

Posters

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## **CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN LEBANON**

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### **Abstract**

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without the close cooperation of the Technology Triangle which refers to strategic interaction and cooperation among (a) the scientific and research community; (b) business and industry; and (c) institutions of governance, national and international. This concept is an imperative for the sustainable development of countries, such as Lebanon, where critical damage to social, environmental, and human resources has taken place. It is a necessity for the economic and technological developments, and focuses on business development and emphasizes building up the infrastructure, wealth generating capacity, and competitiveness of the country.

This paper considers only the two elements of the Technology Triangle mainly the private and the educational sectors. The educational sector included higher education and training institutions. In addition it will investigate the links with the public sectors. Three questionnaires were used to collect information. The first one addressed the industrial sector, the second one addressed the higher educational sector and the last one addressed the training sector.

Good environmental management practices do contribute to sustainability and this paper does emphasize the role of such practices on the sustainable development of the country. Therefore, a survey questionnaire was distributed to the industrial sector in Lebanon. The purpose of this questionnaire was to study the operations of Lebanese firms known to follow good environmental management practices. In addition, the information is structured in a way that other companies can follow suit and learn from current best practices.

The second and the third surveys addressed higher education and training institutions consecutively. The objective is to learn from their strengths and to build on their weaknesses. Educational institutions, with their knowledge and know how, complement

the private sector in their drive to achieve sustainability.

Results show that the investigated companies have good environmental management practices but the educational sector is not supplying the needed knowledge and know how. The private sector is more dependent on international assistance to solve most of its problems. This paper gives recommendations on enforcing best practices in the private sector and on rebuilding the education sector in order to achieve sustainability.