

SEA and upstream EIA

Group D

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Overview of the group discussion

- Good practices shared by Korea (landfill site selection) and by Japan (windfarm site selection)
 - Detailed procedures to address various impacts
- Identified challenges revisited
- All participants shared views (representatives from Australia, China, Cambodia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand; international consulting firm)

List of challenges identified to date

- Political willingness to use strategic environmental assessment for policy planning
- Legislation or guidelines for SEA implementation
- Coordination and consultation between departments or nations
 - Consistency with land use plans, zoning and others
 - Intergovernmental coordination and cooperation for transboundary assessment
- Transparency and openness in policy level planning and/or decision making on mega-projects, corruption, NIMBY
- Financial resources, technical/institutional capacity, experience
- Baseline data, disclosure/access, data harmonization
- Evidence that SEA reduces the need for, or improves the quality of, Environmental Impact Assessment

When SEA or upstream measure works

- Make project/planning information public at an early stage (before the site is fixed)
- Generate baseline information and technology assessment which is subsequently used for EIA
 - GIS information and multi-factor data analysis
- SEA document be treated as a living document (feedback from not only from EIA but also monitoring)
- Avoid public conflicts, and potentially improve the design of the project
- Land use planning is essential part of strategic assessment., especially if 'no go' zone is identified.
- Cumulative impact assessment allows the expansion of industry within an industrial estate based on the carrying capacity of the estate, which leads to the introduction of cap and trade scheme

Recommendations, take home messages

- Embed SEA in basic environmental law (for policies, plans, and programs)
- Engagement of all stakeholders
 - Inter-agencies consultation, public consultation
- Need for baseline data collection and experimentation/analysis to feed into EIA
- Start SEA way before the project site is fixed (or irreversible)
- Useful to study the relationship between EIA and SEA in each country's context