



CLASS OF 2006:

*Industry Report Cards
on environment and
social responsibility*

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



INDUSTRY AS A PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERIES

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ISBN: 92-807-2713-3

Front cover photo: Girl flying a kite in Chowpatty Beach, Mumbai, India. Alan Meier/
Still Pictures

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Foreword

Four years after WSSD: learning by doing

When UNEP facilitated the preparation of industry sector reports for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), one thing was evident: the availability of macro-level data on a sectoral and global basis was very limited. This was related, in part, to the absence of sector-specific associations, particularly in developing country regions. This was also related to resource constraints, capacity problems and lack of a concerted effort to enforce requirements of local regulations and international agreements.

Four years later, there are some signs of hope coming from the class of 2006. The sector updates that you find in this publication show some significant steps towards getting policy, programmes and reporting systems in place. This is especially evident with respect to key global issues—notably climate change—and in high impact industries that face heavy criticism from stakeholders and public institutions.

If numbers and statistics are not available, at least new policies and programmes have been introduced in a number of instances. The first steps towards measurement and improved management are being taken. While for some business and industry organisations the presentation of collective greenhouse gas emissions may be relatively uncomplicated to produce, there are a range of other sustainability issues on which the best we could hope for at this stage is getting collective policies and action programmes in place. Not every issue can be encapsulated in simple numbers. But whether one has, for example, a collective policy with goals and a programme with objectives can be very telling. Having said this, it must be mentioned that some industry sector organisations appear to stick to old models of industrial development that have lost the track towards sustainable development.

Discussions on “Industrial Development” at the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) present the

opportunity to take stock of progress made since the WSSD commitments of 2002. It also ensures we keep our commitment to continual improvement in measuring, tracking and communicating progress on key agenda items on the global sustainable development agenda. Of key importance in the debate on Industrial Development are the calls made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for sustainable consumption and production as well as corporate environmental and social responsibility. The 30 Report Cards presented in the pages that follow provide plenty of food for thought in discussing industry action in response to these calls.

I wish to congratulate the organisations who accepted our invitation to participate in the ongoing *Industry as a Partner for Sustainable Development* process. Let me also thank governments, public and private sector institutions who supported our work over the last four years.

Our publication starts with an overview and analysis of the Report Cards, for which we thank two lead authors who worked closely with us: Paul Hohnen and Tom Rotherham of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). They have done excellent work in facilitating the Paris and New York dialogue meetings and finalising the compilation of this publication.

The publication concludes with some highlights of progress towards commitments we made in 2002, activities over the last four years by UNEP in the field of technology, industry and economics. It is a period in which we celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. We look forward to continue working with business and industry and other stakeholder partners in continuing the dialogue, coupled with action in all regions to meet the urgent challenges we face.

Monique Barbut
Director, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and
Economics (DTIE)
May 2006

