Title of paper:
TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN A LATE INDUSTRIALISER

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Abstract

Though a late industrialiser, Nigeria is one of the few African countries that have developed appreciable institutional framework for environmental management. When compared with best practices in the advanced industrial economies, environmental management in Africa is relatively less effective in addressing the diverse environmental challenges arising from economic activities. It is generally acknowledged that an important factor limiting the impact of environmental management in Africa is the comparatively weak technological component of the environmental regulatory framework. The objective of this paper is to examine the salient features of the technological issues that policy makers in Africa need to grasp in order to harness technological opportunities for the improvement of environmental management especially in industrial manufacturing concerns. The methodology comprises review of literature on environmental regulation and technological innovation in developing countries and an in-depth firm level case study selected from the Nigerian manufacturing industry. The research findings illustrate the significant impact appropriate technological innovation can have in improving environmental performance while at the same time achieving substantial economic savings at the plant level. The study also demonstrates that an appropriate model of public-private partnership is a necessary condition for stimulating environmentally benign technological innovation in a developing country manufacturing industry. The result suggests that parent companies of affiliates of multinational enterprises can serve as an important agent of the required public-private partnership.

Keywords: environmental management, public-private partnership, technology, industry, Nigeria.