

THE MONTHLY SWITCH

A monthly newsletter published by the EEPEX Project of the Industrial Technology Institute – a project funded by the European Commission Switch Asia Programme for Sri Lanka

Welcome to the very first edition of our monthly bulletin! We hope you find this bulletin a useful source of information.

Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris urges Banks to support SMEs to SWITCH to Eco-friendly Practices

Project EEPEX hosted a stakeholder forum on 14th July at the DHPL auditorium with key stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Export Development & International Trade, Export Development Board, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, Financial Institutions, Chambers of Commerce, Industry and the EC delegation.

At the forum, Hon. Minister of Export Development & International Trade Professor G.L. Peiris urged banks to support SMEs to make the vital SWITCH to eco-friendly practices. Highlighting the relevance of Project EEPEX, he stressed "European Markets are becoming more conscious about environment and health issues and gaining access to those markets will depend on how best we can meet these standards. The Sri Lankan government will back this project." H.E. Mr. Bernard Savage, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Sri Lanka and Maldives also addressed the forum and provided the rationale for the EU support in Asia for establishing sustainable industries.



Minister Prof. Tissa Vitharana chairs Media Launch for Project EEPEX

Prof. Tissa Vitharana Honourable Minister of Science and Technology chaired a media launch event for Project EEPEX on 2nd June 2009. The event was attended by representatives from the national media and together with representatives from ITI, CCC and Megaskills.

Director/CEO of ITI, Dr. A.M. Mubarak while explaining the project, said "SWITCH - Asia Project supports sustainable production, addressing both the supply and the demand sides of an industry. On the supply side, it promotes new methods and technologies to make processes environmentally efficient. On the demand side it supports consumer trends and choices in use of goods that are eco-friendly, both of which will greatly contribute towards economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Sri Lanka, with reduced environmental impact, in line with international environmental standards."

Vital Facts

The EU SWITCH-Asia funded Project EEPEX aims to encourage Sri Lanka's export sector enterprises and their support service providers across the value chain, to adopt environmentally friendly production practices and technology. The project commenced in March 2009 and will be implemented over a period of 42 months.

The project targets industries such as Ceramic, Rubber, Plastic, Leather, Footwear, Tourism and supporting industries like construction & service stations.



Prof Vijaya Kumar - Chairman/ ITI
"The EU Switch Asia sponsored EEPEX Project aims to enhance the environmental performance of Sri Lankan Industries to conform with the requirements of the world market and improve the capacity of our industries to expand their markets abroad. The ITI as the lead partner is happy to provide leadership to the project and participate in this major initiative in keeping with ITI's mandate"



Upcoming Events Awareness programmes

- Gampaha**
20 November 2009 at Gampaha Pradeshiya Saba Auditorium at Miriswatta
- Colombo**
26 November 2009 at Central Environmental Authority Auditorium at Battaramulla
- Kandy**
04 December 2009 - Venue to be notified

EEPEX Project

Enhancing Environmental Performance of Export Sectors

EEPEX at Switch Asia Networking Event - Kuala Lumpur

The 1st SWITCH Asia Networking Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 3rd to 5th of June 2009. Project Director Mr. H.S. Premachandra, Mr. H.N. Gunadasa (Head, Environment Technology of ITI) and Dr. Channa Gunawardena (International Sustainability Expert from Megaskills) represented the project. The event was organized by the SWITCH Asia Network Facility on behalf of the European Commission. Representatives from the current 15 EU SWITCH projects in Asia, EC representatives, experts, representatives from SCP organizations and international support networks in Asia and Europe also participated. www.switch-asia.net

EEPEX hosts Awareness Programmes for the Ceramic Industry

Project EEPEX hosted its inaugural industry awareness workshop on 9th July at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI).

Attending the event were representatives from leading Ceramic companies in the country, ITI, CCC, Megaskills and stakeholders such as the EDB. The workshop created awareness amongst participants on sustainable production, the role of Project EEPEX, the benefits to industries from the project and market competitiveness issues.



Azeez M Mubarak, Director/CEO - ITI

"The ITI is pleased to be the lead partner in the EU SWITCH-Asia sponsored EEPEX project and will make every effort to reach the goals set out in terms of export growth and employment generation by promoting sustainable production with, reduced environmental impact among the target export sectors."

Dr. Channa Gunawardena, International Expert, Megaskills Research, UK

"Globalisation has brought many advantages and challenges for industries. There is substantial competition from lower cost manufacturing bases, such as China and India, which offer economies of scale. Companies exporting to export markets, like the EU, have to meet increasingly more stringent environmental and social responsibilities. The focus of Project EEPEX is to help Sri Lankan industries address their environmental issues, introduce more sustainable production practices and equip them with competitive advantages to access key export markets such as the EU."



Press Cuttings

- Daily News English 04 June 2009
- The Island English 04 June 2009
- The Island English 03 June 2009
- IT Pro Internet 03 June 2009
- Sunday Leader 07 June 2009
- Sunday Virakeseri 07 June 2009
- Internet news release 02 June 2009
- Derana Internet & Media release 08 June 2009
- newsfirst.lk (web press release) 09 June 2009
- Dinamina Sinhala 09 June 2009
- Lakbima News 14 June 2009



Project Director - EEPEX, Mr. H.S. Premachandra

"In Sri Lanka industries are faced with numerous environmental issues including court cases, difficult to meet legal requirements and limited technical support. Project EEPEX is about helping industries link economic growth with environmental sustainability and addressing environmental issues with world class technical support. Whether you are a large, medium or small industry we can help you. I hope you make use of this unique opportunity and look forward to seeing you at our project office or at one of our many project events soon."



Missions by International Experts

Project EEPEX has hosted a number of missions to Sri Lanka by international experts from Megaskills Research, UK.

Dr. Channa Gunawardena, International Long-term Expert (Information Management & Sustainability), was in Sri Lanka from 05th to 14th June, 28th June to 13th August and then again from September 6th until Mid October. UK born, Channa, has over 12 years experience in international development projects and specializes in sustainability, information management and project management. He has worked as an expert in more than 20 countries in Europe and Asia. He is working with the EEPEX Project Team to establish suitable project management systems, create an inclusive project sustainability strategy with key stakeholders and roll out information systems including websites and databases.

Dr. Miriya Samarakoon, International Medium-term Expert (Environmental Capacity Building) was in Sri Lanka from 27th August to 13th September. UK based Miriya, has many years of experience in implementing environmental management activities in UK and Asia. Miriya held workshop sessions with the Project Team on environmental information, a review of legal frameworks and procedures to make them more industry friendly, identifying benchmarking indicators, design of eco-labeling schemes and developing questionnaires for the survey.

Baseline Survey

One of the key activities during the first year of Project EEPEX was a baseline survey of 720 industries from the target sectors. The survey will enable identification of key needs amongst industries and development of action plans with project assistance for shortlisted industries.

The baseline survey commenced on 18th July, with a survey of Lanka Wallites at Meepe. The baseline is being carried out by a team of survey experts from ITI and Megaskills and will finish around February 2010. At the time of this bulletin, approximately 65 companies have been surveyed.



EEPEX in Kalutara

Project EEPEX hosted an awareness workshop for representatives from industries in Kalutara district. The event was held on 29th September 2009 at the Golden Beach Hotel.



EEPEX goes to Wayamba Province

Project EEPEX hosted an awareness workshop for representatives from industries in Kurunegala and Puttalam districts. The event was held on 27th August 2009 at the Kandyan Reach Hotel.

Meet Our Project Office Team

The permanent Project Office was established in June at ITI. It is located on the 3rd floor of the Marketing Building. The Project Office is staffed by:

- Mr. H.S. Premachandra, Project Director
- Mr. Gerry Suraweera, Industry Participation Coordinator (CCC)
- Mr. Bimal Mahagedera, Executive Industry Participation (CCC)
- Mr. Satha S. Rajanayagam, Project Administrator
- Mrs. I. Bandara, Administrative Assistant

Please drop in to discuss how Project EEPEX can help you.

Who manages Project EEPEX

The project is managed by a Project Management Committee (PMC), consisting of:

- Director/CEO-ITI - Chairman of the PMC (Dr. A.M. Mubarak)
- Project Director (Mr. H.S. Premachandra)
- Project Administrator (Mr. Satha Sagayam Rajanayagam)
- A Representative from MGS (Dr. Channa Gunawardena)
- A Representative from CCC (Mr. Gerry Suraweera)
- A Representative from IFF (Mr. Ralf Opierszinsky)

Project Partners

Lead Partner: Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka



The Industrial Technology Institute is a wholly owned institute of the Government of Sri Lanka and functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Science and Technology. It aims to be a regional centre of excellence in Scientific Industrial Research for national development, by conducting innovative R&D and provide internationally competitive technical services to accelerate industrial development for the benefit of the people of Sri Lanka.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Sri Lanka



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce is a confederation of Trade Associations, Regional and Sectoral Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bilateral Business Councils and Employer Organizations in Sri Lanka which was established 170 years ago. The CCC is considered as the premier Chamber in Sri Lanka and conducts the internationally recognized Tea and Rubber Auctions among their other activities.

Project Team Members from ITI		
Dr. A.M. Mubarak – Director/CEO - ITI & Project Advisor		
Environmental Technology Section Mr. H.N. Gunadasa, ETS Ms. Kalika Kumarsinghe Ms. Hasanthi Dissanayake Mr. Thilak Gunasekera Ms. Dushanthi Ranpatige Ms. Ramya Wijesekera Ms. Maduka Sirimevan Mr. P.V. Jayasinghe	Electrical Technology Laboratory Mr. A.S. Pannila Mr. C.M. Kalansooriya Mr. D.C. Jayaratne	Materials Technology Section Mr. J.T.S. Motha Mr. Asanka Prematilake Mr. Chintana Manorathna Mr. L.D.C. Nayanaajith
Marketing and Business Development Ms. Wathasha Hathurusinghe Mr. Deeptha Eramudugolla		Information Services Centre Ms. Suranee Samarasekera Ms. Purnima Jayasinha Ms. Charunie Samaranyake

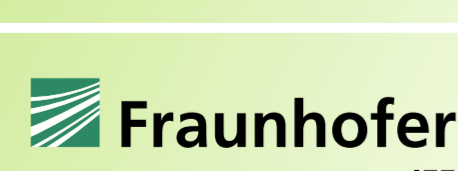


Megaskills Research (MGS), United Kingdom

Megaskills is a research & consultancy services group bringing together world-class expertise in socio-economic development, management systems and institutional strengthening. Key sectors of focus include:

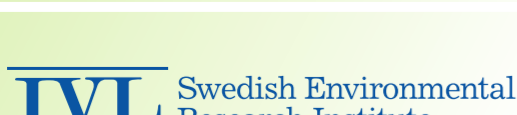
- Agriculture & Food
- Environment
- Tourism
- Education
- Governance
- Enterprise development (including trade & export)
- Health

Megaskills' focus is on building long-term relationships with clients & partners by addressing problems in a sustainable manner. Their expertise is supported by widespread experience gathered from developing situations across both Europe and Asia.



Fraunhofer Institute (IFF), Germany

The Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF is partner for clients from small and medium-sized enterprises, research and government. Together with their clients, the institute develops and optimizes solutions in the fields of logistics, virtual engineering, automation and plant engineering.



Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL), Sweden

IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute is an independent research body that has been involved in the development of solutions to environmental problems on behalf of the business sector and the community, since 1966. IVL deals with environmental issues from a holistic perspective with the aim of contributing to sustainable growth.

Become an Eco-Partner!

Key Contacts -

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