



## **Capacity Development Workshop in Japan Twinning Partnership on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Lao PDR - Japan and Sri Lanka - Japan**

25-27 June 2014, Landmark Tower, Yokohama, Japan  
Organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ);  
Japan Association of Environment Assessment (JEAS); ERM Japan; AECEN Secretariat with  
support from ADB

### **Concept note**

#### **Background**

Minimizing adverse environmental impacts of economic development accompanied by rapid urbanization and industrial growth as well as conserving natural environment remain significant challenges for Asia. While many governments have developed legal and institutional frameworks for environmental safeguards, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations remains weak due in large part to technical, financial, and human capacity limitations.

In the region, application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements has been consistently identified as a priority concern of environmental compliance and enforcement. Yet, effective implementation of the EIA laws in Asia remains patchy, especially in relation to compliance and enforcement of environmental management and monitoring plans (EMMPs) which identify measures to be taken in order to reduce adverse environmental and social impacts to acceptable levels or offset them in appropriate manners. Therefore, EIA implementation needs to be enhanced through further capacity strengthening.

Under Technical Assistance (TA) 7566-REG on environmental safeguard of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Environmental Compliance and Network (AECEN) aims to increase capacity for EIA implementation through its subproject - "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Clearinghouse and Capacity Strengthening through Twinning." The subproject strives to achieve its aims by facilitating knowledge capture and dissemination of information on international best practices in EIA implementation through exchange of knowledge and know-hows as well as mutual learning.

Two EIA twinning projects are launched for Lao PDR - Japan and Sri Lanka - Japan. The Sri Lanka twinning project is implemented with the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and the Lao twinning project with the Department of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (DESIA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental (MoNRE). In both cases, the Japanese Association of Environment Assessment (JEAS) will act as mentoring organization to the project on behalf of the Environmental Impact Assessment Division of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ); and the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Japan Ltd was appointed as an implementing/mentoring organization for these two twinning projects.

Two Consultation Workshops for each of these twinning partnerships on environmental impact assessment (EIA) were held on 10-12 December 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and on 9-10 January 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR for the Sri Lanka - Japan and Lao PDR - Japan twinning projects, respectively. These Workshops brought together partners from both mentor and mentee countries to identify and prioritize assistance needs, discuss and agree on objectives and design of the partnership, and secure commitments from leadership of both countries for its implementation.

### **Objectives and expected outputs of the Capacity Development Workshop**

In following up the above Consultation Workshops where a few priority areas for assistance were identified, JEAS in association with MOEJ and the ERM Japan will organize a Capacity Development Workshop in Yokohama, Japan in collaboration with the AECEN Secretariat and with support from ADB. [Dates – 25-27 June 2014]. This Workshop will invite the government officials in charge of EIA implementation from both CEA and DESIA and bring together partners and experts from Japan to provide participants from the mentee countries with the opportunities to learn good practices and lessons in the priority areas from mentor country as well as all participants with mutual learning from sharing experience. The 3-day Workshop aims to provide an on-site hands-on learning venue that will allow interactive sessions with officials or experts in the field in Japan in addition to in-house lectures.

### **Expected outcome:**

Increased understanding and knowledge of key elements in EIA implementation practiced in the mentor country which can be applicable in mentee countries and raised awareness of available/utilized technologies and methods for implementing EIA.