

Bazaar of Ideas

"Applying the Green Growth approach for basic service delivery and poverty reduction"

Committee on Environment and Development first session. Bangkok. 2 – 4 December 2009

Name: Factory Improvement Programme (FIP) Conserving: Environmental and labor standards Sector: Industrial production Presented by: Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Ho Chi Minh City Championed by: ILO Location: Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India

Year of introduction: 2003



Concept: FIP is designed to promote reduced environmental impact, improved labour practices and management / worker relations, and increased competitiveness of local factories – thereby creating more and better jobs for the workers affected. When initially introduced, the issues of labour relations and dialogue were largely overlooked, and compliance with environmental and labour standards were considered largely in isolation. FIP has sought to demonstrate the positive linkages between good labour and environmental practices and good management.

Other information: FIP is a multi-supplier training and assistance programme for the development of local factories' capacity in terms of environmental management, productivity and quality as well as the labour areas of workplace relations, health and safety and working conditions,. The programme involves groups of six to twelve factories for a six to nine month training and factory-level consulting / improvement programme. Short training sessions for each module are followed by factory visits and consulting in the specific needs of individual factories. Two rounds of FIP, with a total of 20 factories, have been completed in HCMC, Vietnam, with the possible expansion of the programme, under the ILO's follow-up to FIP – the Sustainable, Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) programme – currently under discussion with donors. In total the programme has worked with facilities employing around 20,000 workers in the Ho Chi Minh City area

Associated costs and benefits: FIP is based on linking improvements in working conditions and workplace relations to improvements in environmental practices and competitiveness. It targets sustainability at the enterprise level by demonstrating that good labour and environmental practices can not only <u>not</u> cost money, but actually save or make factories money. It recognizes that managers as well as workers are largely economic actors and builds on this as an opportunity to build synergies between targeted areas. Working with factories in countries like Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka, creating stronger, more viable and growing companies, the project is supportive of creating employment opportunities for the workers concerned. Due to productivity improvements and the linkage to piece rate systems, as well as gain sharing introduced in many factories, the FIP approach has been a positive one for the workers affected, often resulting in much higher incomes. As mentioned, FIP has been implemented or duplicated in a wide range of countries, with consistently positive results. It has to date been financed through a mix of donor funding and factories contributions. The project has collected higher levels of fees on a per factory basis than any on-going or previous ILO project, allowing a phased approach to full sustainability.

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