

Corner: UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

UNEP Governing Council calls for strengthening the UNEP/SETAC partnership

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UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, 22nd Session, Nairobi, Kenya, 3–7 February 2003

UNEP 22nd Governing Council asked "to strengthen existing eco-efficiency, cleaner production and sustainable consumption programmes, such as its partnership with Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), including facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and activities to stimulate the design of sustainable products and services."

At the Global Ministerial Environment Forum speakers agreed on the critical importance of the 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems, as a major outcome of the World Summit. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Ministers of Environment from China pointed out "It had been recognized that environment and development were inseparable (..) Over the past two years, proactive practices in promoting recycling had been implemented (..) The intention had been to make the wastes from the upper streams of production become the raw materials for the lower streams, with the final aim of achieving zero emissions through integrated material flow planning. Minister Brende of Norway emphasized the importance of capacity building and the promotion of eco-efficient consumption. He noted the "special responsibility to assist developing countries in 'leap-frogging' some of the unsustainable choices that the developed countries had made" and "the importance of enabling consumers to make informed product choices through life cycle analysis, eco-labeling initiatives, and other information tools".

The Governing Council was established in 1975 and reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. 58 members of the Council are elected by the General Assembly, for four-year terms, taking into account the principle of equitable regional representation. While the Governing Council meets biannually, the Global Ministerial Environment Forum is convened annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment.

1 Definition studies for download on updated website

- Please go to our updated website: <http://www.unep.itie.org/pc/sustain/lcinitiative>;
- You can download the definition studies that are being reviewed and 2002 workshop reports;
- Send us your expression of interest to participate in the LCI, LCIA or LCM working group and be active in one task force!

2 Life Cycle Initiative events during SETAC-Europe Annual Meeting in Hamburg, 27 April – 1 May

- 28 April: International Life Cycle Panel, the initiative's board meeting;
- 29 April: Kick-off meeting for Working Groups with presentation of definition study results;
- 30 April/1 Mai: Workshop on Life Cycle Impact Assessment structure co-sponsored by US-EPA.

3 Workshops in preparation for 2003

- 5–6 June: Workshop 'Harnessing the Life Cycle Approach in Sustainable Production and Consumption in Eastern and Southern Africa' in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the Industrial Ecology Institute and co-sponsored by UNEP;
- 1 July: Kick-off workshop for the Asia/Pacific regional programme on 'Capacity Building and Dissemination' in Bali, sponsored by AIST and back to back to ISO meeting;
- 20–21 October: Workshop on 'Quality of Life Cycle Inventory Data' in Karlsruhe/Germany (see call for papers);
- End of October: Workshop on 'Sustainable Product Innovation' concentrating on experiences sharing on life cycle based eco-design, in Sweden to be organised by ABB with the European Dantes and back to back to Towards Sustainable Product Design 8 Conference;
- Second half of 2003: Workshop on 'Communication of Environmental Life-Cycle Information within an Integrated Labelling Strategy', in Sweden and co-sponsored by GEN, GEDnet and the Swedish EPA.

4 Co-sponsored conferences in 2003

The International Life Cycle Panel (ILCP), the board of the initiative, decided to co-sponsor the following conferences:

- InLCA/LCM 2003 conference in Seattle on 23–25 September, <http://www.lcacenter.org/InLCA-LCM03/>

- 4th International Conference 'Life Cycle Assessment in the Agri-food sector' on 6–8 October, http://www.lcafood.dk/lca_conf
- If you think that your conference is in line with the objectives of the initiative and you want the initiative to co-sponsor your event please contact us.

5 LC.net (Life Cycle Network)

The newsletter LC.net (Life Cycle Network) is currently under preparation. In this newsletter we will inform you about the activities of the Life Cycle Initiative and other news related to life cycle thinking. We would like to invite you to provide us with short information relevant for promoting life cycle approaches.

UNEP/SETAC Partners: UNEP/SETAC partners in the Life Cycle Initiative are AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), Japan, Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), General Motors, Government of the Netherlands, Government of Switzerland and the Government of Quebec/ CIRAIQ.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Workshop on Quality of Life Cycle Inventory Data
20–21 October 2003

Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK), Germany

Life Cycle Inventory Dataset and Database Quality:
Appropriate criteria, measurement, review
and application in practice

20 Jun 2003: Deadline for abstract submission • 20 Jul 2003: Notification of accepted proposals • 10 Sep 2003: Deadline for submission of camera-ready papers

Abstracts are submitted electronically to lci-quality@itc-zts.fzk.de and are limited to 500 words. Use plain text only. No formatting of type, paragraph, style, bullets, etc. Abstracts should have 3 to 5 keywords and must list also information on the focus of the presentation: methodology, data, assessment, IT, communication, application, integrated approach or case study.

Full papers will have to be either 4 or 6 pages in length and printed in B/W. Template will be given. Proceedings will be distributed during workshop. An overview of the workshop sessions and discussion outcomes will be made available and posted on the post-conference webpage.

Papers requiring poster format, can be presented as poster, please inquiry details at FZK.