



Comment board



Coordinator Vic Thorpe, Just Solutions Network GmbH, Switzerland.

Resource person, training course for Lead Auditors on SA8000, Bangladesh, 26 April–1 May, 2009.

“This was my first time to work in an APO project. The course was a truly delightful experience in that I met a group of motivated, intelligent, pleasant professionals. The 20 participants from 13 countries, who came to

Dhaka to discuss corporate social responsibility and the SA8000 social compliance standard, brought with them a wide range of experience that enriched our shared learning. Since they were selected from the previous e-learning course, the participants had a demonstrated personal and professional interest in the topic of ‘social quality’ in the global supply chain. The National Productivity Organization of Bangladesh arranged the field visit to the premises of the local SA8000-certified Mainetti (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd. in the Dhaka Free Trade Zone. All the participants found the practical input provided by this visit to be immensely valuable, as it was an actual demonstration of auditing techniques and workplace realities. Given the feedback from participants, the future expansion of this training scheme to include a wider view of corporate social responsibility initiatives would undoubtedly receive warm support from APO members.”

Mr. Ben Wismen, Socio-Economic & Environment Research Institute, Malaysia.

Participant, Training of Trainers in Green Productivity, Malaysia, 30 March–24 April, 2009.

“I participated in this course to broaden my knowledge of various environmental-related issues that will come in handy for my daily work. Over the four weeks of training, I gained a significant amount of knowledge concerning Green Productivity (GP), its concept, and the implementation of its tools and techniques.

The case studies were the best part of the program as they related firsthand experience in implementing GP in industry. The course was an eye-opener for me since it introduced various environmental concepts and issues such as green purchasing, the Clean Development Mechanism, and a better understanding of the Kyoto Protocol. There were some logistical difficulties, especially with the Internet connections when we stayed in a local facility for one of the four weeks of the course. However, the course was managed smoothly. I will use the skills and knowledge I gained from the course to help me give consultancy advice on government policies in Penang, as well as raise awareness of the importance of GP in the manufacturing industry in Penang. I hope to become a full-fledged consultant on GP, and this course was a big step toward achieving that.”

Director/CEO Charmarie Maelge, Responsible Tourism Partnership Sri Lanka.

Participant, international conference on Sustainable Consumption, Sustainable Production, Sustainable Future, the Philippines, March 19–21, 2009.

“The conference was a great opportunity for me to learn about the development of sustainable activities in the Asian region. I am well versed on this subject where it concerns Western and European countries, since my work involves generating markets among European and other Western tourists. I was impressed with the emphasis that countries in the Asian region placed on sustainability issues and opportunities as well as their level of advancement, for example, in CDM and carbon markets. I have been engaged in the Responsible Tourism Partnership Greening of Sri Lanka Hotels, an islandwide initiative for optimizing energy efficiency and natural resource sustainability. The knowledge I gained and the networking connections created at the conference will greatly contribute to our program. This conference was organized in parallel with the Eco-products International Fair. Both of these events were excellently managed. I could see that the APO together with its Philippine counterparts worked extremely hard to put together a panel of very high-profile speakers and ensure the smooth running of both mega events.”