

Environmental performance index (EPI) workshop



Table of Contents

	Contents	Page number
	Introduction	1-2
	Goals of workshop	3
	Place of the workshop and participants introduce	4-7
	Yale university	
	Day one workshop	8-10
	Day two workshop	11-13
	Columbia university	
	CIESIN workshop day3	14-16
	Recommendations of national team	17

List of Abbreviations

	Abbreviations	Abbreviations definitions
	EPI	Environmental Performance Index
	YCELP	Yale Center for Environmental Law and policy
	CIESIN	Center for International Earth Science Information Network
	UNEP-ROWA	United Nation Environmental Program-Regional office West Asian
	MOE	Ministry of Environment
	NESAP	National Environmental Strategy-Action plan
	PM2.5	Particulate Matter 2.5
	WHO	World Health Organization
	IEA	International Energy Agency
	UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund

Introduction

The global Environmental Performance Index is a global indicator to measure environmental performance in various countries around the world and it is a joint project between (YCELP) and (CIESIN) in collaboration with the world economic forum, the importance of this indicator in that it provides a decision-makers an opportunity to measure its environmental performance compared with neighboring and regional countries and other countries all over the world, and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the environmental issues, and the environmental status within two main policy: the environmental impacts on the human health and vitality of ecosystem within nine environmental issues comprise of twenty environmental indicators, which represents the sum of indicators that from which it could be evaluating the environmental performance of countries and determining their ranking in the table of evaluation, and it launch every two years where Iraq came in last out of 132 in the EPI 2012 and ranked 149 out of 178 countries

with a slight improvement in its performance. And the national team's participation in the workshop held at the Yale Center and CIESIN it came after a series of activities and actions carried out by the team in study reports for the years 2012 and 2014, and analysis of data and indicators of Iraq Compared to other countries, as well as national data collection and analysis for each indicator in order to compare them with supported data by the authors of the report and identify gaps in calculation of these indicators and provide appropriate proposals for the purpose of improvement of environmental situation, which will reflect positively in improving the ranking of Iraq in the Environmental Performance Index, the aim of visit and workshops that held within its framework is also to share data and information on environmental performance and



provide national data for each indicator and the possibility of the adoption of the data provided by the team in the future, as well as gain more mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences and look at the experiences of some countries in how to improve their performance and ranking globally. The first and second workshops in the two centers have included series of presentations in the field of Environmental Performance Index and its future vision by some experts at YCELP and CIESIN in addition to the presentation by the Iraqi team related to the activities of Iraq in Follow-up global environmental Performance Index and national activities in the field of improving the environmental situation through a national strategy for environment and strategic biological diversity and declaration of natural reserves and team proposals about the possibility of adoption of national data provided by the team to the Yale Center after comparing them with data

sources they adopt to be included in 2016 report, and also the workshops have concluded a set of recommendations that aims to improve the ranking of Iraq in EPI.

And at the end of the workshop the two centers have expressed their full readiness (willingness) to cooperate with Iraq in order to improve the environmental information systems and the possibility of the adoption of national environmental data and develop the capacity of the Iraqi national team in the field of environmental performance index, and the head of the Iraqi delegation, Dr. Ali al-Lami have expressed his thanks to the two centers for hosting the Iraqi team and their constructive cooperation for assisting of Iraq in the development of environmental performance.

The workshop goals

- 1- To Share global EPI- related data and information with YCELP and CIESIN and providing national data that are issued by ministry of planning, Ministry of environment and other governmental institutions with the aim of possibility to adopt it after comparing it in 2016 EPI report.
- 2- To identify the calculation methods for some indicators especially that cannot provide their data at the local level.
- 3- To Study and take advantage of the experiences of some countries which have made progress in the EPI in order to stand on their followed polices in development of the EPI to take advantage of their experience in the EPI.
- 4- To Build and develop capacity of the EPI national team and to provide the necessary recommendations in order to improve the performance.



Place of the workshop and participants introduce

On June 03, 2014 it was held the first workshop at Yale center for environmental law and policy YCELP for two days and the second workshop was held at Columbia University / International Center for Earth Science Information Network for only one day .

The following is a simplified definition of the actors involved in these two workshops: -

The EPI Iraqi national team: -

A national team to follow up on reports of the Environmental Performance Index globally through access to the reports issued by the Yale Center for environmental laws and policies in collaboration with the International Center for Earth Science Information Network to get to know the order of Iraq compared to the rest of the states subjected to this evaluation, and analysis of these indicators in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses for the development of environmental performance and the state of the

environment in Iraq according to each indicator, and also study-based data for the state of Iraq, analyzed and compared it with the national data issued by the Ministry of Planning and other government institutions and to make proposals for the development of performance so as to ensure improve the ranking of the state of Iraq in the global Environmental Performance Index and also in order to achieve millennium Development Goals of the UN Development Program and contribute to the preparation of national data

in a scientific and transparent manner consistent with the methods of preparation and organization of the global data, and the team also working on the preparation of setting national indicators to assess the environmental performance on the level of the provinces and

establishment of a center for environmental information at the national level. And the team that hold membership in a group of experts from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Planning under the supervision of the Technical minister deputy of Ministry of Environment.

National delegation participating in the workshop: -

Dr. Ali Al-Lami / deputy Minister of Environment / Head of the Iraqi delegation.

Dr. Jassim Alatwany/ head of Experts / ministry of environment.

Expert Huda al-haddawi/ Central statistical organization /ministry of planning.

Engineer Taghreed abdul ameer/ general inspector office /ministry of environment.

Biological zena Abdullah / adviser office / ministry of environment.

2-Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy / Yale University (YCELP)

It is a center for environmental law and policies within the framework of Yale University and works on preparation of a global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) reports every two years in collaboration with (CIESIN) with assistant of more than 50 experts from various countries around the world.

Experts participating in the workshop

Dr. Jordon geballe, associate dean of alumni and external affairs, yale school of forestry and environmental studies.
Dr. Angel hsu, Principal Investigator and EPI Project Director at the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and Post-doctoral Associate in the Urbanization and Global Change group at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in New Haven, CT.
Mr. Joshua Galperin, Associate Director, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy
Susanne Stahl, Program Coordinator, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy.
Carina rosella, professional researcher of biodiversity
Alisabeth zomer, scientific researcher at the yale
And other participants who are working at the Yale And other participants who are working in the center le center.

Center for international Earth Science Information network (CIESIN)

It is an independent global research center works within the framework of the Columbia University, U.S. / earth institute, has more than 300 scientists in divers fields, and focuses on the effects of human activities and institutional arrangements on the environment in contrast how the environmental changes affect on the community, also its represent a major participant in the preparation of EPI report by providing the necessary environmental data and analysis, to measure performance according to performance indicators ,also has many programs and extensive cooperation with partners around the world in projects related to climate change and environmental sustainability, also provides data and information to various countries around the world in the field of environment and earth sciences , economic and social fields.

Experts participating in the workshop

Dr. Marc Levy / deputy director of CIESIN and Science Applications Division head.

Dr. Alex de Sherbinin/ a Senior Staff Associate for Research at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), an environmental data and analysis center within The Earth Institute at Columbia University specializing in the human aspects of global environmental change.

Mr. Amine allouah / (intern from ecole polytechnique), colombia university

Ms. Yassamin fouad from UNDP.

1- Yale university 3-6/ June /2014

Day one workshop

The opening statement

The workshop opening session was held at YCELP which lasted two days, where the workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Gordon Geballe (Associate Dean for alumni and External Affairs) his word to welcome the Iraqi EPI National team, he highlighted the initiative of Iraqi state to follow up EPI to improve its ranking in the future, he also mentioned a brief about the deep-rooted history of Yale University “It's a research university founded in 1701, and it is the third oldest institution of higher education in the United States, and the second largest academic institution in the world”. He also refers to some details of its colleges, and the most important achievements of the university, Also pointed to its contributed role in the preparation of environmental performance index reports in cooperation with Columbia University for all the stages of the evolution of this indicator.

The technical minister deputy of the Environment, Dr. Ali Al Lami, the supervisor of the team, denoted the purpose of the visit to the Yale Center, also presented a summary of the most important activities of the national team to follow up EPI, On the other hand, Dr. Jassim Alatwany a member of the team completed explanation of the reasons for this visit, as he expressed his thanks on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and the national team to Yale Center for their Submitted support for the organizing and implementation of the workshop and the hospitality provided, and he praised the efforts of the Centre in the preparation of such indicators which aims to create a kind of positive competition among the countries in order to improve environmental performance by protecting and improving the

environment all over the world, also pointed out the reasons for this visit which it aims to further cooperation, participation and exchange of information between the MOE and YCELP, And how it assisting in building national capacity in the field of environmental performance with the possibility of the adoption of environmental data that can be provided by the team to YCELP.

Dr. Angel Hsu also provided presentation included a general overview on the Environmental Performance Index and how it prepare, and the stages of its evolution and development, and also what is the criteria that they have adopted in the selection of indicators and how to distribute the weights on the main categories and sub-indicators, taking into account the direct or indirect relationship of indicator of environmental issues, also she mentioned the goal of preparing such a report, and talked about China's experience in the preparation of its own Environmental Performance Index and how they used the same structure and methodology that adopted in the global EPI, also state that China has expanded to add other indicators are consistent with the significant challenges that facing China and find solutions to these issues in order to improve the environmental performance level on the ground, In addition to the experience of United Arab Emirates and Malaysia. The presentation period also included a set of questions and inquiries regarding some important indicators which the team believed that YCELP depended on some incorrect data In the process of calculating the indicators and these indicators included (child mortality rate, safe drinking water indicator, sanitation, wastewater treatment, and pesticides regulation). She also provided a brief explanation of how to collect data, and she confirmed that they did not depend directly on the data issued by the governmental institutions of the States,

for reasons of non-credibility and accuracy of data in terms of the amounts and qualities or difference in the method of calculation or differences in the concept. It's also mentioned that it is very difficult to YCELP to collect data of various indicators of each country because of limited resources, that's why they depending on reliable organization, as well as presented a summary about the honored history of Yale university.



Day two workshop

The workshop was opened by the presentation made by the national team through the biological Zena Abdullah one members of the team, showed the most important activities of the Ministry of Environment regarding environmental performance index and how follow-up phases through the collection of local environmental data and matching them with the 2014 EPI approved data, and how analyze and identify gaps in the calculation of some indicators, also talked on the details of the calculation methods of some basic indicators and asked a few questions and inquiries included a series of discussions with dr. Angel and Mr. Josh about the possibility of the adoption of the data provided by the Iraqi governments institutions. She also highlighted the activities of the Ministries of Environment and Planning in the preparation of a set of legislation and reports, as well as joining the international environmental conventions and also highlighted the role of the Ministry of environment in the preparation of the national strategy for environment and operational plans, and biodiversity strategy, On his part, Dr. Ali Al-Lami, referred to the possibility of declaring some of the reserves in the coming days and in different parts of Iraq in specific areas and this will lead to improve the ranking of Iraq in this indicator in addition he referred to the periodic issuing of the Environment Outlook report in Iraq, also pointed to the relationships of ministry of environment and planning with international organizations in the field of environmental protection, and also was put up some important inquiries regarding the issuance of a report in 2016 and the maximum time limit could be adopted for the last date for receipt and update the data to be adopted by the report of EPI 2016 and the possibility of updating environmental data for Iraq so as to ensure improve

the ranking of Iraq internationally in this indicator. In the area of team capacity building Dr. Ali Al-lami has asked Yale Center for the possibility of hosting some of the team members at the center for the purpose of developing their skills through participation with expert officials in preparation of 2016 EPI report and see the full details on how to collect the data and the methodology and methods of calculation and the distribution of weights for each indicator, the Yale center welcomed this offer mentioning that they had already hosted some groups from other countries such as China, Egypt, Bahrain and Qatar.

At the end of the workshop, YCELP deeply thanked the Iraqi delegation for their efforts in follow-up EPI reports, and showed their willingness to cooperate with the state of Iraq in this area. The head of the Iraqi delegation Dr. Ali Al-lami expressed his thanks to the Center for hosting the team, and their cooperation in the development of environmental performance in Iraq.



Outcomes of the first and second days of the workshop.

- 1- The possibility of accepting national environmental data which provided by Iraqi team by YCELP for the purpose of adoption in 2016 EPI- report
- 2- Getting preliminary approval for hosting some Iraqi team members at the center for the purpose of participating in the preparation of environmental performance index report 2016.
- 3- Learning from the experience of some Arab countries in the follow-up of EPI reports and how to improve their performance.



CIESIN workshop on June 5, 2014

The national team has to go to Columbia University and attend a second workshop with Messrs. experts from UNDP and CIESIN Mr. Marc Levy and Mr. sac Dechierbinin and Mr. Ayman Ms. Yasmin fouad.

Mr. Alex Deshierbinin presented a brief presentation on the status of CIESIN in terms of structural and foundation activities and projects carried out by the Centre on the local and international level.

Dr. Ali Al-Lami also presented a brief description about the activities of the state of Iraq in the follow-up the Environmental performance index reports that issued by YCELP and pointed to an importance of cooperation with this center in order to develop the capacity of the team to improve environmental performance in general.

On the other hand, Dr. Jassim state a set of questions and inquiries regarding ways of calculating of the indicators, With reference to the adoption of YELP and CIESIN some incorrect or old data collected from some of the organizations, and inquired about ways of calculating some of these data, that the team believe it is incorrect. He also talked about the possibility of preparing local EPI which can be adopted as a national index for Iraq, issued by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of planning and how could the CIESIN assist the national team in providing data that can be measured by the satellite images at the center.

Ms. Yassmen also suggested that it is possible for Iraq to establish special national center for environmental information, in which can open the window to communicate with YCELP and CIESIN In order to share data and information and to obtain some of the data produced by these centers. The team also suggested the possibility to take advantage of the Egyptian experience in the construction of the Egyptian National Center for Environmental Information and How to follow the environmental performance.

Dr. Ali al-Lami, also indicated the possibility of cooperation with international organizations in the establishment of this project and provides the necessary support.



Outcomes of the third day of workshop

- 1- The possibility of the adoption of national data in 2016 EPI report.
- 2- The possibility of opening channels of cooperation in providing the necessary technical support in the creation of the Environmental Information Centre in Iraq.
- 3- It is essential to learn more and take the advantage of the Egyptian experience in the construction of the National Center for Environmental Information, and how they improved their ranking.
- 4- Getting preliminary approval for hosting some Iraqi team members at the center for the purpose of participating in the preparation of environmental performance index report 2016.



Recommendations of the national team

- 1- Preparing local EPI which could be adopted as a national index for Iraq to measure the environmental performance among provinces, issued by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of planning.
- 2- Learning more from experiences of some Arab countries in the field of EPI follow-up and how to improve the performance.
- 3- Establishing a national center for environmental information along the lines of some Arab countries in order to insure providing data and exchange them at local and global level.
- 4- Participation of some members of the Iraqi national team in preparation of 2016 EPI report, since we got the initial acceptance of two centers for hosting them.
- 5- Awareness about environmental performance index (EPI) at the level of the Ministry of Environment and national level.
- 6- Capacity building of Iraqi national team to follow-up and develop the EPI.