

Training Workshop: Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Infrastructure Development Planning and Management

Introduction of the Regional Guideline on Public Participation in EIA in the Mekong Region

Hanoi, May 24-25, 2018

Background

For the developing countries, investments in infrastructure projects are critical to meet the needs of their growing populations and to stimulate economic growth. In particular, transportation, water and energy infrastructure development are regarded as essential investments to securing basic needs, such as people and goods transporting, storing water for urban use and irrigation, for food and energy production, and for managing flood risks. These types of infrastructure development - when built on a large-scale without sufficient planning or adherence to social and environmental safeguards - may result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. Engaging effectively with relevant stakeholders throughout the project cycle - from planning through construction and operation – can contribute to reducing potential impacts, avoiding social conflicts, and resulting in more efficient projects with better development outcomes. Therefore, public participation is being considered as an integral part of the environmental and social impact assessment procedure.

Public participation in EIA is commonly deemed to foster democratic policy-making and to render EIA more effective. Beyond this general assertion, opinions of the precise meaning, objectives and adequate representation of public consultation and participation in EIA considerably diverge, especially in a giant or trans-boundary infrastructure development projects. Against this background, the training workshop on **Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Infrastructure Development Planning and Management** aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the public participation in EIA concerning its meaning, objectives and adequate level of inclusiveness. It enables participants to share their experience and concerns about the current policies and practices in regard to public participation in EIA process in their countries. The workshop also introduces the Regional Guidelines on Public Participation in EIA in the Mekong Region which is considered as a unique product of the intensive collaboration and coordination among five Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries to address a common challenge of achieving more meaningful and effective public participation in the EIA process.

Training Objectives

The training workshop aims to:

1. share knowledge and discuss the policy and practice of stakeholder engagement in large-scale infrastructure development and planning;
2. increase knowledge and understanding of benefits and risks for effective stakeholder engagement;
3. gain experience in utilizing tools and best practices for stakeholder engagement, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and gender equity; and
4. develop competencies in conducting effective public consultation meetings and engaging stakeholders in EIA process.

Participants

The training workshop will target governmental agencies responsible for infrastructure planning, implementation and investment, impact assessment and related policy development, and international corporations and enterprises, NGOs and other groups of interested people. The workshop will be conducted in English and workshop documents will be in English.

Training Methodology

The training involves participatory learning approaches (PLA), application-oriented and interactive, emphasizing on group discussions and analysis of cases/case studies. The course instructors provide basic knowledge and their role is essentially that of facilitators. Participants are encouraged to raise their ideas and issues related to the course topics, then brain-storm or discuss with other participants and facilitators to find out solutions as well as draw lessons learned.

TRAINING CONTENT

The 2-day training workshop will cover the following topics:

- Introduction and overview of community consultation and participation
- Principles of community consultation and participation, comparing international/WB/ADB best practices with reality in Vietnam
- Community consultation:
 - definition, government's requirements, format and aspects of consultation
 - consultation as an important part of the process of participation and civil engagement/empowerment
- Skills and techniques for consultation
- Community participation
 - principles of community participation
 - participation as a process, and levels of participation
 - participation planning and implementation
 - linkage between participation and capacity building, institutional structures, policy framework
- Techniques for participation

Key Program Features

Times & dates : 2 days; Morning: 8:30 - 12:00 am; Afternoon: 1:30 - 17:00 pm.

Training venue : AITVN, Hanoi office, B3 Building, University of Transport and Communication, Lang Thuong Ward, Dong Da District, Hanoi, Vietnam

Registration : Before April 15, 2018

Course fee : Scholarships offered. Participants have to be charged 50% tuition fee with the amount of US\$150 (~ 3.400.000 VNĐ) to cover logistic costs including training materials, refreshments, lunches and related stationaries. In addition, the participants are required to pay their travel (airfare, local transport, visa fee), accommodation, dinner and other associated costs.

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