

2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Regional Forum  
On Environment and Health  
In Southeast and East Asian Countries

## Work Plan – Thematic Working Group on Health Impact Assessment

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## 1. Background

Many development policies, plans, programs, or projects at private or public sectors in the member countries in the region can affect environment and health of people in the region in both positive and negative ways. Although the environment effects of development have been systematically considered in several countries in the region through Environment Impact Assessment, health effects have not been fully addressed.

Health Impact Assessment can be a useful tool to protect health by predicting the positive and negative health effects of a policy, a plan, a program, or a project and by recommending proper measures to enhance the positive health effects and to minimize the negative health effect. HIA also addresses unequal distributions of health effects on people with different socioeconomic backgrounds so that the health of vulnerable populations will not be disproportionately affected by development.

While many member countries have exerted efforts to implement HIA, we need more concerted efforts in the region to develop the methodology of HIA in each country. In order to develop HIA, standardized methodology and tools for HIA need to be development. We also need to strengthen the development of HIA of policies. This can be only achieved in a multidisciplinary approach. A regional effort is necessary to organize and facilitate these activities.

Although some countries in the region have successfully institutionalized HIA in the government process, many countries implement HIA as an ad hoc project. Without incorporating HIA in the government process, HIA will not be able to be effective as it should be in protecting people from adverse health impacts of development projects, plans, and polices. We need therefore the knowledge on how to institutionalize HIA and how to expand HIA if it has already been institutionalized.

The increased awareness of HIA in various sectors as well as the health sector is a basis of development and promotion of HIA. Capacity is also required by both consultants and government to set the scope and conduct HIA and to review completed HIA reports. Capacity for HIA will not be developed without some prior planning. Current regional activities for capacity building need to be reviewed and strengthened in terms of communication and exchange of information within the region.

## 2. Objectives

The Regional Work Plan aids the development and promotion of Health Impact Assessment in the member countries through the following objectives.

- 2.1 To share information and knowledge on HIA practices, guidelines and tools, evidence on health effects of various projects, programs, and policies
- 2.2 To develop and promote HIA as an integral part of the decision making process in countries in the region.
- 2.3 To enhance the skills and knowledge of professional staff and others involved in HIA and related areas by building capacity, promoting the dissemination of information and ideas and developing cooperative projects across countries in the region.

## 3. Activities

To achieve the overall objectives, the following set of activities and timelines of three-years are proposed based on the major issues and the necessity of the region.

3.1 To share information and knowledge on HIA practices, guidelines and tools, evidence on health effects of various projects, programs, plans, and policies

Activities	Timelines			Lead Institutions
	2010	2011	2012	
1. Collect - existing documents on HIA activities/practices - guidelines and tools  - evidence - list of experts on HIA	→	→	→	MOH, Cambodia  MOH, Mongolia/ MOH, the Philippines KIHASA, Korea MOH, Thailand/CHETRE, Australia
2. Share information via regional website and TWG on HIA website		→	→	KIHASA, Korea/KEI, Korea/CHETRE, Australia
3. Collaborate with other TWG's in collecting and sharing their information in HIA's in their environmental concerns or context	→	→	→	KIHASA/UNEP/WHO/KEI, Korea/CDC, CHINA

3.2 To promote the development of HIA as an integral part of the decision making process in countries in the region

Activities	Timelines			Lead Institutions
	2010	2011	2012	
1.Document legislations and organizational arrangements for HIA in the region	→	→		KEI, Korea /MOH, Laos PDR
2. Make recommendations and guidelines on institutionalization		→	→	KEI, Korea/Khon Kaen Univ., Thailand

3.3 To enhance the skills and knowledge of professional staff and others involved in HIA and related areas

Activities	Timelines			Lead Institutions
	2010	2011	2012	
1. Collect recent training programs and materials and develop a training module, if necessary	→	→	→	MOH, Vietnam/MONRE, Vietnam/MOPH, Thailand/CHETRE, Australia/Univ. of Otago, New Zealand
2. Conduct regional technical workshops	→	→	→	KIHASA, Korea/KEI, Korea/Univ. of Otago, New Zealand
3. Collaborate with other TWG's in	→	→	→	KIHASA, Korea/KEI,

planning and conducting joint technical workshops				Korea/UNEP/WHO/Curtin Univ., Australia
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#### 4. Outputs

4.1 To share information and knowledge on HIA practices, guidelines and tools, evidence on health effects of various projects, programs, plans, and policies

- (1) Compilation of information on HIA practices/guidelines/tools/evidence
- (2) Website for HIA

4.2 Promote incorporation of the development of HIA into decision making process of the countries in the region

- (3) Compilation of information on legislations and organizational arrangements for HIA institutionalization
- (4) Recommendations and guidelines on HIA institutionalization

#### 4.3 Capacity building

- (5) Compilation of training programs and materials including training modules for HIA
- (6) Reports of technical workshops

#### 5. Monitoring and reporting on the TWG activities

The regular reports to the High-level meeting and Regional Forum will give an overview of:

- Activities implemented over the last term based on Activities and Outputs listed above
- Activities planned for the coming term

#### 6. Resources

Outputs	Required Resources
1. Compilation of information on HIA practices/guidelines/tools/activities	(1) Existing resources within the member countries and international partners (2) Documents written in English
2. Website for HIA	(1) Technical knowledge on creating and managing a website (2) Documents written in English (3) Budget (\$100,000/year) (4) Personnel
3. Compilation of information on legislations and organizational arrangements for HIA institutionalization	(1) Existing resources within the member countries and international partners (2) Documents written in English
4. Recommendations and guidelines on institutionalization of HIA	(1) Workshops of member countries and international partners

	(2)Budget (\$30,000*2)
5.Compilation of training programs and materials including modules for HIA	(1) Existing resources within the member countries
6.Reports of technical workshops	(1)Budget (\$50,000*2)