

A2 Legal and Policy Frameworks for SEA in Asia	
Session Leaders	<p>Kii Hayash, Mitsubishi Research Institute, <a href="mailto:maruhaya@mri.co.jp">maruhaya@mri.co.jp</a>;</p> <p>Young-il Song, Korea Environment Institute, <a href="mailto:yisong@kei.re.kr">yisong@kei.re.kr</a>;</p> <p>Elvis Au, Environmental Protection Department, Hong Kong SAR Government, <a href="mailto:elvis_au@hk.super.net">elvis_au@hk.super.net</a></p>
Focus and approach	<p>The following papers were presented and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ “Environmental Assessment Storm” in China, Kaiyi Zhou;</li> <li>■ “Promoting Good Strategic Environmental Assessment Practices through Hong Kong’s SEA Manual”, HM Wong and Elvis Au;</li> <li>■ “SEA Movement in Japan”, Sachihiko Harashina, and Katsuyuki Mochiki; (read by Takashi Shimizutani)</li> <li>■ “Perspectives on the Implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Korea”, Young-il Song, Seong-cheol Seo, Hyun-woo Lee, Young-joon Lee, Sang Wook Han;</li> <li>■ “Cross-country Comparison of EIA legislation, SEA Requirement and Practice in East and Southeast Asian Countries”, Jian Xie;</li> <li>■ “Sustainability Appraisal of the Yunnan Sustainable Development Action Plan”, Steven Smith</li> </ul> <p>The session was organized to promote the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in Asia and to discuss the cooperation opportunities. Apart from the presentation sessions, there was a dedicated session for open and free discussion on the cooperation opportunities on SEA in Asia and the way forward.</p>
Main trends and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There is a trend of increasing formalization of SEA in legislation and regulation. But resistance, reservations and obstacles remain in some parts of Asia to the adoption of SEA at the national level.</li> <li>■ There has been greater attention to public participation;</li> <li>■ There has been increasing attention to the linkage between SEA and sustainable development;</li> <li>■ Building capacity, gaining actual experiences and enforcing the requirements remain to be major issues.</li> </ul>
Profile of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A great diversity in the status, quality and effectiveness of</li> </ul>

status, quality and effectiveness of SEA	<p>SEA in Asia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <u>Strengths</u>: There are the advantages of geographical proximity and some similarities in cultures and ways of thinking. There is also the flexibility and adaptability of SEA processes to suit different circumstances in different socio-economic settings. There has been a variety of SEA approaches and practices emerging.</li> <li>■ <u>Weaknesses</u>: there is a lack of cooperation in Asia on SEA and insufficient information, experience and knowledge sharing across different settings. Except for a few places in Asia, there is a general lack of commitment, capacity and knowledge in actually managing and enforcing SEA of policies, plans and programmes. ;</li> <li>■ <u>Benefits of SEA</u>: there is a gradual recognition of SEA as a tool for sustainable development.</li> </ul>
Key Findings and Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SEA needs to be integrated with and linked to wider government agenda such as sustainable development and poverty reduction;</li> <li>■ Greater attention needs to be given to the actual practices on the ground, rather than just getting legislation or regulation in place;</li> <li>■ Much more efforts need to be given to enable individual institutions and practitioners to learn by doing, and to develop good success stories for capacity building and for gaining wider acceptance of the use of the SEA instrument;</li> <li>■ Public participation and information disclosure are crucial to the success of SEA;</li> <li>■ There is a need for developing a network of SEA professionals in Asia and a multi-nodal network of SEA knowledge centers in Asia to share experiences and knowledge.</li> </ul>
Future Directions	<p>Short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote the development of a network of SEA professionals and international agencies through email connection for sharing information;</li> <li>■ Promote the development of a multi-nodal network of SEA knowledge centers in Asia, initially starting with modest SEA knowledge centers in Hong Kong, Japan, South</li> </ul>

	<p>Korea, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on items of common interest (eg. legislation, guidance, SEA reports, good practices/lessons learned, research) in a bilingual form, with an intention to widen it to as many SEA knowledge centers in Asia as possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote mutual helps and sharing of experiences to assist those who conduct pilot or actual application of SEA;</li> <li>■ Establish 3 focal points of contacts (Elvis Au, Kii Hayashi, Young-il Song), each taking turn to lead and with Elvis Au to the leader in the first year.</li> </ul> <p>Medium term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Review of the experiences of the multi-nodal network of SEA knowledge center and the Asian network of SEA professionals at each IAIA annual conference;</li> <li>■ Dedicated sessions to SEA/EIA in Asia at each IAIA annual conference;</li> <li>■ Build up the connection on other SEA knowledge centers in the world and promote the global multi-nodal network of SEA knowledge centers;</li> <li>■ Promote greater cooperation among international, national and local institutions in synergising and harmonizing efforts in capacity and knowledge building in Asia on SEA;</li> <li>■ Consider a mini-regional conference under IAIA in Asia and establish a network of Asian professionals under IAIA;</li> <li>■ Support an IAIA annual conference to be held in the Asian region</li> </ul>
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