

II-170 Comparison of Administrative Procedures of Pre-Environmental Impact Assessment in Development Aid Organizations

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Introduction

Today it is recognized that environmental degradations caused by development projects prevent the growth from being sustainable. The situation is aggravated much more in developing countries, because those countries are heavily dependent on their natural resource base and have relatively high rates of population growth.

In this study we overview the concepts and the implementing systems of environmental impact assessment(EIA) of development aid organizations such as the World Bank(IBRD), the Asian Development Bank(ADB) and the Japan International Corporation Agency(JICA). Such aid organizations have a great important role for developing countries because many developing countries depend on aid donations to finance major projects.

The EIA in environmental considerations

There are some kinds of environmental considerations executed by development aid organizations when they implement some development projects in developing countries. Such considerations generally include:

1. Planning which incorporates environmental considerations;
2. Strengthening the legal and the institutional arrangement;
3. Policy at the microeconomics level (e.g., pricing policy); and

4. Policy at the macroeconomics level (e.g., trade policy).

The EIA is placed at the first item.

The environmental consideration in the project cycle

Environmental considerations are generally incorporated into project cycle as Figure-1 shows.

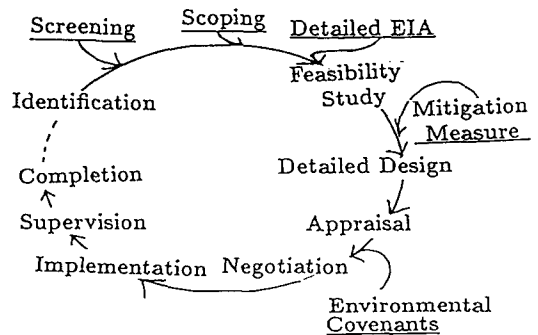


Figure-1 Environmental considerations and the project cycle

Of all these environmental considerations we focused on the actual administrative procedures at the preparation phase, that is, screening and scoping.

Meaning of screening and scoping

In general, screening is a process of judgment on whether a development project requires an environmental impact study or not, and scoping is a process of identification of the critical environmental impacts out of the possible environmental impacts of a development project. These

processes are carried out for more detailed EIA. Practically, most this pre-study is usually done at the screening stage and the role of scoping is to compile the results.

Results of the comparison

The comparison results in finding some differences in these three organizations as follows.

1. Table-1 shows about who carries out and reviews its result.

Table-1 Body responsible for the work

	Screening		Scoping	
	Carry out	Review	Carry out	Review
IBRD	A	A, R	R	A, R
ADB	A	A, R	A	A, R
JICA	A	A, R	A	A, R

Note: A: Aid organization R: Recipient

Here the difference appears in the work of scoping between the IBRD, and the ADB and the JICA.

It was found that the concepts supporting their policies were different. The IBRD has regarded the recipient countries as those which could recognize well the importance of the EIA and were responsible for the decision of whether the project should proceed or not. The ADB and the JICA, on the other hand, have considered the recipient countries as insufficient to execute projects with their own systems of the EIA. So the ADB and the JICA have cooperated with the recipient countries to carry out the EIA.

2. Table-2 shows how they do such works as screening and scoping, that is, the method.

Table-2 Methods applied in aid organizations

	Screening	Scoping
IBRD	T	(Recipient)
ADB	T	M, C
JICA	C	M, C

T: Judge from the project type

note: C: Judge from the checklist

M: Judge from the matrix

Although the methods used in aid organizations are similar, each organization attempts to improve its own methods. But here in this paper, to improve them is not the purpose.

While the IBRD and the ADB have their own quantitative environmental standards for some environmental elements, the JICA does not have them but qualitative ones.

In principle, while those of the recipient countries are used for projects financed by the IBRD, though the IBRD has its own qualitative standards, the standards of the ADB are used for projects financed by the ADB.

Conclusion

We can find that there are two standpoints. One of which is to respect fully the independency of the recipient country and delegate the responsibility of this work to the recipient country, and the other of which is to take the responsibility with the recipient countries for this work.

Although this paper could not reveal the optimal or better system of this work, for that purpose it is necessary to investigate whether some problems occur or not due to the actual projects with these environmental considerations.

References

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