United Nations Symposium on Hydropower and Sustainable Development

Enhancing Public Participation for Sustainable Development Projects

Hongpeng Liu
Energy Resources Section
Environment and Sustainable Development Division
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations (ESCAP)
Structure of presentation

- Principles and approaches
- Examples and activities at ESCAP
- Pros and cons of Public Participation
Principles and approaches
Public involvement is a process through which the views of all interested parties (stakeholders) are integrated into project decision-making.

It aims at creating openness and dialogues from the outset of the project.
Benefits of public involvement

- Increased level of **commitment** of all stakeholders to make decisions
- Improved public **understanding** of development projects, their objectives and impacts
- Improved a sense of **social responsibility** among stakeholders towards projects
- Increased **equity** within society
- Increased the **effectiveness** of project design and implementation to meet the needs of the targets
- Improved **sustainability** of the projects
- Increased government **credibility and legitimacy** through transparent decision-making
Levels of public involvement

Level of involvement

- Empowerment
- Consensus
- Participation
- Consultation
- Information
- No action
Public involvement cycle

1. Information Gathering Cycle
   - Pre-test materials
   - Design materials
   - Develop messages
   - Develop specific objectives
   - Analyse and report on results
   - Check for comprehension
   - Carry out PI activity

2. Information Dissemination Cycle

3. Consultation Cycle

4. Participation Cycle
Stages of public involvement

- **Initial design**
  - Early consultation
  - Detailed planning
  - Prepare for implementation

- **Feasibility**
  - Implement public involvement plan

- **Negotiation**
  - Inform public

- **Construction/Operation**
  - Post-decision public involvement

- **Evaluation**
  - Evaluation

The Project Cycle
### The Project Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation/Design</th>
<th>Appraisal/Approval</th>
<th>Project Implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1-3 years)</td>
<td>(up to 1 year)</td>
<td>(up to 25 years)</td>
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### The Public Involvement Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning for public involvement</th>
<th>Implement a public involvement plan</th>
<th>Post decision public involvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish institutional arrangements</td>
<td>Select and train field communicators</td>
<td>Inform public about decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruit PI manager and team</td>
<td>Develop specific objectives</td>
<td>Establish mechanism for continued PI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research key issues</td>
<td>Design messages</td>
<td>Monitor for effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research decision-making process</td>
<td>Develop and test communication materials</td>
<td>Evaluate the results</td>
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<td>Identify and group stakeholders</td>
<td>Carry out PI activities</td>
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<td>Develop PI objectives</td>
<td>Check for comprehension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop communication strategy</td>
<td>Report and analyse the results</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft and agree PI plan</td>
<td>Monitor for effectiveness</td>
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### Agency Responsibilities

- **Negotiation**
- **Facilitation**
- **Establishing public involvement centers**
- **Reviewing**
- **Ensuring integration with EA process**
- **Reporting**
- **Monitor for effectiveness**

- **Reviewing**
- **Managing information**
- **Organizing national consultation**
- **Advising**
- **Reporting**
- **Monitoring for effectiveness**

- **Ensuring continuity**
- **Monitoring for effectiveness**
- **Identifying and applying lessons learned**
Planning for public involvement

1. Establish management arrangements
2. Recruit PI manager and team
3. Research social & environmental issues
4. Research levels of interest in the project
5. Research project decision making process
6. Demographic & ethnographic research
7. Identify and group stakeholders
8. Develop general objectives for PI
9. Develop communication strategy
10. Draft and agree PI plan
Identifying Stakeholders: by Impact & Interest

1. Directly affected
2. Indirectly affected
3. Possible interest
4. General interest
Guiding questions in identifying stakeholders

- Who is the project intended to benefit? Who else?
- What are some likely negative impacts of the project, and who will feel them?
- Who will be responsible for implementing the changes introduced by the project?
- Whose cooperation or influence is necessary for the project to be carried out?
- Who has special knowledge or experience concerning the project?
- Who support or oppose the changes the project will bring?
Examples & Activities at ESCAP
ESCAP’s Main Ongoing Projects and Activities

- Strengthening national capacities in strategic planning and management;
- Capacity-building on the integration of energy and rural development; and
- Promotion of pro-poor public-private partnerships for the provision of energy services to rural populations

Key implementation strategy: the advocacy and promotion of, and capacity-building for, increased stakeholder involvement at all levels
Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development

Assist selected participating developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region in the strategic planning and management of their natural resources development and in environmental protection.

- A multi-stakeholder entity is established to implement the project activities at the national level.
- Stakeholder involvement is placed at the core of formulating policies and managing their implementation.
Integration of Energy and Rural Development Planning

To promote rural energy development based on locally available energy resources through the enhanced integration of energy issues into rural development policies and programmes.

National Team, comprise government officials involved in rural development or energy policy planning and implementation, research institutions, rural developers, rural energy entrepreneurs and NGOs, have been established in each of the project participating countries.
Promotion of Pro-poor Public-private Partnerships for the Provision of Energy Services to Rural Populations

Goal: to provide affordable basic services to the poor in selected countries through public-private partnerships

Focus on establishing a model to promote stakeholder involvement in the form of public-private partnerships

Four principal partners: (a) government agencies (the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Directorate General of Electricity and Energy Utilization); (b) local community, Cinta Meka; (c) NGO, IBEKA; and (d) private sector company, HIBS
Publications and Guidelines

http://www.unescap.org
CONS and PROS

**CONS**
- Good Plan and Skills to manage the process
- Costly
- Difficult to implement
- Need skilled facilitator
- Negotiation skills
- Public hearing

**PROS**
- Mutual trust and recognition
- A wider choice of options
- Less monitoring cost and risk of failure
- More cost-effective solutions and predictable outcomes
- Long-term benefits of fair and lasting solutions