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Tanzania Conference to discuss Industry, Environment and Development

UNEPA’s 9th International Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP9) will be held in Arusha, Tanzania, 10-12 December 2006. It will be organised in partnership with UNIDO and hosted by the Government of Tanzania. The overall theme will be “Creating Solutions for Industry, Environment and Development”.

Sustainable Resource Management Conference

The Wuppertal Institute and the College of Europe are organising a conference on “Sustainable Resource Management, Raw Materials Security, Factor X resource productivity” in Bruges, Belgium, 6-7 December 2006. UNEP will co-organise a session on “Beyond Europe” which will identify issues and partners for the upcoming International Panel on the sustainable use of Natural Resources.

Global Youth Eco-leadership Camp builds Network

The 4th Global Youth Eco-leadership camp was held 9-12 August 2006, in YangPyoung, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea. The theme was “I, We and Earth: YouthXchange”. The event resulted in a decision to form a network, through which to exchange ideas and carry out activities in the participants’ countries.
Following on from SCP8 (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004), SCP9 aims to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Millennium Development Goals, by introducing the concept of “Human Development through the Market” (HDM) which will be further developed in the conference’s background paper.

The HDM strategy consists in inspiring businesses to find new market opportunities by developing and offering products and services addressing the needs of the poor through both environmental and social performance improvements. Many multinational companies are already taking action in this field. There remains however a potential for others to join and to find out how they can work with local suppliers and access new customers.

A UN Model Conference was organised to discuss Industry, Environment and Development. The event was organised by Consumers Korea. Its president Mrs. Kim Jai Ok explained the aims: train the economy and the environment.

Moreover, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted by UNEP’s Governing Council in February 2006 calls for the “promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, including support for cleaner production centres” and emphasises “the identification and dissemination of best practices and the fostering of entrepreneurship and partnerships”.

In this regard, the conference will feature some innovative business models and inspiring case studies; it will also identify new initiatives and explore possible partnerships between government, industry and civil society to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns at the ground level.

The specific sectors to be addressed during the conference for their significant contribution to the environmental, social and economic situation of developing countries include: energy and transport, food and agriculture, tourism, and waste.

For more information, please contact Solange Montillaud-Joyel at sc@unep.fr

The conference will shed light on the status quo and on trends in both areas. By discussing tools and response options for both policy-makers and industry, it takes a forward-looking view. Those options will include business strategies, sectoral action plans, incentive systems, and international mechanisms. The conference also seeks to discuss modelling techniques such as input-output analysis and scenario development.

The conference is co-organised with UNEP DTIE. The outcomes of one of the sessions ‘Beyond Europe’ will contribute to identifying issues and partners for the International Panel on the sustainable use of Natural Resources, which will be initiated jointly with the European Commission.

The Panel has the objective to provide advice on the increasing resource-efficient economic growth in all regions in the world, and to assist in decreasing the environmental impacts associated with economic growth (de-coupling or delinking) in a life cycle perspective.

The conference will also be utilized to launch a proposal for an information hub on sustainable resource management. A panel with representatives from different European organisations will conclude on perspectives.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Inhee Chung, at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)
- Wuppertal Institute
- College of Europe

The event was organised by Consumers Korea. Its president Mrs. Kim Jai Ok explained the aims: train future eco-leaders by raising awareness of ecology, share information and experiences, build global networks of youth eco-leaders, learn how to cooperate internationally.

The presentations included one from Mrs. Inhee Chung (UNEP) who presented the youthXchange programme. Other topics under discussion included sustainable agriculture, water, energy, the economy and the environment.

A UN Model Conference was organised during which participants from eight different countries gave a presentation on the priority areas for promoting sustainable consumption at youth level.

The summer camp is a regular annual event since 2002, supported by UNEP’s youthXchange programme and Consumers International.

For more information, please contact cacpk@consumerskorea.org
For UNEP’s YouthXchange programme please contact Mrs. Isabella Marras through sc@unep.fr

Link(s)
- youthXchange (Korea)
Sustainable Consumption and Production Approaches for Turkey in the EU Accession Process

Turkish stakeholders discussed opportunities and challenges for sustainable consumption and production during a seminar organized by the Regional Environmental Center Turkey Country Office (REC Turkey), in collaboration with UNEP, UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) and the Federation of Industrial Associations (SEDEFED). The event took place in Istanbul on 11 August 2006 and was recognized as the first official activity for the promotion of the Marrakech Process in Turkey.

Three panel discussions were held, focusing on:
- How to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns? Policy perspectives at the EU and International Level & Challenges and Opportunities for Turkey
- What role can businesses play for Sustainable Consumption and Production? Strategic concepts, management tools & initiatives
- What is the current perspective on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Turkey? Some reflections from the private sector

Representatives from the EC DG Environment, United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), Middle East Technical University, Bosphorus University, UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Automotive Manufacturers Association (OSD), Turkish Chemicals Manufacturers Association (TKSD), Procter and Gamble, Atateks Group (Morera Textile) participated in the event as guest speakers. Around 100 participants, representing leading Turkish business enterprises and organizations, attended the seminar.

In addition to the briefings about technical, institutional and policy level tools for the implementation of sustainable consumption and production at the corporate and national level, participants learnt about the recent progress in the Marrakech Process at the international level.

Participants highlighted the fact that the EU accession process and integration of contemporary approaches of sustainable development into sectoral policies will enhance current efforts in Turkey, which are predominantly limited to research in academia or small-scale individual initiatives. It was concluded that a participatory approach at the national level that would integrate the efforts of government, research and business stakeholders would also be favoured by the initiation of new international partnerships.

For more information about the seminar, please contact kerem.okumus@rec.org.tr

UNEP DTIE Division publishes first Sustainability Report

“Learning by Doing - UNEP DTIE 2004-2005 Sustainability Report” is the first sustainability report, based on the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) guidelines, by a UN office. UNEP’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) is located in Paris, Geneva, Osaka and Shiga.

UNEP DTIE’s sustainability reporting system provides information about the sustainability performance of internal operations, in other words about the performance of the production process behind its public services.

Key areas of performance addressed in the first DTIE sustainability report are the following:
- indirect economic impact (energy case study);
- official / mission travel by staff members and associated GHG emissions;
- green meetings;
- environmentally-friendly offices: materials use and office waste;
- training and career development; and
- diversity and human capital.

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Youth Camp on Sustainable Consumption in Burkina Faso

An international youth camp on the theme of consuming differently for Sustainable development was held in Burkina Faso, early this year, with participants from Benin, Niger, Togo and Burkina Faso to study the consequences and impacts of consumer choices on the environment in all its aspects.

Water is generally acknowledged as a “source of life” but it can also become a source of death. It is in addition becoming scarcer. Waste cohabits with man and causes serious diseases: paludism, malaria, cholera, diarrhea. Also it can be seen that countries in the South are turning more and more to other models of consumption. It was recommended that development policies put environmental issues at the top of the agenda, with the youth as main stakeholders.

During the workshop, the participants decided to carry out specific activities to promote the conception of consuming “locally” to help protect the environment. Some examples of the activities that were planned during the workshop include the organization of a special day to promote the consumption of rice produced locally, a public health drive, a campaign to collect waste from the river, its banks and the lakeside villages (Benin) and a project to install waste bins in schools.

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(Article translated from Benin review “ToSô Infos Bimestriel d’Informations d’Activités et d’Analyses de BC-ONG N°21”)

EMUDE projects identified innovating Consumers

A key to enabling consumers to live up to their responsibilities in sustainable consumption is to ensure that sustainable options for products and services are accessible in the marketplace. In an effort to consider how sustainable products and services could be conceptualised and delivered to consumers, the Emerging User Demands (EMUDE) programme took a bottom-up approach and started with consumers themselves.

The programme began by observing a phenomenon of social innovation: the emergence in Europe of groups of active, enterprising people inventing and putting into practice original ways of dealing with everyday problems. Such problems ranged widely from childcare and care of the elderly to getting hold of natural food; from looking after green spaces to alternative means of transport; from building new solidarity networks to the creation of new forms of housing and shared facilities and services.

The initial hypothesis within EMUDE was that these cases of social innovation presented promising signals of environmental and social sustainability. Moreover it is suggested that these signals could point a new direction for technological and market research and innovation geared towards improved sustainability.

This abstract is taken from Consumer Policy Review, Volume 16, Issue 4, July August 2006, an issue focusing on Sustainable Consumption and the roles that the different actors need to play in addressing sustainability issues. Other articles include “Mediating for Sustainable Consumption”, “Sustainable Household Consumption in Europe” and “Kyoto from the Canadian youth perspective”.

Link(s)
- Consumers International
- EMUDE Programme

EU environment ministers’ response to globalisation - increased eco-efficiency

Europe’s environment ministers believe that new forms of environmental policy are needed to meet challenges related to globalisation, and ensure that everyone around the world plays by the same rules on a level playing field. This new emphasis was outlined at an informal meeting of EU environment ministers held in the Finnish city of Turku, 14-16 July, 2006, involving ministers from 24 countries.

Finland’s Minister of the Environment Jan-Erik Enestam led a discussion about Finland’s initiative for a new generation of environmental policy, which stresses the importance of eco-efficiency in resolving global environmental problems. The environment ministers emphasised that globalisation highlights the need to use natural resources sparingly, and promote more eco-efficient consumption and production patterns. Without such developments it will be impossible to curb climate change and halt the ongoing decline in biodiversity.

The EU action plan on sustainable consumption and production will play a key role in shaping future trends. According to Enestam, one product of the action plan should be an EU eco-efficiency strategy based on targets on material and energy efficiency set through dialogues involving key actors. It is also important to promote environmentally friendly public sector purchasing policies and green technologies, while ensuring that sufficient funding is channelled into research on eco-innovations.

New forums are needed to enable countries to work together to find ways to resolve critical global environmental problems. Important objectives in this context include the establishment of a United Nations Environmental Organisation (UNEO) and a Panel on Natural Resources to operate in the same way as the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Link(s)
- Going global on eco-efficiency
Publications

Publications

Vital Signs 2006-2007
Published by Worldwatch Institute
The report tracks and analyzes 44 trends that are shaping our future, and includes graphs and charts to provide a visual comparison over time. Categories of trends include: Food, Agricultural Resources, Energy and Climate, Global Economy, Resource Economics, Environment, War and Conflict, Communications and Transportation, Population and Society, and Health and Disease.

Design for Reuse, Recycle and Remanufacture
Call for papers for a special issue of the International Journal of Environmentally Conscious Design and Manufacturing

Newsletters

“Asia Pacific Consumer” latest issue on Copyright and access to Knowledge
For more information, contact consint@ciropap.org

“Environmental Technologies Action Plan” Newsletter

ECO-Buy Newsletter
First edition of the new format is available

The latest issue of the EU Eco-label newsletter “The Flower”

Websites

“Green Choice” is a new Chinese website focussing on Sustainable Consumption.

Consumers International has launched its Spanish language website

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