



## Context

In the late 1980s, the concept of “sustainable development” launched by the Brundtland Commission marked a turning point in global development and environmental politics. Then, the international community recognized that development and environmental sustainability are interdependent and must be tackled together. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, industrialized countries reiterated their commitment by adopting Agenda 21, thereby agreeing to foster access for developing countries and economies in transition to sustainable production methods, practices and techniques.

## Strategy

After the Rio Summit, UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched pilot projects in resource-efficient and cleaner production to demonstrate preventive environmental strategies. Upon their successful completion, both partners agreed to sustain such production by establishing national capacities, known as the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), in developing countries and economies in transition. They focus on reducing the use of energy, water and other natural resources while also reducing the generation of waste and emissions, especially from small and medium-sized enterprises.

With funds from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the National Cleaner Production Centre of Viet Nam was established in 1998 and is part of the Hanoi University of Technology. By the end of 2009, the Centre had 16 employees and was active in the following industry sectors: pulp and paper, textile, food processing, seafood processing, metal finishing, building materials, chemicals and handicraft. It provided training and consultancy to businesses, governments and other organizations. To date, the Centre staff has trained 15,703 people out of which 108 experts on cleaner production, 10 Masters of Science and 200 lecturers for cleaner production courses at universities. Cleaner production methodologies and techniques have been integrated into the curriculum of 20 universities.

## Results

Reports from more than 300 companies show that, with investments of USD 4,800,000, the companies achieved annual savings of around:

- USD 9,700,000
- 63,000 MWh electricity
- 43,000 tons coal,
- 8 million m<sup>3</sup> water
- 4,700 tons chemicals

## Impact/Outlook

The cleaner production strategy is slowly growing in importance for Vietnamese industry. Since its establishment in 1998, the Centre has established its own legal status and acts as a national focal point capable of performing a catalytic role in improving the environmental performance of Vietnamese industry. The Centre staff, 16 by the end of 2009, provides assistance to businesses, ministries, chambers of commerce and international development partners. The Centre is an autonomous business entity and develops its own strategy, defines its own activities and controls its own finances in accordance with the national strategy for sustainable development, Viet Nam Agenda 21. Such centres have been established in a total of 45 countries and in 2009 UNIDO and UNEP agreed on a new joint project to expand and scale up the activities and impacts of the global network of NCPCs.

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## At a glance:

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| <b>Goal:</b>          | Cleaner production in Viet Nam   |
| <b>MDG:</b>           | 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger<br>7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability            |
| <b>Thematic area:</b> | Environment and Energy   |
| <b>Donor:</b>         | Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)  |
| <b>Partners:</b>      | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),<br>Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam |
| <b>Status:</b>        | completed (ongoing cooperation with UNIDO and third-party funding)                           |