

# Asia Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Conference 2016

*“Enhancing EIA as a Sustainable Development  
Planning Tool in Asia”*

## Keynote Speech

Dr. Stephen F. Lintner  
Independent Advisor  
Sustainable Development

Organized by the Ministry of Environment of Japan  
Nagoya, Japan  
May 10, 2016

# Enhancing EIA as a Sustainable Development Planning Tool in Asia

- A rapidly changing development landscape:  
Major development agenda items
- Environmental and social assessment:  
Asian voices
- Enhancing sustainable development:  
Future vision

# **A Rapidly Changing Development Landscape**

# Major Development Agenda Items

- Promoting sustainable development goals
- Implementing Paris Agreement on climate change
- Improving resilience in development
- Expanding support for infrastructure

*Addressing overall impact of economic slow down and decline in energy and commodity prices*

# An East Asian Development Model

## Japan, South Korea, China

- Major role for government in leadership, strategy and resource mobilization
- Infrastructure driven development model – public/private sectors
  - Communications
  - Energy
  - Government buildings, schools and hospitals
  - Irrigation and drainage
  - Rural infrastructure and services
  - Transport systems and services
  - Urban infrastructure and services
  - Water resources
  - Water and wastewater
- Premium given to timely implementation
- Sustained large scale mobilization of human and technical resources
- Increased focus on “interconnectivity”

# 2015 – Two New Development Banks in Asia

- 2015 – Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)  
Based in Beijing – 57 Members
- 2015 – New Development Bank (NDB)  
Based in Shanghai – 5 Members

# **Environmental and Social Assessment: Asian Voices**

# EIA: A Topic of Sustained Interest in Asia

- ❖ *South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference 2013: Raising the Bar on Regional Cooperation* – Islamabad – December 2013
- ❖ *Second Regional Workshop on Strengthening Country Safeguard Systems: Towards Common Approaches for Better Results* – Asian Development Bank – Manila – October 2014
- ❖ *International Workshop for Strengthening EIA System and its Implementation in Asia* – Tokyo – February 2015
- ❖ *Asia Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Conference 2016: Enhancing EIA as a Sustainable Development Planning Tool in Asia* – Nagoya – May 2016
- ❖ *International Association for Impact Assessment Annual Conference (IAIA16): Resilience and Sustainability* – Nagoya – May 2016

*The Japanese hosted G-7 Summit in Ise-Shima during May 2016 will include discussions on Climate Change and Energy*

*The Chinese hosted G-20 Summit in Hangzhou during September 2016 will include discussions on Green Finance and Climate Finance*



# Challenges of EIA Systems in Asia

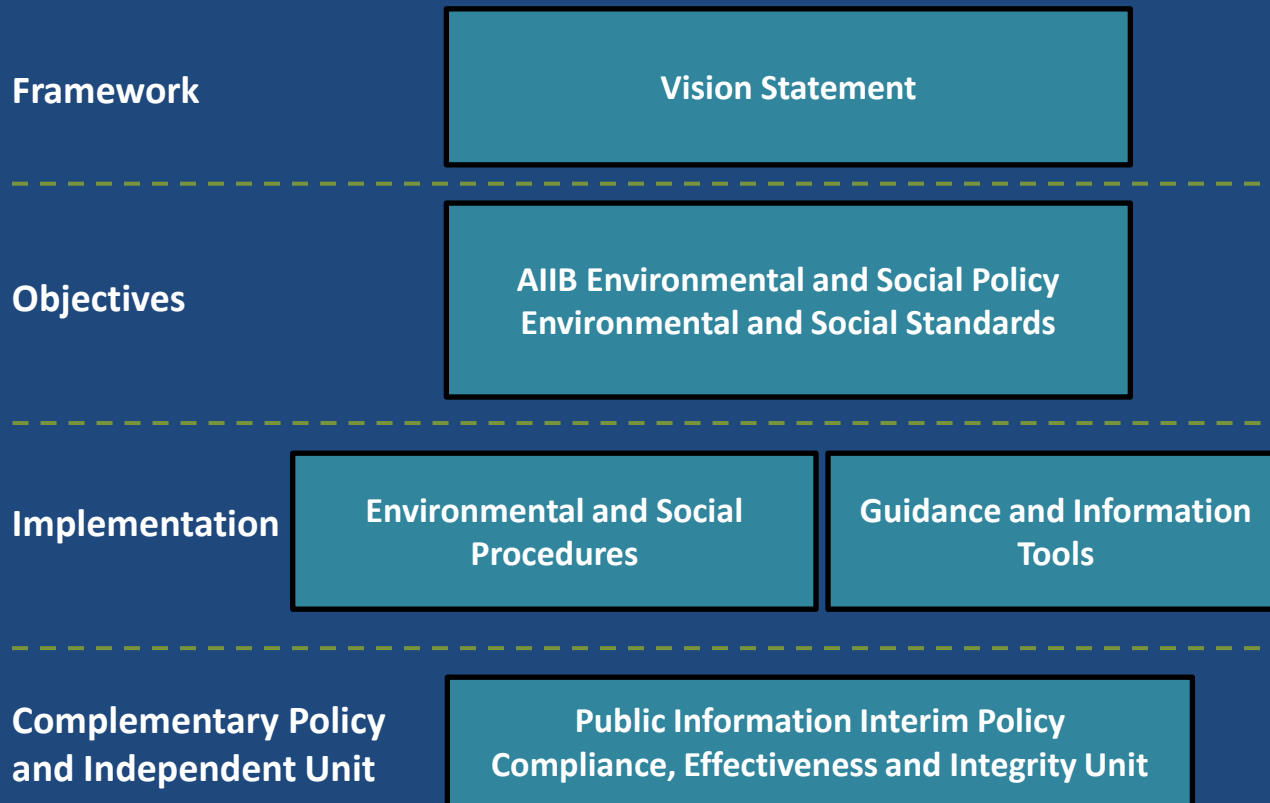
- Implementation of laws, procedures and good practices
- Quality and timeliness of environmental and social assessments
- Information disclosure and public participation
- Implementation of environmental and social management and monitoring plans
- Use of strategic environmental assessment and cumulative impact assessment

*Greater emphasis needed on how these systems enhance sustainable development*

# Environmental and Social Assessment: Views from the Region (2012 – 2016)

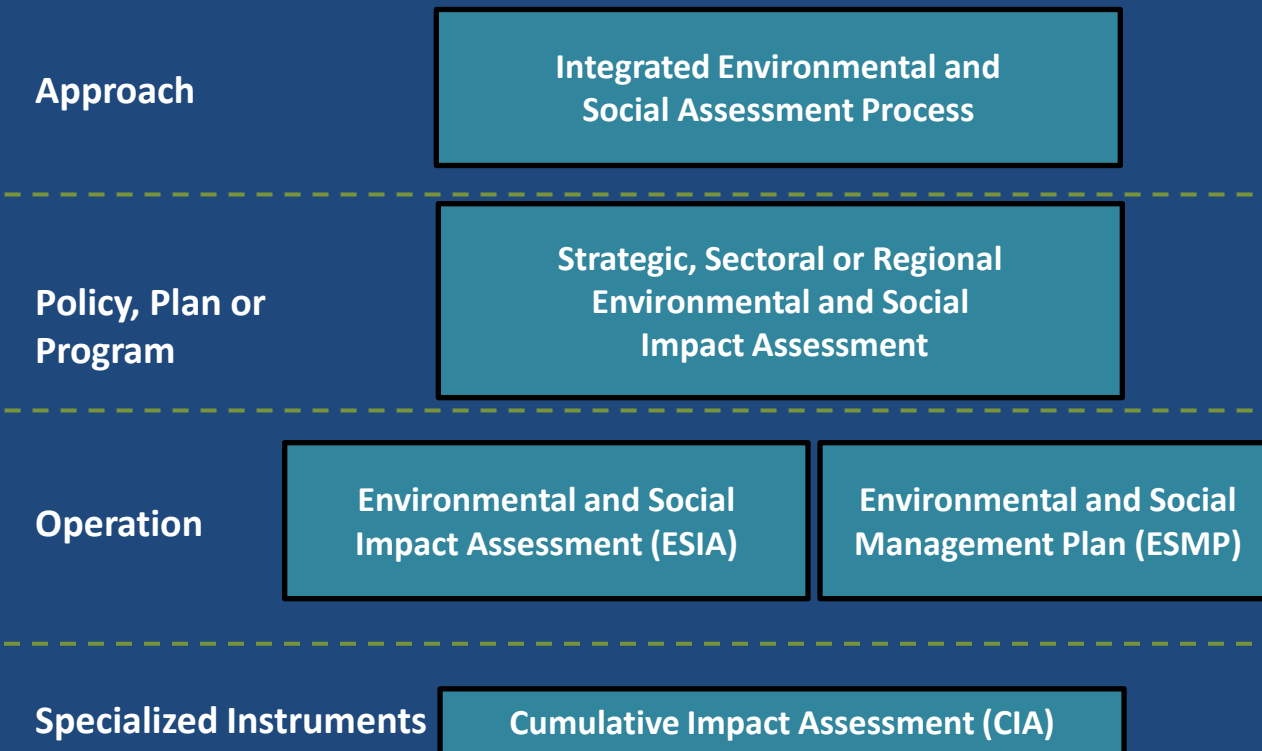
- Environmental and social issues need to be addressed in an integrated manner in development at the plan, program and project levels
- There is a need for clearer laws, policies and procedures that are better harmonized and easier to implement
- Basic “processes” used for environmental and social assessment have been broadly accepted
- Diverse views remain concerning use of SEA and CIA; some parties ask who should be responsible and is it too complex and costly?
- Sustained desire exists for institutional strengthening and capacity building activities in both public and private sector
- There is continued interest in moving toward the expanded use of country and corporate systems by Multilateral Development Banks and Bilateral Development Organizations

# AIIB: Environmental and Social Framework



# AIIB: Risk and Impact Assessment Instruments

---



# Environmental and Social Assessment: Supporting Innovation

Environmental and Social Assessment processes and instruments need to support innovation in approaches and investments:

- China – Use of SEA for mega development programs
- India – Use of CIA at basin level for hydropower development
- Kazakhstan – Infrastructure on Lower Syr Darya River to restore delta and riverine wetland ecosystems in the Northern Aral Sea
- Singapore – Comprehensive water resources mobilization and management

*ESIA needs to be viewed by all parties as  
a tool for supporting sustainable development - Does it provide  
insights and support actions that enhance development or does it  
only fulfill administrative requirements?*

# **Enhancing Sustainable Development: Future Vision**

# **The Challenge in Asia: Moving from Analysis to Effective Action**

Environmental and Social Assessment  
provides a well developed process  
for analysis of risks and impacts

The challenge is to move from  
analysis to effective action  
at the operational level

*Regional knowledge sharing is critical  
to achieve this goal – is it time to establish  
an institutional community of practice?*

# Environmental and Social Assessments and Management Plans

## *Integrated into the Project Life Cycle*

- Inform decision making by all parties concerning environmental and social risks and impacts
- Integrate environmental and social issues into design, construction and operation
- Provide a mechanism for disclosure of information and consultation in all phases
- Allow for structured modification of approaches to reflect changes during construction and operation

*Integration is often the weak point in linking assessment with successful implementation. Plans are only effective if they are implemented – need to be realistic in their scope and included in the project budget and schedule*



# Environmental and Social Management Plans: Need for Interagency Coordination

- Environmental and social policies and management systems of Multilateral Development Banks, Bilateral Donors and Private Sector normally use an “integrated approach”
- In contrast most national and sub-national governments have laws, policies, procedures, budgets and responsibilities divided among specialized bodies resulting in a “segmented approach”

*These important differences in approach and responsibilities need to be recognized in design and implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans*

# Environmental and Social Assessment: Major Shifts in Practice

- From Impact Assessment  
to *Assessment of Risks and Impacts*
- From Environmental Assessment  
to *Environmental and Social Assessment*
- From Project Preparation Focus  
to *Complete Project Cycle Focus*
- From Planning Tool  
to *Planning and Management Tool*

Need to also shift from  
“Adding Costs” to “*Adding Value*”

# Environmental and Social Assessment Systems

## New Scorecard: Ten Point Self Assessment Process

1. Use in decision making
2. Screening, classification and selection of a range of instruments
3. Support for analysis of alternatives as appropriate to the proposal
4. Examination of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts
5. Balance in environmental and social coverage
6. Influence in project design
7. Inclusion of environmental and social management plan
8. Integration into approvals, contracts, budgets and schedules
9. Use of disclosure and consultation
10. Effective implementation and monitoring

*Generation of knowledge and ability to revise approach over time*

(Lintner 2016)

# Coordinates

Dr. Stephen F. Lintner  
Independent Advisor  
Sustainable Development

E-Mail: [sflintner@gmail.com](mailto:sflintner@gmail.com)