

EIA/EHIA Reform

The 5th National Health Assembly,
Having considered the report on EIA/EHIA Reform¹

Realizing that the current EIA/EHIA system and structure are beset with a number of problems and limitations that make it difficult to serve as an effective tool and mechanism for managing the mitigation of environmental and health impacts and reducing conflicts between different sectors as designed and intended by EIA/EHIA,

Concerned that if no improvement is made on EIA/EHIA it is likely to cause more environmental and health risks to the public, resulting in more conflicts between the private sector or government agencies that own the projects and the people sector/community as well as resulting in more economic losses,

Noting that attempts have been made to amend laws and regulations on the improvement of EIA/EHIA, especially the amendment of the Enhancement of National Environment Quality Act B.E. 2535 (1992) by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, that the amendment has been screened by the Council of State and will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration in due course, and that there are still issues on control measures and laws/regulations on environment that do not cover all aspects of the problems today

Seeing that all public and private sectors concerned (as project owners), consultant companies/universities (as report makers), and the people sector (as people affected by the project) should be involved in solving problems and pushing for EIA/EHIA reforms,

Has, therefore, passed the following resolutions:

1. Adopting (draft) EIA/HEIA reform guidelines in the annex² following this resolution as the framework for EIA/HEIA reforms by the agencies concerned as set out in Resolutions 2 and 3;

2. Requesting the National Health Commission to ask the President of the National Assembly, Law Reform Commission, Independent Commission on Environment and Health, National Environment Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other agencies concerned to consider the guidelines in 1 above for EIA/HEIA reforms and for amendment of the Enhancement of National Environment Quality Act B.E. 2535 (1992);

3. Requesting the National Environment Commission to set up “EIA/HEIA Structure and System Reform Subcommittee” consisting of representatives from the sectors concerned, i.e. the government sector such as Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, National Health Commission Office; the NGO sector such as Private Assembly for Natural Resources and Environment Protection, NGO Coordinating Committee on Development; the private sector such as Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development, Federation of

¹ Health Assembly 5/Main 5

² Health Assembly 5/Draft Resolution 5/Annex 1

Thai Industries; and the people sector, to put into practice the guidelines for EIA/EHA reforms in 1 above;

4. Requesting local government organizations to implement within their competence the reform guidelines in 1 involving participation of civil society networks;

5. Requesting the civil society networks, health assembly networks, community organizations, NGOs concerned or people bearing environmental and health impacts, and local government organizations to join hands in bringing about EIA/HEIA reforms as set out in the guidelines in 1 through possible channels of each network/organization and requesting the National Environment Commission. National Health Commission and agencies concerned to support the action;

6. Requesting the Secretary-General of National Health Commission to report on the progress to the 6th National Health Assembly.