

Improving Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Perspective, Experience and Strategies (20 mins)

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ERM Japan Ltd.

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Perspective

- What are to be done to integrate environmental considerations into projects?
 - 1. EIA System
 - Is your EIA system effective?
 - What roles do you expect from EIA?
 - 2. Enforcement
 - Does every proponent follow the legal requirements ?
 - 3. Technical Aspects
 - Do you have enough tools to effectively conduct EIA?
 - 4. Information Disclosure & Stakeholder Meeting
 - How do you use information disclosure as a tool for enforcement.
 - Do you listen to public opinions?
 - 6. Organization and Budget
 - Do you have enough staff and budget?



Photo: Bureau of Port and Harbor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

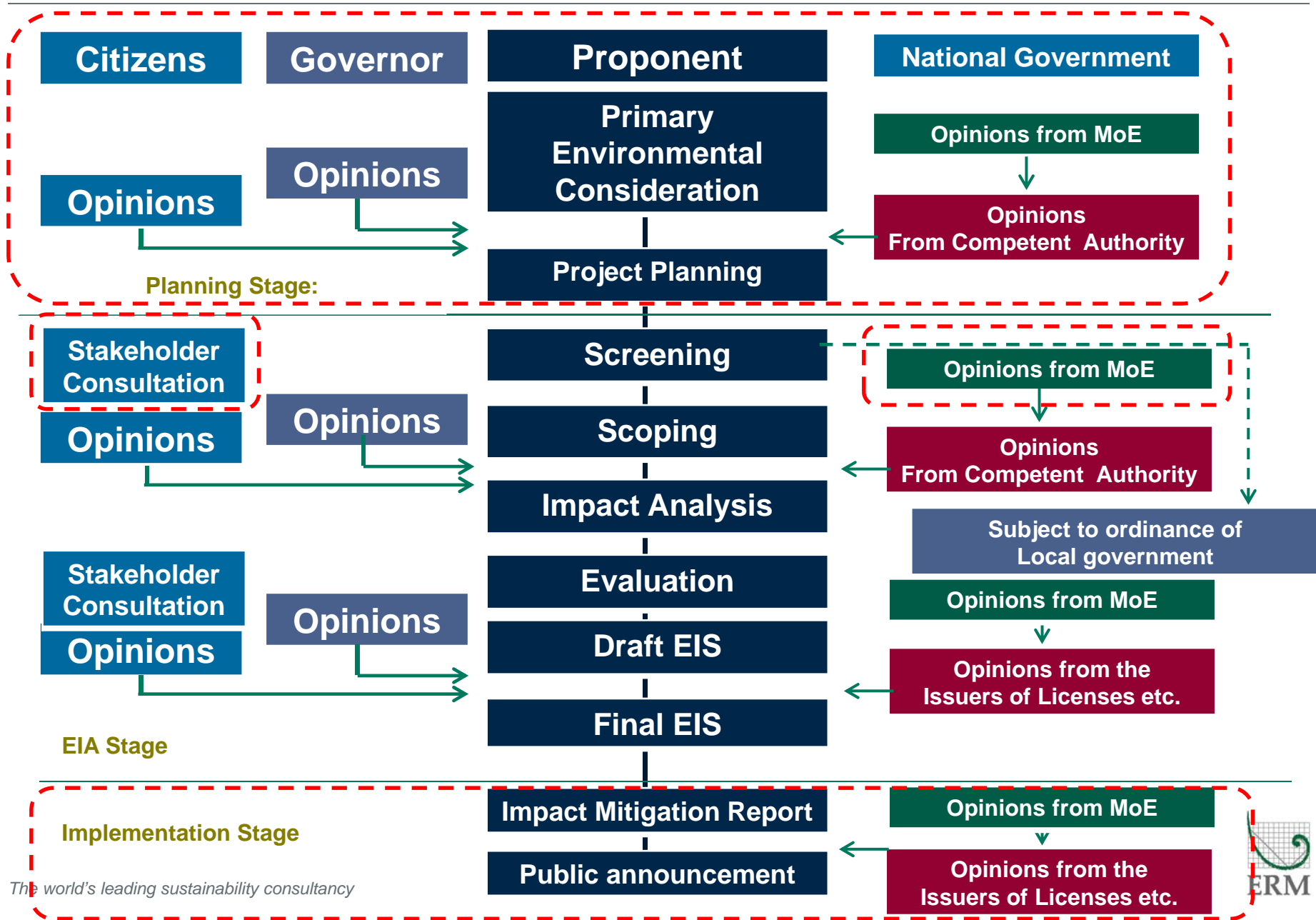
Challenges in EIA system in Sri Lanka

In this morning session, CEA`s presentations discussed

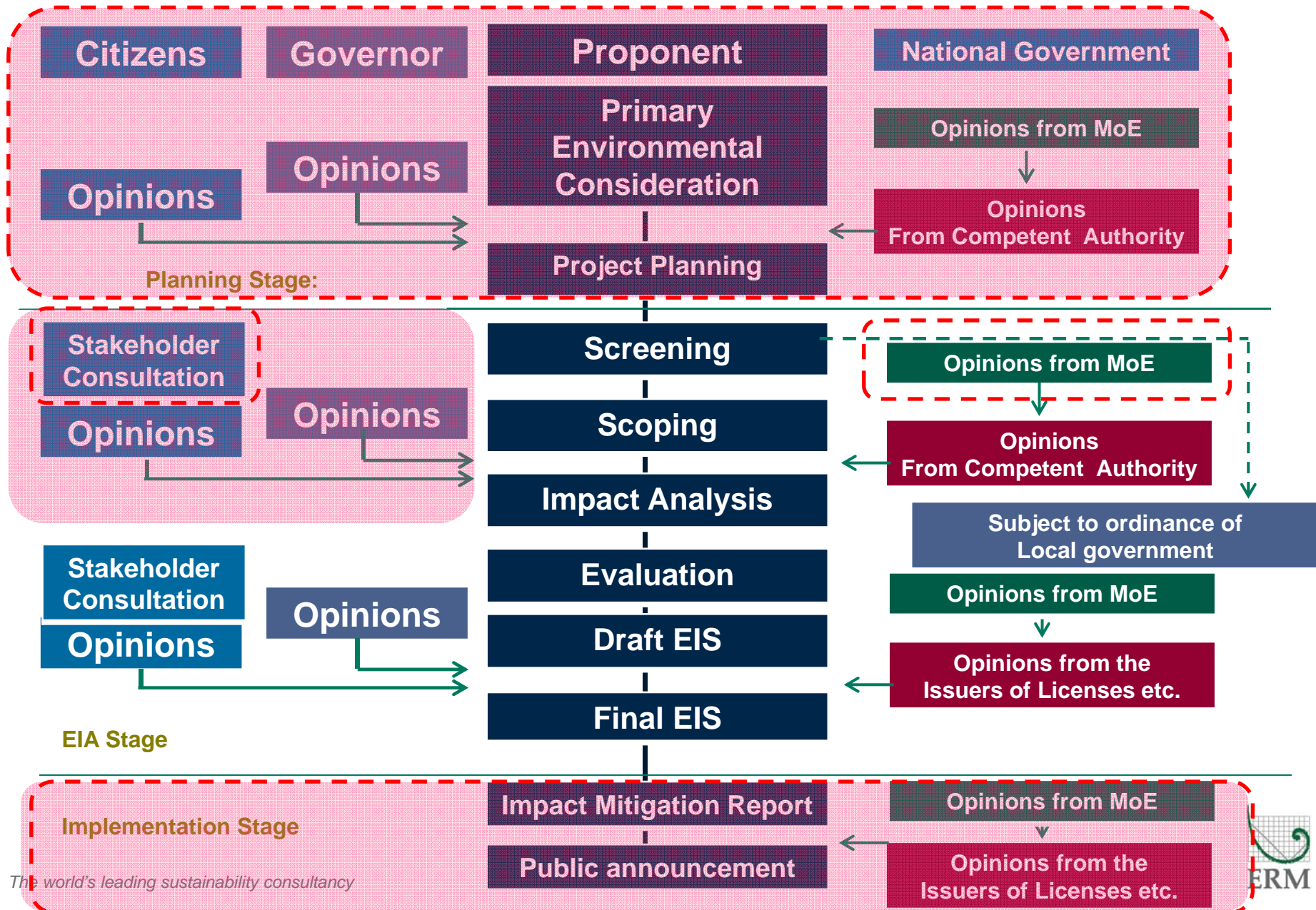
- ◆ Poor scoping process
- ◆ Unavailability of reliable baseline data
- ◆ Weakness in methodology approach
- ◆ Impractical consideration of alternatives
- ◆ Impractical mitigation measure
- ◆ EIA review issue
- ◆ Lack of relevant standards, guideline policies, or good practice
- ◆ Ineffective public consultation
- ◆ Improper Environmental Management Plans
- ◆ Lack of Monitoring
- ◆ Weak enforcement and commitment
- ◆ Lack of reporting and data storage
- ◆ Process issues : amendment to the process
- ◆ Exposure to new technologies

1. EIA system in Japan

Newly introduced



1. EIA system in Japan VS Sri Lanka



2. Enforcement



Photo: Bureau of Port and Harbor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

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- 1. EIA System and Other Environmental Laws and Regulations.
 - The commitment in the EIA can be enforced by relevant laws and regulations.
 - In Japan, legal aspects are checked with other environmental divisions.

- 2. How to ensure and monitor that the proponent takes every mitigation measure proposed in the EIA.
 - EIA monitoring and reporting
 - The monitoring and reporting should be set out in the EIA law and regulations
 - Information Disclosure
 - EIA reports and Monitoring reports should be open to the public.

3. Technical Aspects 1 Technical Guidelines

- Technical Guidelines are prepared by MoE, prefectures, competent agencies, Prefectures and Cities to implement the laws and regulations.

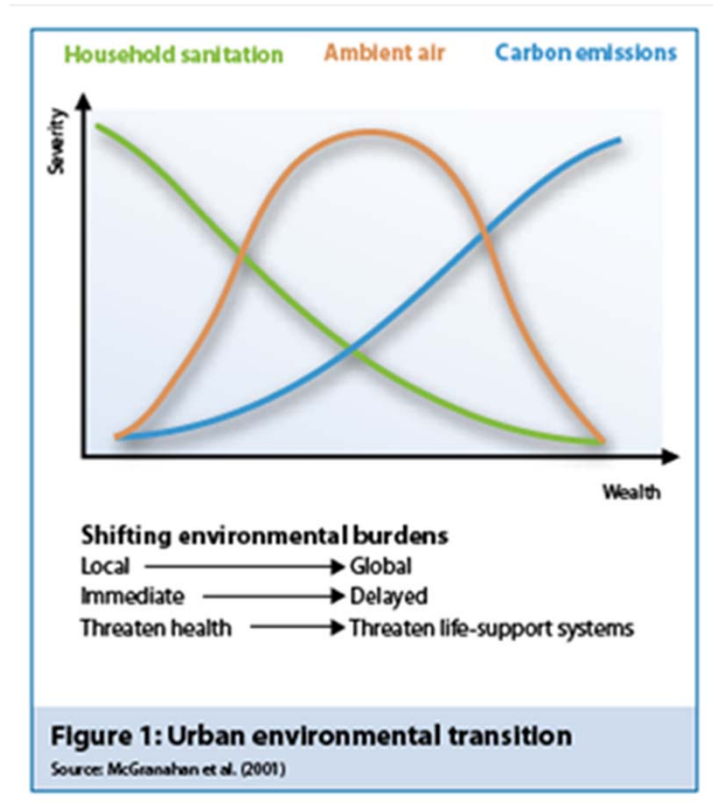
Item	Tool
Alternative Analysis	-GIS system
Baseline Survey	Methodology of Baseline Survey.
Air Quality, Odor	-Air Quality and Odor Modeling and Simulation
Water Quality	-Water Quality Modeling and Simulation (River, Port and harbor, and other)
Noise & Vibration	-Noise & Vibration Simulation (Construction, Road, Railway,)
Underground water	- Numerical Analysis of Groundwater Flow
Landscape	- Visual Impact Analysis/Photo Montague
Natural Environment	- GIS system
Climate Change	- Calculation of CO2e emission

3. Technical Aspects 2 Baseline Survey

- Equipment designated by laws and regulations are usually used in the EIA Baseline Surveys, but some simplified methodologies are also accepted.
- Guidelines stipulates the how to select monitoring locations/range that are checked in the scoping process.
- Secondary data Collection(example)
 - Air quality: more than 1,900 fixed stations
 - Water quality :more than 7,000 points.
 - Noise: Along major roads.
 - Data on other items such as Natural environment, cultural heritage are also accessible.
- We check the secondary data first and complement it with primary data collection, though we are often required to conduct baseline survey on site to predict the immediate impacts.



Topic: Urban Environmental Transition



- In 2007, for the first time in human history, 50 per cent of the global population lived in urban areas. Cities of different wealth levels impact the environment differently.
- Local environmental threats are most severe in poorer cities and relate to issues such as fresh water, sewage, health and the degradation of the living environment. As cities become prosperous, the more global issues come out.
- EIA system is a tool to integrate environmental considerations into a project and will not be a holistic approach. To improve the environment in the area as a whole, EIA should be used as a tool with other approaches.

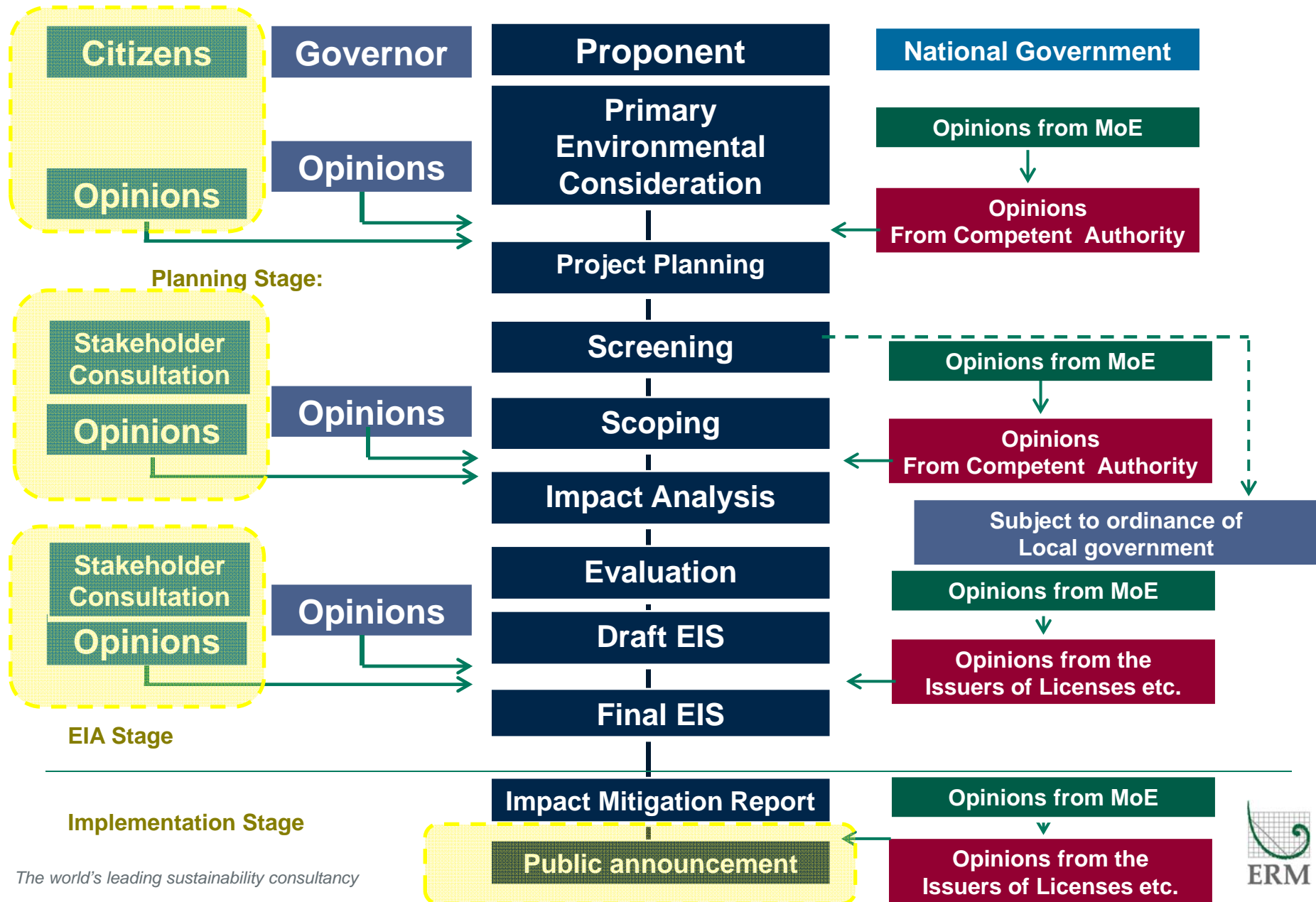
4. Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Meeting

- Adequate information sharing is expected to be an effective way of consensus building for decision making, as well as helpful for collecting environmental information.
- Primary Environmental Consideration Report, Scoping report and EIA report are to be open to the public to ask for opinions.
- Publication of the documents on EIA via internet has been obligated in order to expect opinions from more people.
- Impact Mitigation Report is also open to the public.



1. EIA system in Japan

Public involvement



International Standards

- World Bank Safeguard Policy
- IFC Performance Standards and EHS Guidelines
- JICA/JBIC Guidelines for environmental and social considerations
- ADB Safeguard Policy
- Other international standards



What Japan can offer based on experience in Japan

- Organizational arrangement for EIA
- Regulatory framework, including relationships between those by national and regional governments
- Methodologies/procedures for investigation, forecasting, and assessment (quantitative assessment)
- Use of guidelines
- Equipment tools for assessment
- EIA manual for specific sector such as road
- Assessment methods by environmental factor (JEAS's textbook)
- Public's and community's participation
- Introduction of SEA
- Examples of application of safeguard policies by JICA, ADB, WB, and IFC