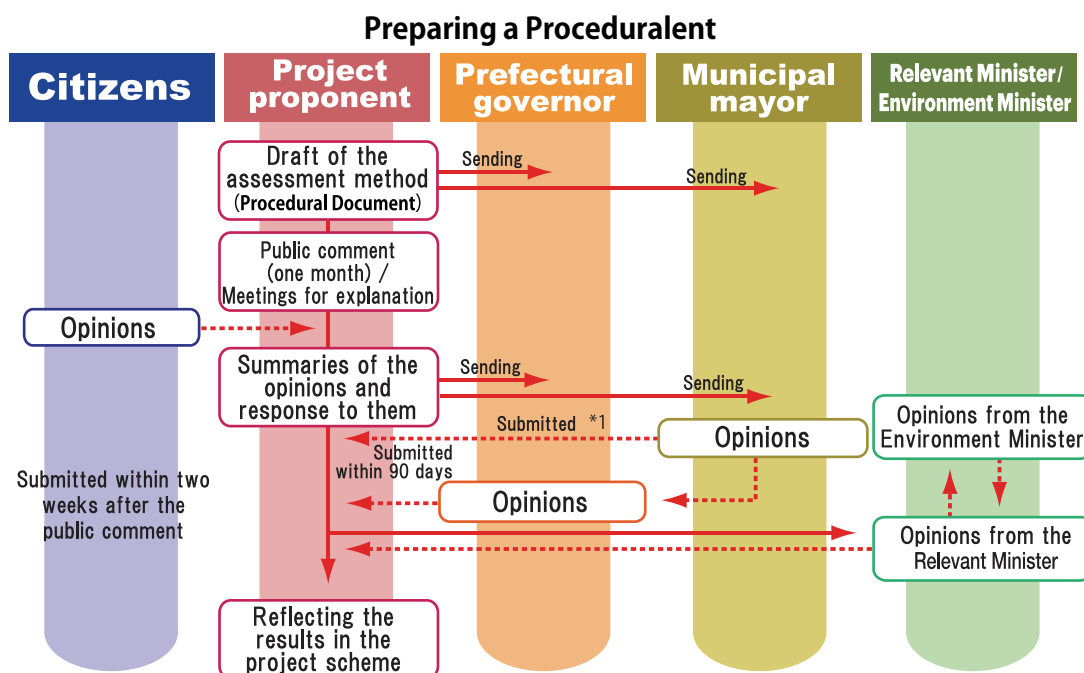
In addition, each project proponent shall organize public meetings to explain the contents written in the Procedural Document. Anyone who has opinions about the Procedural Document from the standpoint of environmental conservation can express his /her opinions. The proponent sends the summaries of those opinions to relevant prefectural governors and municipal mayors. Later, the prefectural governor expresses his/her opinions to the proponent after hearing opinions from the municipal mayors, while also taking into account the opinions from the general public.

The project proponent decides the assessment method giving due consideration to these opinions.

Taking into account the opinions from prefectural governors, the project proponent can, if necessary, seek technical advice on items to be considered and methods to be employed in EIA from a Relevant Minister.

The Relevant Minister has to hear opinions of the Minister of the Environment before giving technical advice to the proponent.

The project proponent decides on the assessment method giving due consideration to these opinions.



*1 : The mayor of each city specified by the Enforcement Order of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act can directly submit his/her opinions if the extent of the environmental impact is restricted within the area of the city.

*1 : Cities specified by the Enforcement Order of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act: Sapporo, Sendai, Saitama, Chiba, Yokohama, Kawasaki, Sagami-hara, Niigata, Shizuoka, Hamamatsu, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Sakai, Suita, Kobe, Amagasaki, Hiroshima, Kitakyusyu and Fukuoka