

Cases of Impact Assessment in Korea

-For the informal joint workshop of the RPC and AMSDE
on the role of impact assessment in policy making-

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1. Korean Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) system : View of sustainability

Sustainability is not ready yet to be considered for RIA in Korea.

However, **social benefits** (on health and death, public involvement, employment, expert fostering issues) and **environmental concerns** (climate changes, pollution, greenhouse gas, etc.) were sometimes considered and put into the CBA (cost benefit analysis).

Thus, **RIA in Korea is not solely dependent on the economic issue**, but somehow has a way to include social and environmental concerns in the system.

No monitoring and evaluation process is found in the guidance of RIA.

2. The Role of RIA for green growth policy in Korea :

Based on RIA review comments of RRC(regulatory reform committee) on
『The decree of the framework act on low carbon, green growth』

Contents of the decree of the framework act on low carbon, green growth	Preliminary Review results	Review comments
1. Certification of conformity of green technology and green project, accreditation of specialized green enterprises (Article 19, 32)	Important Regulation	Approve the regulation as it is. (Recognize necessity and rationale of the article)
2. Criteria for designation of controlled enterprises and entities (Article 28)	Important Regulation	Recommend improvement for duplication and excess burden of the regulation
3. Reports for implementation plans of controlled enterprises and entities (Articles 29, 32, and 33)	Important Regulation	Recommend improvement for duty of several aspects regarding management process and relevant reports

The case of #2 : Criteria of green house gas emission and energy consumption for “controlled enterprises”

Criteria of green house gas emission for controlled enterprises (kilotonnes)		Criteria of energy consumption for controlled enterprises (tetrajoules)	
After 2010	Above 125	After 2010	Above 500
After 2012	Above 87.5	After 2012	Above 350
After 2014	Above 50	After 2014	Above 200

Criteria of green house gas emission for controlled entities (kilotonnes)		Criteria of energy consumption for controlled entities (tetrajoules)	
After 2010	Above 25	After 2010	Above 100
After 2012	Above 20	After 2012	Above 90
After 2014	Above 15	After 2014	Above 80

3. Experience of integration of different IAs in Korea

❖ The situation

- Before 2000 we had different assessment systems for policy-making, such as environment, traffic, disaster, and population.
- In 2000 we integrated those impact assessments to reduce cost and time when making and implementing a policy.
- The government concluded to remove 4 relevant laws and to establish a new law, named 『The act on assessment of impacts of works on environment, traffic, disasters, etc』

Experience of integration of different IAs in Korea

❖ The unification

- Amended aspects by the unification of different systems were :
 - subjected projects-mostly reduced,
 - assessment factors-increased
 - preparation of a unified report-a big volume
 - assessment process-independent
 - consultation period-reduced
 - information open and introduction of public participation,
 - others, assessment consultant-independent.
- The amended content was rather superficial than substantial.

Experience of integration of different IAs in Korea

❖ The result

- Because the integration was just physical level and each procedure was still independent, controlled by each corresponding committee, there were lack of proper communication channels among them, causing less collaboration.
- In addition extra time and cost was imposed to prepare a combined report and to complete the procedure.
- In the result, the IIA system was separated after all. Each assessment system returned where it belonged previously. So, the amended EIA law was enforced independently in 2008.

Experience of integration of different IAs in Korea

❖ The lesson

- ✓ One single instrument to replace other IAs seems ideal on condition that it is not only physical, but chemical integration.
- ✓ We, therefore, should have been more careful to ask why, and what/how to combine them. In other words the system should be developed in a well-organized soluble manner which gives a flexibility to apply and obviously have a cooperative communication channel.
- ✓ The combined IA should be closely coordinated and flexible so that the same issue is not covered twice, but dealt with very thoroughly.

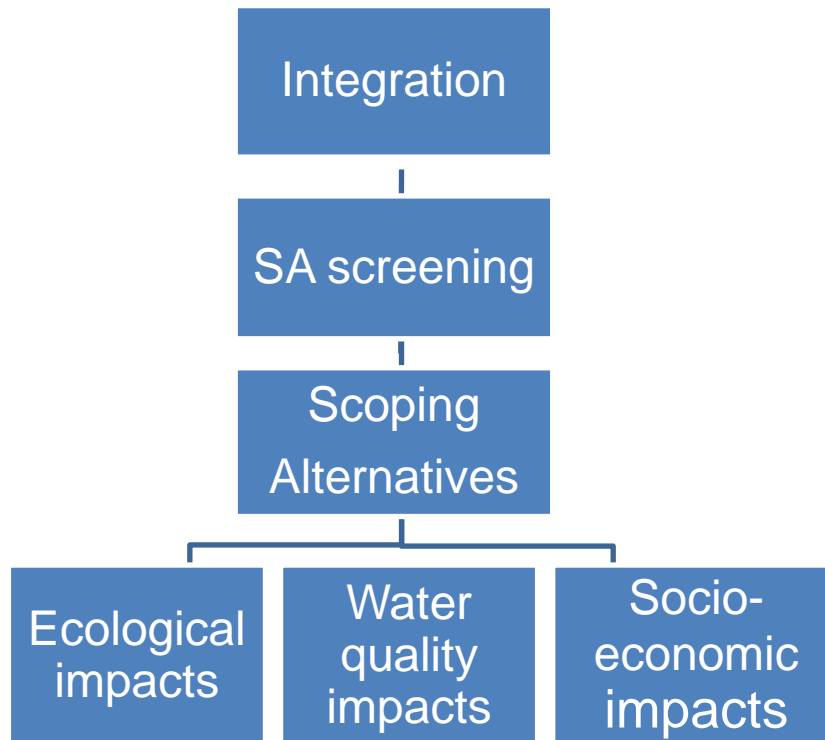
4. Integration of EIA and SEA (PERS, prior environmental review system) in Korea

- We had both EIA and PERS systems more than a decade.
- Currently two systems were unified and simplified into one tiring process to resolve argues of complexity and duplication. The new integrated EIA law was promulgated this year and will be enforced next year.
- In the systematic process of the new law, environmental aspects of policies, plans, programmes, and projects are assessed continuously at different levels. The good point is to have one mission, one goal, and one process, allowing relevant people to communicate and to collaborate with the same issue.
- However, one concern would be whether we think and prepare enough to combine both systems, if not, we may experience another mistake.

❖ Challenges

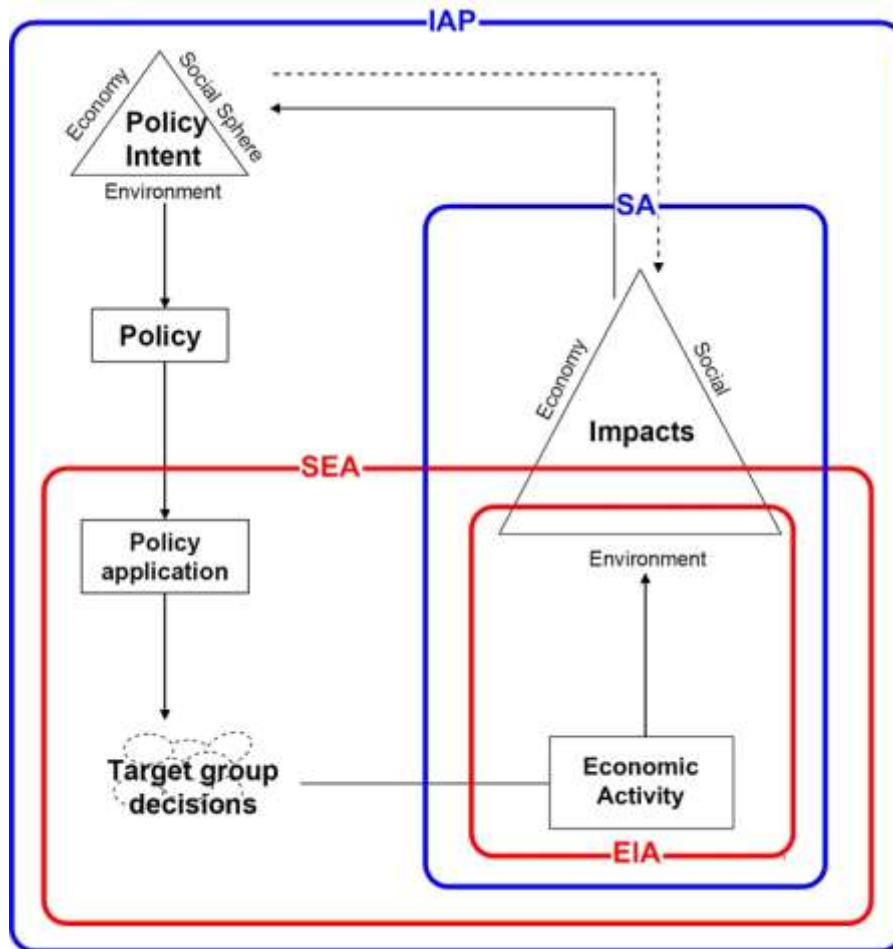
- ✓ Policy level assessment is urgent at the new system because new policies were subjected more compared to previous one .
- ✓ We need to develop proper tools(e.g. indicators) and methods (e.g. checklist) how to assess impacts of strategic policy level.
- ✓ Need to improve and stabilize this system further.
- ✓ To cooperate among responsible authorities as well as to communicate among stakeholders in the assessment of policy level.
- ✓ Monitor the effectiveness of policy implementation through the development and use of local based indicators.
- ✓ Ensure that the decision-making processes are transparent and inclusive.

5. Suggestion for IIA or SIA



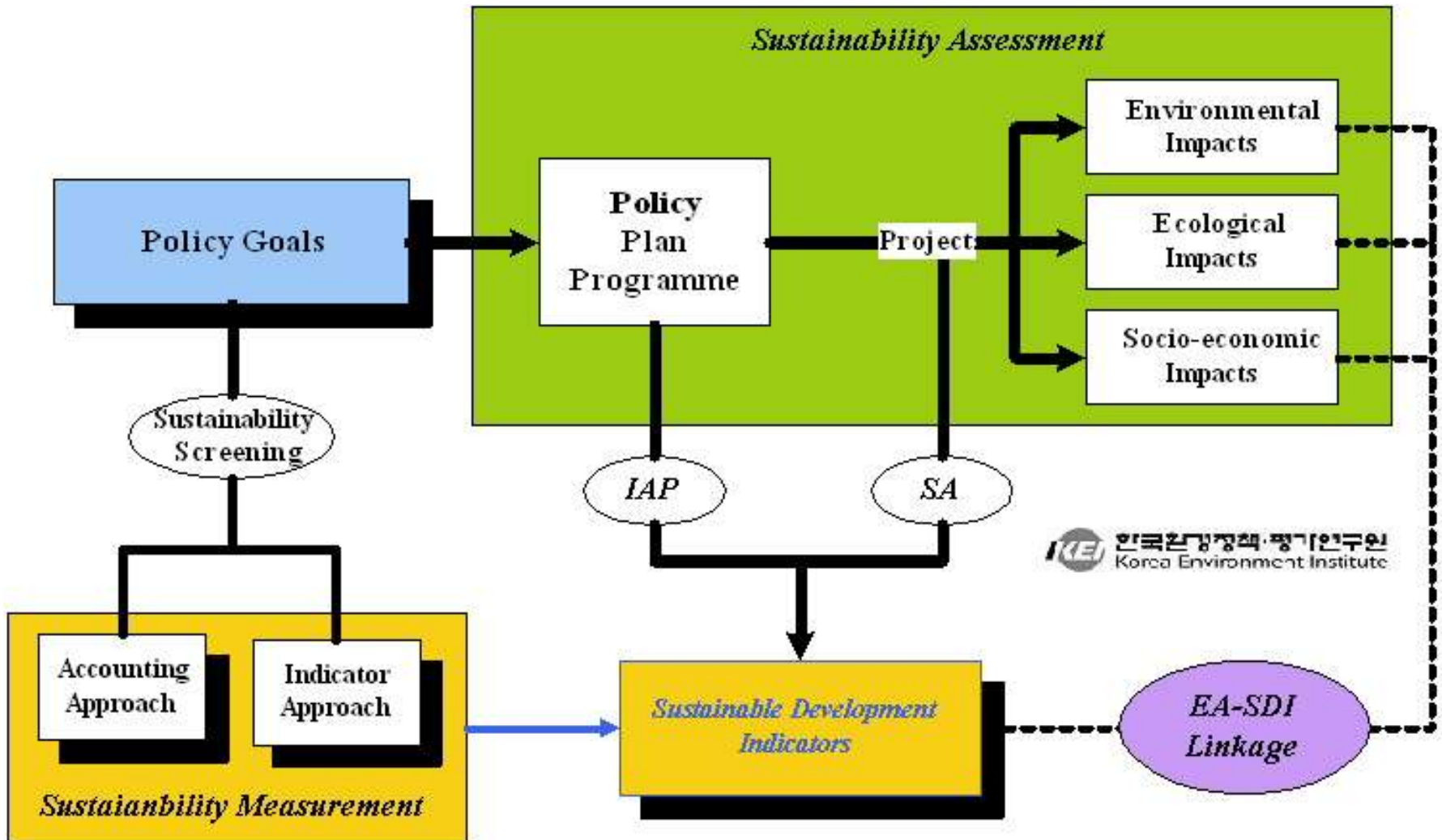
- Integration stage
- Sustainability Screening
 - Which approach to measure and assess sustainability (accounting or indicator)
- Scoping & Alternatives
 - Focus on **significant issues** to address according to the country's situation.

EIA, SEA, SIA, IAP

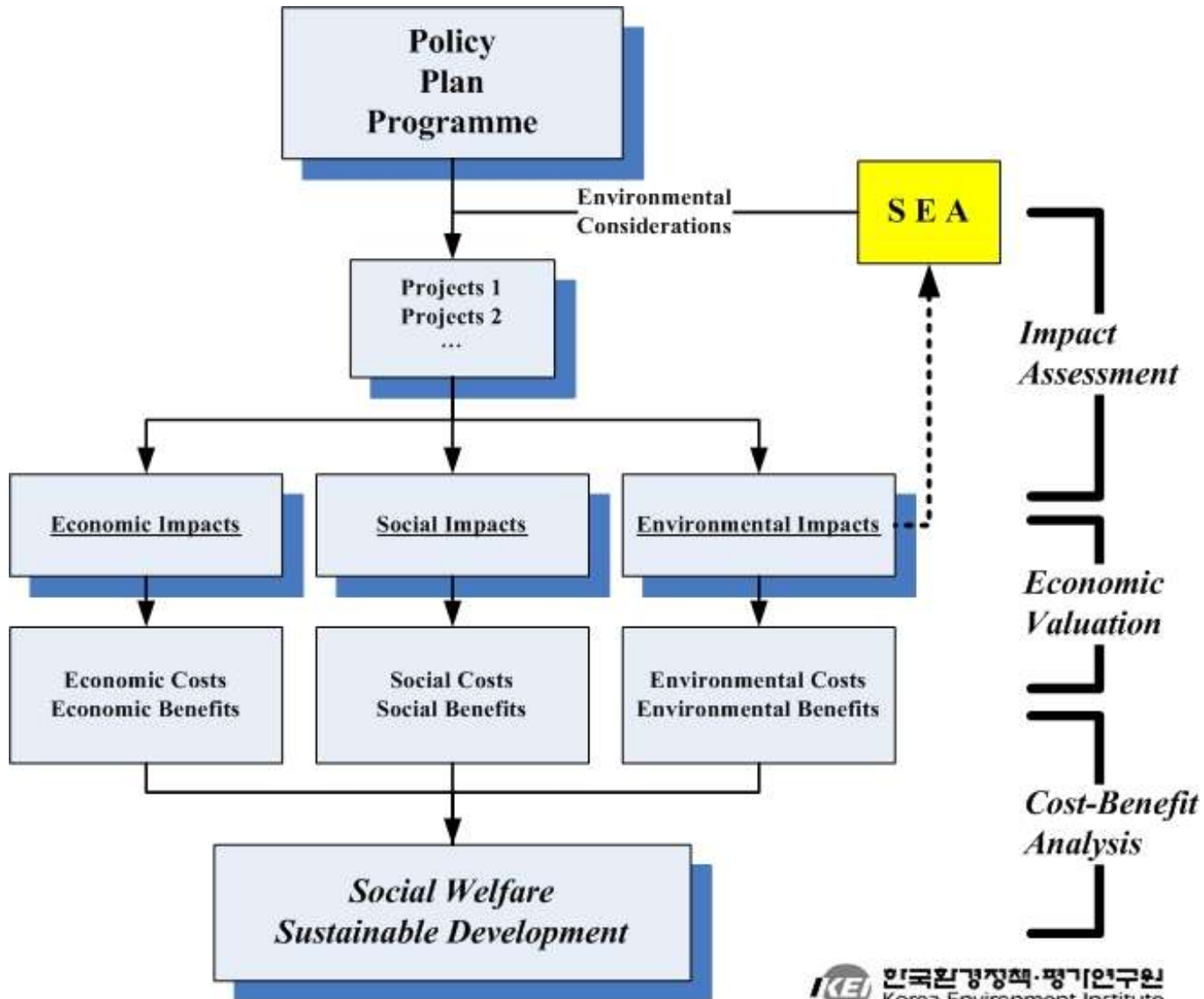


- EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)
- SEA (Strategic Environment Assessment)
- SIA (Sustainability Impact Assessment)
- IAP (Integrated Assessment of Planning for SD)

Indicator SIA



Accounting SIA



❖ **Integrated Impact Assessment(IIA) Process**

- Scoping (objective : What do you want to achieve from IIA for the policy?)
- Options (Identify the most sustainable policy)
- Draft proposal (Describe detailed policy)
- Integration of individual assessment (Are they compatible)
- Selecting indicators (How will you know if you've achieved your goal?)
- Monitoring and evaluation

❖ **Why sustainable issues are important**

Environmental protection and security can not be achieved at the expense of economic prosperity alone, and any economic success will prove meaningless and empty if attained in the face of rising unemployment, social exclusion, ill health or environmental degradation.
-Action for Sustainability, NWRA 2000-