GLOBALISATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT—Efforts in Zimbabwe

Abstract

This paper is a presentation of the major results obtained during the continuous promotion of Cleaner Production Technology (CPT) in Zimbabwe, which began during the period 1999 - 2002 as a joint Danish-Zimbabwean initiative. The Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) provided the main funding, but considerable local input came from the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC), which house the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) of Zimbabwe. Part of the training of scientists was conducted by UNEP.

The National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) is currently working in a number of different industrial sectors mainly private industries. This work involves the development of mainly small to medium sized enterprises towards environmentally sustainable consumption and management using training and the CPT approach. The work also covers large enterprises.

The environmental benefits have been considerable in most cases. But some projects have as expected been more successful than others in terms of economic benefits with payback periods ranging from less than 6 months to almost 4 years. Three major benefits should be highlighted as a result of this effort;

- Conditions for the workers have improved drastically in all the enterprises we work with.
- The work raises awareness in the managers and owners’ on issues of development and environmental management.
- Industrialists are more aware of how environmental issues affect trade on the international market.

Last but not least, it is important to notice the awareness and commitment that the private industrial sector in Zimbabwe has shown towards environmental problems and activities to eliminate pollution. The economic down slope has hit a large number of enterprises during the past two years. Despite this, the interest for doing something has been growing as a result of private initiative and a general consideration for the environment among industrialists in Zimbabwe. There is and will always be a base for a balanced future industrial and environmental development in Zimbabwe.