The Greener Business Asia Project

Towards sustainable enterprises with greener, safer and more productive workplaces

Key Information

Objective: Building capacity to achieve greener workplaces and sustainable enterprises through worker-employer cooperation

Countries: Thailand and the Philippines

Sectors for pilot enterprise programmes: Hotels and Automotive Industries

Donor: Government of Japan

Project components

- Development and pilot testing of training and advisory services programmes for enterprises in the hotel sector and automotive industry
- Institutional capacity building and knowledge-sharing

Preliminary Outcomes

- Promoting green jobs and greener enterprises has come to be recognized as an important area of work by national constituents and prospective partners in the target countries, as exemplified by numerous requests for collaboration.

- The training and advisory packages for enterprises in the hotel sector and the automotive industry were developed and pilot tested with positive outcomes.

- Enterprises that participated in the pilot programmes achieved concrete improvements, particularly in the areas of worker-employer cooperation, resource efficiency (including energy), waste management, workplace improvements.

- First group of national trainers with sound knowledge of the Greener Business Asia (GBA) methodology was established.

Main Activities

- Sector research, 2010
- Green Jobs, Greener Business Foundation Training for ILO tripartite constituents and partners —Thailand & the Philippines, 2011
- Design of enterprise training packages for hotels (Thailand) and auto parts manufacturers (Philippines), 2011
- Pilot roll-out of the enterprise training and advisory programs in the hotel and automotive sectors —Thailand & the Philippines, 2012
- Monitoring and documentation of results and lessons learnt from the pilot enterprise programs — Thailand & the Philippines, 2012
- Green Jobs, Greener Business Plus, training and knowledge-sharing with tripartite constituents and partners —Thailand & the Philippines, 2012
- Targeted support and knowledge-sharing with specific constituents’ groups, 2012.
Greener Business Asia – The Enterprise Programmes

The Approach of the Enterprise Programmes

The Greener Business Asia (GBA) approach is based on the recognition that:

- Worker-Employer cooperation is key to effective and lasting positive changes at the enterprise level
- There are strong synergies between different areas of enterprise and workplace improvement, which call for an integrated approach that goes beyond environmental practices and also covers other issues
- Flexibility to enterprise needs and ownership of the improvement process by enterprises themselves are of prime importance for actual changes to happen and last over time

Results at Enterprise Level

While the documentation and consolidation of results is still continuing it is already possible to report some achievements from the hotel programme, including:

- Well-functioning worker-manager teams with regular meetings to identify improvement actions and review implementation
- Safer and better organized workspaces thanks to revived and trained Occupational Safety and Health committees
- Monthly energy savings of 11% thanks to small equipment changes and workers’ participation in resource conservation.
- Water and energy conservation from innovative guest engagement initiatives, with laundry expenses down by 25%.

Training and Advisory Services

The enterprise programmes are comprised of:

- A core training course that covers: joint problem-solving tools and techniques; core concepts on environmental management; workplace relations and worker-management cooperation; occupational safety and health and the 5S. The target audiences of this core training are enterprises’ worker-management teams.
- A series of elective modules on topics that include, for the hotel sector: energy efficiency, water management, waste management and green procurement, occupational health and safety, HR for service excellence. For the automotive sector the elective modules include: energy efficiency, materials management and green inputs, a healthy and climate-resilient workplace, triple bottom-line performance indicators and sustainability reporting. The target audiences of the elective sessions are workers and/or managers with relevant functions.
- In-house advisory services delivered by thematic experts to support the improvement process in enterprises.

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