

3. EIA System based on the ordinances of local governments

(1) Current state of the system of local governments

All of the prefectures and cities prescribed by the Enforcement Order of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act have established an EIA system by local ordinances.

Compared with the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, the ordinances of local governments are characterized by the following points

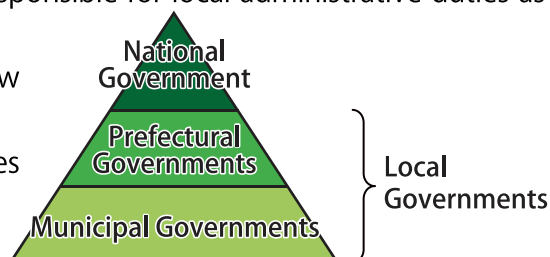
- Adding project types (which is not subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act) subject to the assessment
- Applying the system to small-scale projects
- Holding a public hearing to ask citizens' comments
- Providing procedures regarding third-party organization evaluation

TOPICS : Administrative Structure in Japan

Local governments consist of prefectures and municipalities (cities etc.). Prefectures are responsible for a widespread administrative duties, while municipalities are responsible for local administrative duties as fundamental administrative bodies.

Ordinance-designated cities stipulated in Local Autonomy Law can handle some portion of prefectural administrative duties.

In addition, local governments can issue their own ordinances (local ordinances) within the laws.



(2) Relationship between the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and the local ordinances

Although the EIA systems introduced by local governments have a very important role in protecting the environment, the procedures under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and those under the ordinances of local governments overlap. Requiring both procedures would often be extremely burdensome.

Therefore, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act contains provisions related to the EIA systems of local governments to prevent overlap of procedures based on the Environmental Impact Assessment Act.

Relationship between the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and local ordinances

