The disclosed final report is the outcomes of 3rd consultation which were participated by various Indian representatives from different Ministries, State Government and Project Implementing agencies. It is evident that the present revised report is the outcomes of the various important issues were raised and inputs were provided during the consultation.

This revised report on “World Bank’s Environment and Social Safeguard Framework” finally able to outlines a clear vision and recommendation for the borrowers. The ten Environmental and Social Standards set out the beginning requirements for Borrowers relating to the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks related impacts.

From my capacity, I do believes that the application of these standards, by focusing on the identification and management of environmental and social risks, will support Borrowers in achieving good international practice relating to environmental and social sustainability, fulfilling their national and international environmental and social obligations, enhance non-discrimination, transparency, participation, accountability and governance; and enhance the sustainable development out-comes of projects through pre informed transparent stakeholder engagement.

Bank’s vision goes beyond ‘do no harm’ to maximizing development gains, maximizing stakeholder engagement finds most appropriate for the borrowers country, such opportunities may be utilized to promote further development is found most appropriate and committed for the future generation.

It is true that India has a very strong and robust Environmental protection act and social laws. It is responsibility of central and state pollution control authority to monitor and comply the environmental and social laws with strictness. Under World Banks Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and the monitoring of environmental and social performance of a project in accordance with the ESCP and the ESSs is legally bounded in accordance with the National law of the borrower country are well designed to eradicate poverty and pollution.

The best part of Framework includes provisions on grievance redress and accountability. Bank agreed on self designed mechanisms for addressing concerns and grievances arising in connection with a project, which will certainly help to addresses the issue on the third party monitoring wherever is necessary.

I do believe that the revised World Bank Environmental and Social Framework have enough strong reason to set out as mandatory requirement applicable to borrower and its upcoming projects.

Dr. Ravi Kumar Gupta

State project Expert(Environment)