



Green Beagle

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

9 September 2013

**More Guidance for Public Participation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens EIA Forum to Be Held in  
Shenzhen, Guangdong**

**On September 23, 2013, Green Beagle will host the Second Forum on Public Participation to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province. The activity is part of the the IPEN/Green Beagle's project on Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China (1). During the forum, environmental NGOs and activists from different parts of China will gather together and discuss on producing a guidebook for the public participation to EIA. It is believed that such guidebook will help strengthen the ability for citizens to participate in different kinds of EIA processes.**

Green Beagle hosted the first forum in June this year and found some environmental NGOs professional enough to intervene in EIA process while others still lack capacity to do so. That is the reason why IPEN/Green Beagle initiated the idea to compile a guidebook as part of their project (1) that aims to improve capacities of civil society organizations for involvement in policy making in China. “We hope the Forum will attract more attention to EIA public participation and contribute to preventing environmental pollution and ecological disasters at the early stage of relevant projects,” said Xie Xinyuan, a project coordinator of Green Beagle, who is in charge of the organizing the Forum.

The finished draft guidebook includes broad range of information such as on the basic process of an EIA, on information sources of EIA, on how citizens can participate at different EIA phases, on the responsibilities of governments, project developers and EIA companies, as well as on what citizens can do when non-compliance occur. “The draft guidebook will be sent to forum participants, who will be asked for their advices. It will also be posted online for more interested people to comment. During the forum, there will be further discussion and some good cases of public participation to EIA will be added to the guidebook,” said Xie Xinyuan.

Following the Forum's agenda (2), Ding Wenzhang will represent Chongqing Two Rivers Volunteer Service Center (CTVSC) to present a website called EIA Public Participation Network. “The website aggregates all sorts of information related EIA and provides any released documents related to EIA for the public,” Ding Wenzhang said. CTVSC is also calling for NGOs from different parts of China to participate in the building of the website and make it more useful. Moreover, Martin Skalsky, an EIA expert from Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme, will share with Forum participants several examples of public participation in the EIA process in Europe. “I believe that our broad experience with the participation in decision making in the Czech Republic and Europe can be partially transferable to China, at least in terms of clean production benefits for the economy and development,” mentions Martin Skalsky.

- MORE FOLLOWS -

**Footnotes:**

1) Strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and civil society organizations to increase chemical safety in China is an EU-funded project of IPEN with partners Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme and Green Beagle that aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and communities impacted by pollution to increase chemical safety in China. The Project (also known as the China Chemical Safety Project) is being implemented in China over two years with the EU contribution.

2) Agenda of the Second Forum on Public Participation to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:10	Registration	
9:10-9:30	Opening speech	Green Beagle
9:30-10:00	Draft of guidebook of NGO participation in EIA for discussion	Xie Xinyuan, Green Beagle
10:00-10:50	Plenary discussion: framework of the guide book	
10:50-11:00	Tea Break	
11:00-11:30	Case: Alloy Smelter in Chongqing Municipality	Xiang Chun, Chongqing Liangjiang Volunteers
11:30-12:00	Case: Broad Group Skyscraper Project in Hunan Province	Liu Huili, Nature University
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	How NGOs in EU participate in EIA process, and a case	Martin Skalsky, Arnika
14:30-15:00	Case: Anning Oil Refinery Project in Yunnan Province	Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed
15:00-16:00	Group Discussions: 1. How to get access to EIA information of a project; 2. What problem may occur in EIA reports; 3. How can NGO and the public participate in EIA	
16:00-16:10	Tea Break	
16:10-16:40	Presentation for Group Discussion	
16:40-17:20	Plenary Discussion: Comments on the Guidebook	
17:20-17:30	Ending	

- END -

For more information, please contact Mr Xie Xinyuan, project coordinator of Green Beagle (mobile: +86-13264002004; socrabear@sina.com)

**Disclaimer: This release has been produced as a part of the project financially supported by the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of IPEN, Arnika and Green Beagle and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.**