



ECO-PRODUCTS DIRECTORY 2004

For Sustainable Production and Consumption

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On 2 September 2004, at the first Southeast Asian Eco-Products International Fair held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the APO launched a new landmark publication *Eco-Products Directory 2004*. The occasion was officiated by Malaysian Minister for International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, who had earlier on the same day inaugurated the eco-products fair. This publication was the work of the APO Green Productivity Advisory Committee (GPAC), a grouping of leading private-sector Japanese corporations with expertise in environmental management, which was set up in 2003 to advise and support the APO in its GP-related activities. The GPAC adopted the compiling and updating of an eco-product database as one of its core activities. The others were implementing pilot projects on greening supply chains and organizing regular eco-product exhibitions in Asia.

To compile a database on major eco-materials, eco-components, and eco-products produced in Japan with the aim of disseminating eco-friendly products in Asia and the Pacific, the GPAC commissioned a subcommittee headed by Prof. Ryoichi Yamamoto of the University of Tokyo to undertake the task. The collaboration of the Society of Non-Traditional Technology in Japan was sought. A Database Working Group comprising scientists and experts from the University of Tokyo, National Institute for Material Science, and Green Purchasing Network was set up to compile the database. *Eco-Products Directory 2004* was the fruit of their labor. More than 750 eco-materials (199), eco-components (134), and eco-products (421) are featured in the directory, which also provides their specifications and information on their suppliers. The directory also includes a comprehensive chapter on the development of eco-materials and eco-products in Japan.

Each product in the book is evaluated in terms of three categories: A) environmental load; B) environmental performance index; and C) life cycle stage. In category A, a product is evaluated for its contributions to reducing global warming, air pollution, hazardous substances, waste, and resource consumption. Category B, on the other hand, evaluates a product for its contributions to resolving the environmental problems mentioned in category A: recyclability, longevity, resource savings, higher quality, energy savings, environmental purification, and use of recycled material. Under category C, a product is evaluated for its contributions to resolving environmental problems at each of the six stages of its life cycle: material extraction; material and component production; design and material selection; product manufacture; product use, maintenance, and repair; and end-of-life disposal or recycling.

Eco-Products Directory 2004 is available from the APO at US\$35.00 per copy. A CD-ROM version at US\$5.00 is also available. Postage charges are extra.

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