

Workshop for EIA Consultants

EIA Implementation in Myanmar: Lessons Learned & Recommended Practices

**12 August 2016
Yangon, Myanmar**

Background

The 2015 EIA Procedure represents a major step forward in the adoption of environmental and social safeguards in Myanmar. The effective implementation of the Procedure, however, is critical if environmental and social impacts of development projects are to be properly assessed and mitigated before development commences. The EIA industry in Myanmar is in its infancy and needs rapid capacity improvements if it is to support the effective implementation of the Procedure.

Exposure to EIA reports through the EIA Review Clinics run by Vermont Law School (VLS) advisers with the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) has shown that there are certain consistent weaknesses in submitted reports. These are mainly – but not only – seen in EIAs undertaken by Myanmar consultants. They reflect limited experience of conducting EIA to international standards in Myanmar.

Weaknesses include:

- Extent and quality of public participation processes (if undertaken at all). This is partly explicable by a political environment which until recently discouraged such activity.
- Understanding and application of risk assessment methodologies
- Understanding and application of the mitigation hierarchy
- Lack of understanding of the role of EIA consultants, who should act as objective experts, not as facilitators of project approval.

In view of the need to strengthen capacity of local EIA consultants in these areas, two one-day workshops are planned by VLS and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) in association with ECD on implementation of the Myanmar EIA Procedure and EIA best practice, with a focus on public participation.

Each workshop, which will be conducted primarily in Myanmar language, will be a stand-alone event in Yangon for around 40-50 participants. However participants should ideally attend both workshops.

Workshop objectives

- To ensure that Myanmar EIA consultants understand how to implement the EIA Procedures, in particular requirements concerning consultation, participation, disclosure and risk mitigation and management.
- To build greater understanding of the professional role of EIA consultants and discuss how the quality of EIA in Myanmar can be improved.

AGENDA

8:30	Registration	
9:00	Welcome remarks & overview of workshop	U Hla Maung Thein, A/DG ECD Vicky Bowman, MCRB Martin Cosier, VLS
9:15	Overview of Myanmar's EIA Procedure	Martin Cosier, VLS
9:45	Findings from reviewing EIA reports	U Htin Aung Kyaw, ECD
10:30	Tea break	
10:45	Third party registration in Myanmar	Daw Yi Yi Cho, ECD
11:00	Professional role of EIA consultants - International experience	Piers Touzel, ERM
11:45	Risk Assessment in EIA - Before and after mitigation - Application of risk assessment matrix	Matthew Baird, VLS
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Risk assessment (continued) - Comment on methodologies - Risk assessment of social impacts	Matthew Baird, VLS
15:00	Tea break	
15:15	Public Participation in the EIA Procedure - Principles & requirements	Martin Cosier, VLS
	- Field experience	Aung Kyaw Soe, MCRB
	- Public disclosure research findings	Inna Lazareva, MCRB
17:00	Close	