

GP integrates management systems

One business challenge today is to manage activities holistically instead of adopting management systems such as ISO9001, ISO14001, and OHSAS 18001 in isolation. The integrated management systems (IMS) help organizations to develop unified, consistent objectives and a comprehensive implementation plan to optimize quality, environmental, and health and safety (QEHS) performance. Green Productivity (GP), a strategy developed by the APO for harmonizing improved productivity with environmental protection, is based on the plan, do, check, and act cycle identical to ISO9001, ISO14001, and OHSAS 18001, thus covering the QEHS aspects. GP integrates all three systems simultaneously.

To train a pool of GP experts in member countries, the APO now uses a multitiered approach. The workshop on GP and Integrated Management Systems began with a basic self-learning course through the APO e-Learning Portal and an e-learning course using the facilities of the World Bank Global Distance Learning Network in July–August 2007. It concluded with a face-to-face workshop organized in India, 7–17 January 2008, for 23 selected participants from among the 350 who took the e-learning course in 2007. One of the participants, Assistant Vice-President for Special Projects Dr. Miriam Esquejo Neccesito, Philippines Women's University, commented that, "The e-learning program was an opportunity to learn about the IMS via an innovative, cost-effective modality. The face-to-face workshop complemented the e-learning. Participants could obtain additional insights, learning, and guidance through the direct interaction."

The 23 selected participants gained practical experience to add to theory. The NPC, India, the workshop host organization, provided the latest versions of ISO9001, ISO14001, and OHSAS 18001 for group exercises. Participants studied the main system elements to integrate them using the GP approach. A comprehensive assessment of QEHS issues was made using the GP process, illustrating how to assist organizations to develop an integrated policy,



Discussing integration of current systems using the GP approach

objectives, and targets in a combined plan. "The group exercise on GP and the IMS and its presentation were particularly interesting. It created very healthy competition among the participants and gave great motivation to work hard to develop an integrated policy and plan," said Assistant Manager Ali Asghar, Heavy Mechanical Complex (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan.

The workshop confirmed that the IMS helps organizations more efficiently manage all QEHS issues, thereby minimizing incidents and reducing costs. "I am now reviewing our management system and will make a report to managers to suggest plans for improvement. I am also planning to carry out some training among our employees on the IMS and GP for application in our company," Team Leader of Quality Control Sector Luong Ngoc Thuy, Nghison Cement Corporation, Vietnam, wrote in a letter addressed to the APO, resource speakers, and other participants in the workshop. 🌀