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Sector-Based Public Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region - Planning, Regulating, and Innovating for Sustainability

Contact: Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Associate
United States-Asia Environmental Partnership
1720 Eye St., N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: 202-835-0333, ext. 104/Fax: 202-835-0366
E-mail: bbateman@usaep.org
Internet: www.usaep.org/policy.htm

Speaker: Brenda Bateman

Abstract:

In August 1999 the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership and the Greening of Industry Network - Asia met with senior public policy makers throughout the Asia-Pacific Region to document and evaluate the role of public policy in the sustainable development of the electronics sector. The working session focused on how public policy interacts with the electronics sector in three areas: incorporates issues of sustainability into the state and national planning process; regulating environment, health, and safety by sector; encouraging innovative environmental management through public-private partnerships.

The state and national planning process blends a desire to grow target industries with a need to place environmental protection, health, and safety high on the list of national priorities. The electronics industry is the defining industry of the 20th century and its continued growth has far reaching implications for Asia-Pacific region. Sound environmental planning including waste treatment infrastructure, emergency preparedness and a sustainable water supply are crucial to the industry's continued success.

Government regulation of the industry's environment, health and safety activities typically involves a command-and-control approach to air, water, and hazardous materials. Using case studies from around the region, US-AEP will focus on the success and challenges in regulating the electronics industry.

Finally, US-AEP will analyze the growing trend in public-private partnerships. The electronics industry increasingly is developing voluntary goals to improve environmental performance through non-regulatory, collaborative work with local and national governments. This section will draw on partnership experiences from throughout the region