CLEANER PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERATION OF THAI INDUSTRIES

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The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with more than 4,350 members from 27 industry clubs and 43 provincial clubs. Among the first initiatives of FTI to promote sustainable development, is the launching of the Industrial Environmental Management Program (IEM) in March 1990, under the cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). One of its major objectives was to provide technical assistance to the industries in the areas of industrial pollution prevention and control, toxic and hazardous waste management, and worker health and safety.

Since the termination of USAID funding, IEM has been integrated into the FTI's administrative system, and has been renamed as IEM Office. The office aims remain the same but concentrates on strengthening the institutional capacity of IEM so that it can provide a sustainable technical assistance program to the Thai industries. The IEM Office currently performs five main functions namely: technical assistance on cleaner production; training; waste water testing and analysis; information dissemination through its library and database; and industrial promotion through plant visits. The cleaner production activities of IEM which is currently focused on the textile and food industry sectors are partially supported by the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (DANCED). The project aims to promote cleaner technology (CT) through the conduct of environmental audits.

Among the cleaner production outreach activities of IEM under the DANCED project are the conduct of seminars on Environmental Management Systems, production of video on CT initiatives of industries, executive outreach meetings, and setting up of sector specific working groups. Training activities in the project included training on CT Audit Procedure; environmental management system training; industry specific training on production processes; and other CT related training.

Since the inception of the DANCED project in May, 1996, about 21 textile and food factories have been audited and more than 50 CT options identified. The participating companies are currently setting up a total of 6 high cost demonstration projects (4 for the textile industry and 2 for the food industry). A total of about 16 CT options are also being implemented by the participating companies as no/low-cost demonstration projects.

This poster presentation will describe the outcome of some of the demonstration projects in textile and food industries.