



## Spotlight on HEC Environment and Safeguard Manager, Mr. Ljin Shin



**What is your role as E&S Manager and what you and your team do?**

As the E & S Team Manager, I am primarily responsible for leading our company's Environment and Social team and liaising with the Project's safeguard departments. As a team, we perform a variety of tasks including assisting consultants to prepare the ESMPs (Environment and Social Management Plans) and ESIAs (Environment and Social Impact Assessment) by providing them with information, reports, designs and data. We also contribute to the development and updating of current ESMPs in collaboration with stakeholders.

Our team also undertakes monitoring to ensure that proposed mitigation measures are implemented according to approved ESMPs, safeguard requirements and good international industry standards. We take the lead on developing and delivering a series of regular inspections to ensure

safeguards policies are adequately implemented at the grassroots level in line with the guidelines and prepare a reports on the safeguard risks with appropriate actions outlined.

**Why is it critical for HEC to ensure that the Tina River Hydro Project's construction activities comply with Environmental and Social requirements?**

As the EPC contractor for Tina, it is our obligation under the contract to prepare and implement ESMPs for the project. It is also our responsibility to meet the safeguard requirements of the project and demonstrate them through the established reporting mechanisms. During the design stage, we used our best efforts to avoid E&S impact and for the unavoidable impacts, we have to minimize them by complying with E&S requirements.

**What are some of the things you look for when you visit communities to do your work?**

When I visit communities, I look for their sources of income to better understand their way of life, which leads me to include them in our construction and operation plans. As part of our ESMP procedure, we have a system for disseminating information to the communities. We are frequently required to reach out to nearby communities to inform them of upcoming project work in their area, as well as conduct surveys to gather information for developing plans. As always, we ask for the community's cooperation and assistance in making this Project a

success. However, we occasionally face challenges such as increased demand for power and drinking water, employment, additional community requirements such as free transportation and so forth and we manage these through our Grievance Redress Mechanism process (GRM).

**What were some of the difficulties you encountered in your role?**

It is crucial to realise that preparing ESMPs necessitates the involvement of numerous experts from various environmental and social science domains. We frequently need to engage these specialists to perform studies, but we often run into problems due to a lack of knowledgeable experts with experience working on MDB projects in the country. And it was nearly impossible to bring them during the COVID era; this has always been tied to delays in ESMPs receiving clearance.

**What is one important message you want Solomon Islanders to understand regarding the Tina River Hydro Development Project?**

Hydropower is a clean, renewable energy source that can replace the expensive fossil fuel-based energy now in use, thus lowering the cost of electricity. In terms of energy security and economic advantages, TRHDP will be a major accomplishment for the people of the Solomon Islands. We kindly ask the Solomon Islands' populace to help us complete this project successfully.