



**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Department of Environment and Social Impact Assessment
Poverty Environment Initiative (Output – 3)
Minutes of the Annual Project Review Meeting
20th January 2012, Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane Capital**

I. Objective:

The objectives of the annual project review meeting were to assess the performance of the project against its yearly targets and to appraise the project extension work plan from January – June 2012. PEI phase II will start from July 2012.

II. Participants:

The meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Bounkham Vorachit, Director General of ESIA Department, Vice chairman of the PEI-Output 3 project board and Mrs. Kyoko Yokosuka, Deputy Resident Representative (Programme) of the UNDP Lao PDR Country Office. Participants from concerned departments and agencies were invited to the annual review meeting including national project directors and national project managers for PEI-output 1, 2, 5, and NIM project; Cabinet office of MONRE, Environment Department, Water Resources Department, Meteorology Department, Environment and Water Resources Research Institution, World Bank, ADB, EMSP, as well as the DESIA staff. The total participants were 45.

III. Contents of the meeting:

Progress on the project performance has been presented followed by discussion and comments on the project implementation. A draft project extension work plan from January to June 2012 was also presented by Ms. Phakkavanh Phissamay, Head of Finance and Planning Division (ESIA Department of MONRE), National Project Manager for PEI-Output 3. Discussion and comments on the draft project extension workplan from January to June 2012 followed. A small exhibition of achievement of PEI output 3 provided additional background information to the participants during the coffee break.

IV. Result and recommendation:

A. Comments on the project implementation:

- The general technical guidelines (general EIA report writing, EIA review and monitoring procedures guidelines) should be focused on and be completed because the guidelines are important and will be used by relevant agencies for sound environmental and sustainable natural resources management.
- To be addressing specific requirements and issues of local communities the monitoring procedures guideline shall be adapted to focus on local community/district/province level.
- PEI-ESIA project implementation was successful in strengthening capacity of DESIA under MONRE and the provincial DONRE, as well as in the development of the general technical guidelines. In addition the PEI-ESIA had also increased collaboration with others donor's project support such as EMSP (Finland), LAF 007 (WB) and TA ADB to DESIA.

- The PEI project implementation has generated internal and external coordination and networking with other departments/Ministries through consultation workshops as well as trainings on the technical guidelines. The project has also increased coordination with IPD through regular roundtable meetings as well as with donors.
- The PEI-ESIA project implementation is on track. The draft guidelines have been completed. Gender balance and good leadership has been identified in the project.

B. Comments on the draft project extension work plan:

- During the project extension period, it is important to look at opportunities for data exchange and on possible linkages of databases such as investment data, and environment data. Furthermore, the data shall link with National Statistic Center and they shall be combined as one package.
- Information sharing between DESIA, Investment Promotion Department, General Investment Promotion Department of Ministry of Industrial and Commerce, and Economic Special Zone shall be focused on in PEI Phase II.
- Trainings on environmental protection and management are good. Furthermore, the project shall also focus on environmental management regulation/law dissemination at community/local level.
- When organizing training and study exchange we shall consider how to disseminate information after the training and study exchange have been completed. Therefore, the Q2/Q3/Q4 – 2012 work plan should include activities on how to disseminate information to district and provincial levels after the training/study exchange.
- Organize more training at district and provincial levels where development projects are located.
- It will be good if regulation of resettlement and compensation of affected people will be included in the EIA report writing guideline to ensure affected people/community gained benefit.
- Environmental science basic knowledge is very broad. Therefore, TOR for short course training on environmental science basic knowledge shall be specific and focused on investigative issues as well as emphasize on monitoring.
- Short training course on “Environmental Science Basic Knowledge” for DESIA staff is a good start. However, DNRE at district and provincial level should be involved in the training or TOT on environmental science basic knowledge must be organized at district and provincial levels by assigning DESIA staff who had attended the course to disseminate that knowledge at district and provincial levels.
- Public consultation shall be broader. It shall not only be open to district, province, and affected people but also to international organization, general public, and interested people to provide comments through consultation workshops as well as through a publicly accessible website.
- Think about network establishment by involving more line agencies to participate in project’s activities by giving priority to the concerned line agencies. Otherwise, training report should be delivered to concerned line agencies who did not attend the training for their information.


C. Others:

- Consultation workshops on approval of land concession agreements, particularly in the agriculture and forestry sector, should be more widely opened to concerned stakeholders to jointly tackle issues with land conflicts.- In order to avoid overlapping task and to obtain support from several donors as much as we can, overlapping of project/activities between donors shall be avoided.


V. Conclusion:

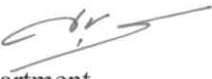
In general the implementation of PEI-Output 3 for 2011 was completed as planned and the project extension work plan from January to June 2012 was prepared and agreed on by the project board. The general technical guidelines (EIA report writing, EIA review, and monitoring procedures guidelines) shall be completed. Q1 and Q2 – 2012 work plan should be reviewed from time to time to increase assurance of quality implementation. Public participation in reviewing IEE/EIA report and monitoring development project should be widened. Joint inspection is a good method to exchange knowledge and experience as well as to apply this knowledge for monitoring. Training on the technical guidelines must be organized continuously with the focus on district and provincial levels and also include the participation of concerned line agencies. Finally the meeting recommended overlapping tasks between several donors shall be avoided.

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