

Abstract Title: Advisory Committees to improve IA Quality

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Abstract

IA should be a way to make a sustainable world through good communication among stakeholders concerning to a project. Every local government in Japan has advisory committee in its EIA system. This is a peer reviewing system for basically checking compliance of the EIA reports on scoping and draft EIA report stages. It also has an important role of advice to make the reports better. The performance of the committee is not bad, but the role had been limited as zero option had not been examined in many cases. In 1998, when the EIA Law was fully put in force, we had a very good practice of advisory committee. A valuable wetland of Fujimae tidal flat in Nagoya was conserved by the EIA process through good advice was given from the advisory committee and the proponent responded to it. It is an epoch making case in Japan and well-known not only in Japan but also in IAIA members as it was discussed at the AGM held at Christchurch in 1998 and the photo of the site was appeared on the cover page of journal "Built Environment" in 2001. Though on the national government level we have no advisory committee system, but we have a system in international cooperation field. This is in JICA's ESC system, which is unique in this field. The author illustrates the Fujimae case and analyze why the committee worked well. And the JICA's advisory committee system will be evaluated based on its experience.

Abstract Summary Statement

Advisory committees could make the quality of IA better. As a good example in Japanese local governments, Fujimae wetland, Nagoya case and JICA's ESC system will be illustrated and examined.

Brief Bio:

He is Professor at Chiba University of Commerce, and Professor emeritus of Tokyo Institute of Technology. His major is environmental planning and policy making focusing on public participation and consensus building. He worked as President of IAIA (2008-2009). He had been Examiner for the Environmental and Social Consideration System of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a decade since 2006.