### Implementation Status of the Legal EIA Procedures in Japan (as of 31st March 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>On-going</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Aborted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste disposal</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railway</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power plant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Opinions of the Minister of the Environment

- **1972 EIA for public works**
- **1981**
- **1984**
- **1993**
- **1997**
- **2011**
- **2013**

**Process of establishing the Environmental Impact Assessment Law**
- Approval of "On the Environmental Conservation Measures Relating to Public Works" by the Cabinet
- Submission of "Environmental Impact Assessment Bill" to the Diet (void in 1983)
- Decision on the "Implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment" by the Cabinet
- Enactment of the "Environmental Impact Assessment Law"
- Enforcement of "Environmental Impact Assessment Law"

**Institutionalization of the system by administrative guidance instead of law**
- **Legal recognition of EIA**
- **Legislation on EIA**
  - Enactment of the "Basic Environment Law"
  - Revision of the "Environmental Impact Assessment Law"
  - Complete enforcement of the Revised "Environmental Impact Assessment Law"

**Primary Environmental Impact Consideration, Impact Mitigation Reporting**

In Japan, a system for EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) was first introduced in 1972 for public works. The systems relating to port and harbor planning, reclamation, power plants and the Shinkansen (super-express train) were established later around 1980. In the course of implementing EIA under these systems, the need for an integrated system/standardized rule was recognized. Therefore the environmental impact assessment bill was proposed to the Diet in 1981 but failed to pass in 1983.

After the bill became void, a standardized rule of "Implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment" was set up through a Cabinet decision in 1984. Furthermore, local governments also promoted the establishment of their own ordinances and guidelines on EIA.

Later, a review of the system began when promotion of EIA was stipulated in the "Basic Environment Law" enacted in 1993. As a result, corresponding to the framework of the new environmental policy as well as referring to EIA systems in other countries, the "Environmental Impact Assessment Law" was enacted in June 1997. Since the enactment, in accordance with the EIA Law, a total of 142 projects in the sectors of road, power plant and others have been completed the EIA procedures so far.

In April 2011, the Revised EIA Law was enacted in which an EIA procedure at the planning stage (Primary Environmental Impact Consideration) and a procedure for reporting and announcing results of the measures for protecting the environment (Impact Mitigation Reporting) were incorporated.

### Project Process and the Environmental Impact Assessment Act

![Diagram: Project scheme]

#### TOPICS: Expanding chances of Information sharing

In order to utilize ubiquitous information on environment, it is important for project proponents to announce project details thoughtfully and collect environmental information from relevant citizens and others, namely “Information sharing”.

Before the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, explanation on the contents of EIA Documents was obligatory only at the stage of the Draft EIS. Taking account of thick volume and specialized contents of the document, however, a brief session (explanatory meeting) at the stage of the Scoping Document has additionally been obligated by the Revised Act. Accordingly, anyone who has opinions from the standpoint of environmental conservation can receive the explanation by the project proponent before they implement survey, forecast and evaluation.

In addition, publication of the documents on EIA via internet has been also obligatory in order to expect opinions from more people.

Adequate information sharing is expected to be an effective way of consensus building for decision making, as well as helpful for collecting environmental information.