

International Training Course on Environmental Health Impact Assessment



EHIA

Overview

INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Mahidol University in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), and the SEAMEO TROPMED Network office offered a training course in 2009 on Environmental Health Impact Assessment (EHIA). The training program was designed in a manner that it should be able to provide the relevant competencies for the different disciplines/professionals that are involved in all the processes of EHIA especially in the context of existing and proposed development projects in the region. To do this, FTM together with SEAMEO TROPMED Network collaboratively planned and implemented the development of the training course to serve the needs of national authorities responsible for development projects and concerned ministries responsible for health and rural/urban development in the region.

Feedback from the trainees as well as from the resource persons involved were gathered to improve the training package. Revisions both to the content, materials as well as duration of the training were undertaken based on the feedback.

This revised training packaged is now being offered for a second time to meet the demands for quality EHIA in the Asia Pacific.

RATIONALE

There is a strong relationship between development, health and the environment. Development initiatives have a beneficial effect on the over-all well-being by promoting employment and improving the standard of living and the quality of life. Sometimes, in certain occasions, some unexpected negative effects on health happen such as pollution, increased risks of injuries and disease transmission. However, these negative consequences of development can be avoided or reduced to the minimum by careful planning. One of the strategies currently being advocated to minimize negative impacts is Environmental Health Impact Assessment.

"Environmental Health Impact Assessment is a relatively recent process which seeks to predict the impact of a development before the development proposal has been approved, so that negative impacts can be reduced or avoided, positive impacts can be enhanced and the probability of sustainable development increased. It is a key component of informed decision-making." (enHealth Council,2000)

At the planning stage of development projects, the results of EHIA serve as the starting point for a series of efforts towards maximizing the positive health impacts and minimizing the negative ones. Results of appropriately undertaken EHIA can provide the necessary inputs for informed decision-making related to development policies and programs. The EHIA process is also relevant in assessing long-term sustainable benefits of on-going projects, plans, as well as policies.

Development projects are on going all over the Asia Pacific region. Thus, there is a great need to ensure that development projects' immediate and long term impacts on health and its determinants are determined, predicted, and monitored so that mitigation measures could be instituted for the benefit especially of the people and all other stakeholders as well. There is an urgent need to develop a professional who can respond to the above mentioned need, hence this course was organized.

PARTICIPANTS

The course caters to professionals who are involved in health and environment as well as in development projects. To qualify for the course, prospective participants should have some experiences on health, environment and development projects; proficient in the English language and with basic computer literacy.

EDUCATIONAL GOAL

The international course on Environmental Health Impact Assessment aims to develop a professional not only equipped with knowledge and skills needed to conduct a thorough environmental health impact assessment but also a professional imbued with a holistic view of health and health development and an advocate of environmental health and healthy public policies. As an EHIA professional, he/she is expected to make critical decisions based not only on scientific evidence but also according to what is legal, moral, and ethical.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

This training course will be guided by adult learning principles and will therefore utilize teaching learning strategies that will maximize participants' prior knowledge and experiences. This would mean using a problem-learning approach in knowledge and skills development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

1. Conduct an Environmental Health Impact Assessment
2. Manage an Environmental Health Impact Assessment.
3. Advocate for the conduct of EHIA and utilization of its results.
4. Ensure quality of EHIA being conducted.
5. Monitor long term effects of development projects.
6. Communicate to various stakeholders relevant issues related to EHIA

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

Length	Title and Content
1 day	Module 1: Foundations of EHIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EHIA, EIA, EH, Quality of Life - Sustainable development, Agenda 21 - Healthy Public Policy - Determinants of Health - Interrelationships of man, environment and health - Ethical, Legal & Moral considerations of EHIA - Implication of Climate Change on Health
4 days	Module 2: The EHIA Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Screening - Scoping - Appraisal - Recommend measures - Report writing
2 days	Module 3: Managing EHIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing the Process - Ensuring Quality of Process - Advocacy and Communication
2 days	Module 4: Monitoring long term effects of development projects
1 day	Presentation of Group Outputs Evaluation

EVALUATION

Course Participants:

In order to be awarded the certificate of completion, participants should have: a) attended all modules including field exposure to a development project; b) shown active participation in all module workshops and exercises as evidenced by finished worksheets and assignment; and finally c) passed all end of module examinations.

Course Evaluation:

An evaluation will be conducted daily and at the end of every module. Information collected will be used by the training team in sustaining the quality of modules and the conduct of future short courses. Evaluation of facilitators and resource persons is incorporated in all these evaluations.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

Each module has a specific expected output from the participants. These outputs simulate, mostly, the activities and reports that will be conducted and generated by the participants as an EHIA professional. These outputs are also important requirement for receiving a certificate of completion of the short course.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE COURSE

