



CHANGE OF THE GEN SECRETARIAT



GEN's ExCOM and Annual meetings will be held in Ottawa next October. TERRACHOICE foresees an attendance of more than 200 people with delegates and participants at the conferences that are to take place simultaneously with the meetings. If these prospects materialize, GEN's increasing importance in the environmental field will be confirmed. Each day the number of countries that want to be a member of GEN is increasing. This year it will submit approval for the incorporation of Hungary and India so the number of GEN members will reach 23.

As the GEN by-laws have foreseen, there is the possibility of changing the Secretariat every three years. At the last ExCOM, the decision was made to start the process for the selection of the GEN Secretariat.

Two proposals were presented, one of them from TERRACHOICE (Canada) and the other one from SIS (Sweden), with both proposals being put to a vote. The members unanimously resolved that TERRACHOICE would run the GEN Secretariat for the coming next three years.

I would like to thank SIS for the excellent job and collaboration that it has provided to GEN, especially its job as Secretariat during the last years. Also, I would like to offer my congratulations to TERRACHOICE and wish it the best of success in its endeavors. The ExCOM has made the decision to extend for the next three years the functions that Japan is handling as the General Affairs Office (GAO).

An other subject that will be treated at these meetings is the possibility of opening the organization to other members that manage Ecolabelling systems distinct from the Type I labels defined by ISO in its Standard ISO 14024. Other Ecolabelling Systems are emerging around the world and it is very interesting for GEN to study the possibility of having these systems incorporated into the network.

José L. Tejera
GEN Chair
Asociación Española de
Normalización y Certificación



Wheel: See Page 3

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New Member's Report



HUNGARIAN ECO-LABELLING PROGRAM (HUNGARY)

Hungarian Eco-Labeling Organisation

1. Goals

Upon the decree of the Hungarian Government, the Ministry of Environment decided to introduce an Eco-label in 1993. The objective is to direct producers and distributors to produce and distribute environmentally sound products (goods and services) and to inform consumers of the environmental features of these the goods or services. Products that are especially environmentally friendly can be awarded the Eco-label.

An award may be given for products which:

- . Fully fulfil the same function as other products having a similar use;
- . Impose a smaller environmental burden than similar products (taking raw materials, manufacture, use and disposal into consideration) during their entire life cycle;
- . Reduce environmental burdens in other ways, thus contributing significantly to environmental conservation without greatly reducing their suitability for use and maintenance of safety.

Those excluded are:

- . Mineral raw materials,
- . Food products and beverages,
- . Pharmaceuticals and medical products,
- . Special rarities

The following participate in the eco-labelling process:

- . The Assessing Committee (AC), with the representatives of competent ministries, environmental organizations, scientific, economic, standardisation, consumer protection and health care institutions,
- . Ministry of the Environment (Ministry),
- . Hungarian Eco-labelling Organisation (HELO)

2. The decision-making process:

2.1. In the case of new proposals or applications:

- . New proposals and applications are collected by HELO;
- . For those product groups warranting closer scrutiny, experts are charged with the preparation of preliminary award criteria, and are to submit this draft to the AC;
- . Expert hearings held by the AC and decision on further examination or acceptance of the award criteria;
- . Publication of the accepted award criteria in the official journal of the Ministry;
- . After the acceptance of award criteria, experts evaluate the fulfillment of the criteria and certificates and then prepare a report;
- . The report is submitted to AC by HELO;
- . Proposal by AC to the Ministry on awarding the right to use the label on the applicant product;

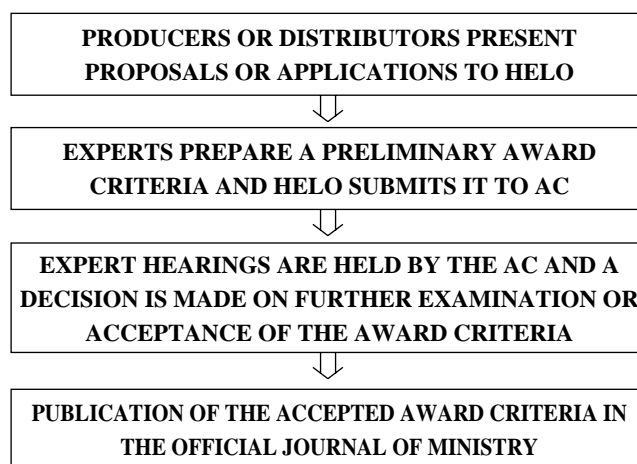
- . Signing of a contract on the use of the Eco-label between HELO and the manufacturer;
- . Publication of the decision in the official journal of the Ministry

2.2. In the case of existing award criteria:

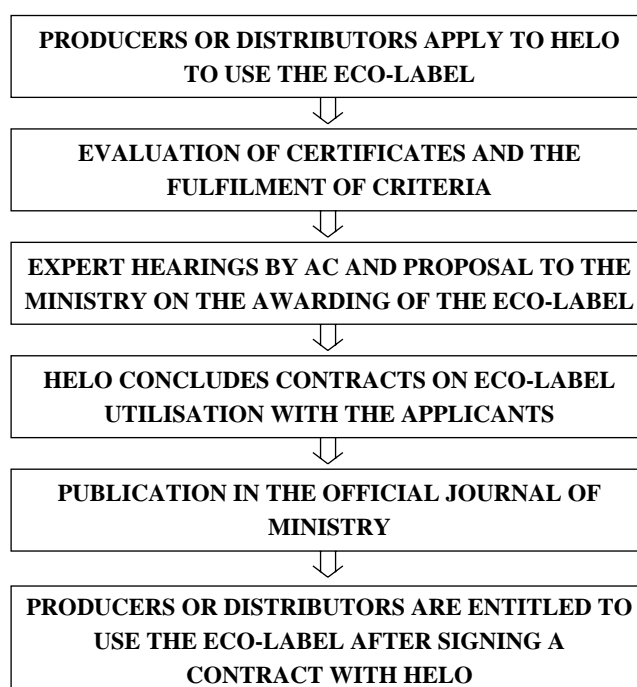
- . Proceeding with the above procedures from the expert evaluation.

3. Eco-labelling process:

3.1. Development of award criteria:



3.2. Eco-label awarding process:



4. The requirements and criteria of awarding the Eco-label:

The approach considers the product as a whole, taking into account all aspects of environmental protection, including the use of raw materials, the pre-production and production phases, as well as its distribution, utilisation and disposal.

When performing such a life cycle assessment, all environmental impacts throughout the entire life cycle of the product must be taken into consideration.

The Hungarian Eco-labelling scheme is based on a "Cradle-to-grave Approach".

The experts entrusted to carry out the assessment evaluate all the life stages of products in the actual product group in question, in order to identify the most significant stage (or stages) from an environmental point of view. The criteria include the most important environmental impacts.

Specified requirements are given for those parameters that have to be fulfilled by Eco-labeled products.

In addition to environmental requirements there are also quality and functional requirements to ensure that Eco-labeled products are as good as other products are.

5. Total number of valid criteria: 29

6. Number of certified products: 120

7. Numbers of newly developed criteria (last 6 months):

25. Woolen-flax bed clothes
26. A cleaning service for soil contaminated with mineral oil, and its oil-derivatives- and/or waste oils catalysed by enzyme compositions
27. Bed mattresses made of natural material
28. A recycling service for acidic lead-batteries (collection, works, distribution)
29. New bituminous bound road pavements and structural layers for maintenance purposes

8. Numbers of criteria now under development

30. Environmentally sound additives for engine-oils
31. Composting systems for municipal waste

9. Names of all valid criteria

1. Paper products made of waste paper
2. Gas-free deodorant hair spray, shaving foam, and air refresher
3. Asbestos-free brake and clutch lining
4. Monoethylene-free automotive anti-freeze liquid
5. Environmentally friendly packaging (general criteria)
6. Masonry building materials and elements
7. Inorganic binding materials for the construction industry with use of raw materials
8. 8-10 liter electrical water heaters
9. Rapidly biodegradable chain lubricants for chain saws
10. CFC-free low energy refrigerators and freezers
11. Monoethylene glycol-free tank level detecting fluids
12. Car-catalysts for post-assembly
13. Electronic telephone switchboards
14. Environmentally sound complex cleaning service
15. Eco-cleaning by microfibrus cleaning set
16. Closed, commercial refrigerators of medium internal temperature (0-8 °C)
17. Biodegradable hydraulic oils
18. Energy efficient radiator valves
19. Closed, pressurized glass and plastic soda bottles
20. Wooden noise barriers
21. Microfibrus cleaning material
22. Brooms made of natural raw materials
23. Plastic drain shafts
24. Convectors and related humidifiers
25. Woolen-flax bed clothes
26. Cleaning service for soil contaminated with mineral oil, and its oil-derivatives- and/or waste oils catalysed by enzyme compositions
27. Bed mattresses made of natural material
28. Recycling service for acidic lead-batteries (collection, works, distribution)
29. New bituminous bound road pavements and structural layers for maintenance purposes

Wheel

THE GEN COMMUNICATION TOOL, THE "LOGO WHEEL", READY FOR ANY PRESENTATION

GEN has commissioned a so-called "Logo Wheel", containing the logos of all GEN members within one textile poster. The purpose of this wheel is to improve communication concerning GEN and its members at conferences, fairs or other public occasions in order to inform people about the international eco-labelling movement.

The Logo Wheel game is as simple as it is attractive: One person turns the wheel, and after it stops the person names the countries of all two or three labels, or of one label in the indicated field, depending on the situation. They get a small prize if the answer is right. There is also a wide range of variations that can be applied, e.g. if it stops in the field with the GEN logo, the person can guess any one of the labels on the



entire Logo Wheel and then they may get a special prize etc.

The Logo Wheel is packed in a transportable box. The box weighs 23 kg and includes the instructions of how to assemble the Logo Wheel. It takes 20 minutes to assemble with two persons, one person to hold the parts and the other to tighten the joints. A similar logo wheel has been used in Germany 65 times with great success and without any problems.

All GEN members are invited to use this logo wheel and to order it from the previous user by contacting the GEN secretariat or GAO. Shipping costs approx. 200-250 US \$. The first application will be at the annual GEN meeting to be held in October in Ottawa, Canada.

Feature: Certification for Services

Ecolabelling for Service Systems - Perspectives Points for Discussion

Harald Neitzel

Federal Environmental Agency of Germany

1. Introduction

Two rationales may further increase the growing importance of service systems in ecolabelling.

1.1 The current tendency for the service sector in most developed industrial countries to experience growth should be taken into consideration. This includes all types of service systems including tourism, health and recreation, traffic, food and others. Products are used and environmental problems are caused by service systems as well.

1.2 The other point to be considered relates to the findings of current discussions on sustainable consumption patterns. It is advisable to handle products with priority according to their use, as well as to share or rent, and to avoid the purchase of products, if it is practicable to do so. The rationales behind these recommendations are studies and observations in which:

- products are purchased by private households and are not used most of the time, e.g. cars, gardening equipment and tools for the so-called "do-it-yourself-sector";
- LCA studies conclude that an environmental superiority exists for service systems such as washing facilities, as compared with products that are used in only one household;
- environmental innovations in terms of sustainable consumption patterns require appropriate organisational structures such as car sharing systems;
- handicraft facilities are needed for repair services.

Based on the above, the promotion of service systems is an important strategic point in the development of sustainable consumption patterns. This especially concerns those service systems that substitute the purchase of products used by only a single household.

2. Consideration of Service Systems in Ecolabelling

2.1 Products in general are more efficient and environmentally sound when used in service systems in which:

- products of high quality, performance and safety are preferred in service systems

- aspects of liability and manufacturer's responsibility are handled more carefully based on contracts between professionals
- a more efficient use of the product can be reached by professionals
- maintenance routines for extending the durability of products are easier to organize
- repair-services can be more easily used
- recycling and take-back can be easier be organized.

Environmental damage is also produced by service systems. However, there is potential for improving the environmental performance of service systems through more environmentally sound products, practices and information, as well as education. Therefore, service systems are a challenge that ecolabelling practitioners should tackle.

2.2 Ecolabelling for service systems contains the same goals and techniques as in ecolabelling for products; that is:

- consumer information relating to environmentally sound services
- environmental standards in the consumption area are to be established and to be supported
- environmental criteria for improving the environmental quality of services in line with the life cycle consideration approach of ISO 14024 are to be developed.

2.3 Types of criteria for service systems:

- selected service systems should be supported by ecolabelling in general, e.g. repair services
- criteria relating to the conditions and the organisational structure a service system offers, e.g. car sharing organisations
- criteria for products used in service systems
- criteria addressing the way services are performed
- criteria for levels of education and qualifications related to the staff of service systems
- requirements addressing consumer information within service systems
- criteria that require service systems to provide opportunities and facilities to clients so they can act in an environmentally sound manner, e.g. take-back facilities for batteries.

3. First Review of existing Service Systems in Ecolabelling Schemes

The inclusion of service systems in ecolabelling schemes is emphasized in some new and very important documents:

- the Council Regulation on a revised (European) Community Eco-Label Award Scheme clarifies that the term "product" is to be taken to include any goods and services;
- the objectives of the ISO 14024 standard relate to the communication of environmental aspects of products and services;
- the conclusions of the Green Goods V International Conference on ecolabelling state that ecolabelling is aimed at providing environmental information on products and services.

The table below explains about a few selected subjects of ecolabelling for service systems.

ECOLABELLING SCHEME	SERVICE SYSTEM	REMARKS
Austria	hotels	
Environmental Choice (Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● automobile service station ● dry cleaning services ● lithographic printing and photo-finishing services 	electricity generation is in the works
Catalonia (Spain)	camping facilities	
European Commission	tourist facilities	in discussion
"Blue Angel" (Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● car washing ● public transport ● car sharing 	further projects are in the works (see below)
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● collecting vehicles no longer in use ● collection and recovery centers for paper 	
Good Green Buy (Sweden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● electricity supplies ● transports 	
Taiwan	laundry services	

The focus of service systems attracting interest seems to be in the fields of tourism, energy, recycling, laundry services and automotive services. On the other hand, it is surprising that handicraft services are not a major focus.

Any success stories, e.g. in terms of acquired licensees, should be discussed.

4. Some German Experiences

The inclusion of the so-called "Environmental Ticket" for local transport services has improved the profile of the "Blue Angel" for environmentalists. Unlimited transferability to other persons or free bicycle transport is required. Eleven transport companies use the label. Car washing facilities have to fulfill recycling rates for wastewater as well as the separation or decomposition of pollutants contained in wash water. The label is used by the manufacturers of car washing equipment and by service stations as well.

The very new and ambitious service system of car sharing aims to reduce car traffic by one-fifth along with reducing the distance that cars travel. Approx. 30,000 people in Germany are members of car sharing organisations and there is a potential for the number to reach 2.5 million. The criteria are related to organisational structures and the quality of cars purchased and used.

Two very important projects are in the works:

- **Green electricity:** The extremely restricted and monopolised electricity market in Germany will undergo change in order to allow competition between various suppliers. This provides an opportunity for promoting environmentally sound and efficiently produced energy, e.g. from renewable resources (4 % market share in Germany). In developing and drafting the criteria there are a lot of problems to be solved in defining the scope and selectivity. There is also competition of the Blue Angel with other certification schemes.
- **Wet cleaning** is an environmentally friendly option for cleaning various types of garments that usually are dry-cleaned. Wet cleaning systems offer environmental benefits, and omit sludge removal and the re-circulation of water. The main solvent in wet cleaning systems is water. Organic solvents, like those used in dry-cleaning systems, are not used. In Germany Blue Angel work will be completed in 2000.

5. Proposals for GEN - Work

1. The ecolabelling of service systems should be adopted to fit within the scope of GEN work. GEN members should agree to some wording concerning how this may be performed in practice in accordance with GEN principles.

2. Projects for cooperation between GEN members should be identified, e.g. in the fields of "green electricity" or "hotels".

Feature Example 1

Green Seal hotel program

The lodging industry is one of the largest in the world in terms of employment and economic value. It is also one with significant environmental impacts. Each hotel is a mini-city with hundreds of people and services that range from lighting and laundering to cleaning, cooling, and feeding. Recognizing the range and impact of the hotel industry, Green Seal, the ecolabeling program in the United States, has been working with the industry for several years.

In May 1999 Green Seal issued environmental criteria for lodging properties, commonly known as hotels. The criteria are the basis of a certification program for hotels that Green Seal is implementing with Green Globe, an international association of travel companies dedicated to sustainability. The Green Seal criteria in fact constitute the annex of the criteria for the Green Globe program for hotels, which is an environmental management program.

The Green Seal criteria use the framework of the Green Globe environmental management areas and provide substantive performance criteria for each of them. The areas include waste minimization, reuse, and recycling; energy efficiency, conservation, and management; wastewater management; hazardous substances; environmental purchasing; and social and cultural development. Examples of the Green Seal criteria in these areas are a requirement to replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient lighting (as defined in the criteria); restrictions on specific chemicals in

laundry detergents; and specifications for purchase of paper products, paints, and cleaners.

The biggest challenge in developing the criteria and a certification program for the hotel industry is its obsessive focus on guest satisfaction. It is indeed a challenge to identify environmentally preferable products and practices that do not compromise the quality of the guest experience, although all green products and services should ideally function optimally. As an example, although it is environmentally preferable to use bulk dispensers for personal care products in guest bathrooms, many upper-scale hotels resist the appearance of such a "locker-room" device. Hence, the criteria provide an option of using such dispensers or demonstrating that individual amenity packages are the smallest practical size, etc.

The other major challenge in the program is to identify the most environmentally significant attributes of hotels among the myriad possibilities. That hotels are inhabited buildings and also mini-cities makes the selection of criteria daunting. The Green Globe management areas provided a useful framework for the criteria. In addition, Green Seal has several years of experience working in the hotel industry, and its earlier publication, *Greening Your Property*, also provided a blueprint for what to consider in greening a hotel's purchasing and operating practices.

Feature Example 2

Services and the Canadian Environmental Choice Program (ECP)

The ECP has been active in the area of developing criteria and certifying services for some time. The range of services currently covered are: car washes; engine coolant recycling; flooring service; organic turf management; autobody collision repair and refinishing; automobile service stations; printing; fabric cleaning; and photo processing wastewater treatment. Examples of the specific requirements in some selected service categories are as follows:

criteria for car washes

- wastewater must be passed through an interceptor and waste oil must be transported off-site by a licensed hauler for recycling or disposal at a licensed hazardous waste management facility
- a comprehensive water conservation program must be in place

- all cleaning compounds must be inherently biodegradable

criteria for flooring service

- must use removable tiles and include rotation / replacement of worn tiles
- have VOC emission rates below specified levels
- include post-consumer recycled content
- not include topically applied biological inhibitors
- use closed loop process water

criteria for printing

- VOC emission rates below specified levels
- reduction of materials going to landfill sites
- resource conservation

For more information, contact John Polak by e-mail at "jpolak@terrachoice.ca".

Electricity and the Canadian Environmental Choice Program (ECP)

Progress on criteria for Renewable, Low Impact Electricity are nearing completion in the ECP. Three meetings with a large multistakeholder group have been held, and comments received from a broad cross section of interested people and organizations. The current draft of the criteria defines renewable forms of electricity, and identifies and addresses a range of environmental requirements including those related to:

- habitat and wildlife protection,
- land use,
- environmental management,
- air emissions,
- harvest rates for biomass materials,
- compliance with regulations in effect at location of

- generating facility,
- water flows,
- fish passage,
- toxic materials including wastes,
- endangered species,
- ownership of environmental benefits,
- use of criteria statements, and
- sale of certified electricity.

It is expected that a final draft will be published for a 60 day public comment period early this fall and the criteria finalized later in the fall of 1999. For more information, contact John Polak by e-mail at "jpolak@terrachoice.ca".

Notice

- GEN Provides Technical Assistance to You -

Introduction

In line with objective of GEN, among other things, to promote and develop the ecolabelling world-wide, GEN has started Technical Assistance Program in 1996, on which members provides other members with technical assistance on administration, budget, procedure, method of creating certification criteria, promotion, public relation, and so on. At the annual meeting in 1998, GEN decided to expand the program to the potential members and organization in process of designing or developing ecolabelling programs.

Assistance Recipients :

- GEN members
- Potential GEN members (organizations already having programs)
- Organizations in process of designing or developing ecolabelling programs

Type of Assistance :

- Experts from GEN member programs work with recipient programs
- Officials from recipient programs attend GEN meetings and workshops
- GEN provides support materials

Contents of the Assistance :

[For GEN members]

- GEN provides travel funding for experts to visit recipient members (assisting program pays expert's salary, and recipient program pays in-country costs)
- GEN provides travel funding for officials to attend GEN meetings and workshops

[For Potential GEN members and Organizations Designing/Developing Programs]

- GEN coordinates provision of expert from member programs (assisting program expert visits recipient organization)
- GEN invites recipient organization to attend GEN meetings and workshops (funding is responsibility of recipient organization)

Contact :

If you are interested in receiving the assistance, do not hesitate to contact the GEN secretariat. (TEL.+1 613 247-1900, FAX.+1 613 247-2228, E-mail.ebozowsky@terrachoice.ca)

= Technical Assistance =

EXPERT'S REPORT ON TECHNICAL SERVICES

Ning Yu

Environment and Development Foundation (EDF), ROC (Taiwan)

Part A- Results of the Assignment

(1) Introduction

(a) Name and Designation of Expert

Dr. Ning Yu, President, Environment and Development Foundation

(b) Dates and Duration of the Assignment

Five days, from August 9th to 13th

(2) Details of the Assignment

(a) Content of the Assignment

The purpose of my assignment was to transfer experiences concerning Type I Ecolabelling to the Philippines. The recipient of these experiences was the Ecolabelling Program (ELP) Task Group (TG). This group, sponsored by UNDP has been working on a feasibility study for starting a national Type I program in the Philippines.

August 9

Discussion with experts from the ELP Task Group on general issues, including the detailed itinerary and arrangements of the Awareness Seminar on Aug. 10 and 11. Participants were from DAP, BPS, DTI and others.

August 10 and 11

Awareness Seminar on Product Ecolabelling and Life Cycle Analysis Topics involved:

- (i) Product Ecolabelling and its Role in Sustainable Development
- (ii) The International Standards of Product Ecolabelling
- (iii) Harmonization and Mutual Recognition of Ecolabelling Programs
- (iv) Green Mark Ecolabelling ----The Taiwan Experience
- (v) An Introduction to Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)
- (vi) The Use of LCA in Type I Ecolabelling
- (vii) Philippine Initiatives on Ecolabelling (Speaker: Ms. Lisa Antonio)
- (viii) The Presentation of Initial Recommendation for the Philippines Ecolabelling Program (Speaker: Ms. Lisa Antonio)

On the afternoon of August 11 there was a workshop and it was considered as "The Second Round-Table Meeting on Philippine Product Ecolabelling Program". Attendees broke off into three groups to discuss the following issues: consumer and industry preparedness; international trade; institutional arrangement and technical capability. A recommendation paper was produced which was a revision of the initial recommendation that resulted from "The First Round-Table Meeting on Ecolabelling" that was held on July 12, 1999 in Manila.

August 12

DAP Internal Seminar

Topics involved: Same as above, except (v) and (vi)

Attendees: Ms. Divine Clarino and four other DAP staff members.

August 13

Meeting to finalize future steps and recommendations resulting from the August 11 workshop. Participants were from DAP, DTI, BPS, UNDP, DST, DOE, Phil. Assn. of Environmental Assessors, NGO & Consumer Groups, etc.

The meeting started with introductions of the previous study carried out by the Task Group and the revised recommendation paper. Next, I gave a 30-minute presentation on Type I Ecolabelling. The meeting lasted three hours, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Note: DAP: Development Academy of the Philippines

DTI: Department of Trade and Industry

BPS: Bureau of Product Standards

DST: Department of Science and Technology

DOE: Department of Energy

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

(b) Local counterpart lecturer: Ms. Lisa Antonio, Senior Fellow, DAP

Ms. Antonio is a member of the ELP Task Group. This group started the work this year and finished a working paper a few months ago, together with the first recommendation paper in July.

Ms. Antonio also helped to organize the seminar and to make other arrangements.

(c) Types and Number of Participants

The participants at the Awareness Seminar represented industries, research institutes, governmental agencies and investment specialists (See Attachment I).

(d) The Participants' reactions

See Attachment II for details. Generally speaking, the participants were quite satisfied with the content of the seminar.

(e) Comments on the participants' reactions

The participants' reactions concerning how to improve the lecture were understandable, since the lecture was really very time-constrained. The average time spent on each of the six topics, from (i) to (vi), was about one hour and fifteen minutes. There was not enough time to give more examples or to have more two-way interaction.

(f) Limitations in Conducting the Assignment

The most serious limitation in conducting the assignment was timing.

The discussions, meetings and seminars were never conducted on time or on schedule. Almost every session was delayed by 10 to 30 minutes. An other limitation was the organizational structure of the Task Group. There were too many organizations involved and they were very much inter-related. It was quite difficult for me to understand who was doing what and who should take the lead in developing a Filipino national Type I program.

(3) Follow-up Activities

It will be of very high value if a complete set of course materials, including case studies, can be further developed. The reason is that there are still a lot of Asian Pacific countries that are interested in learning more about Type I Ecolabelling. For example, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand have either just started their programs or have a young program. Since the Type I Ecolabelling program in Taiwan is entering into its seventh year and is known as a successful and credible program internationally, I am willing to share my experience with more countries, in order to gain more environmental benefits through the promotion of ecolabelling.

(4) Appendices

(a) Detailed itinerary (See Attachment III-A & B)

(b) Organizations and persons I met

Besides the attendees at the awareness seminar, the following persons participated in the meetings during that week:

Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez, President, DAP

Mr. Edgar Callanta, Senior Vice Executive Director, DAP

Mr. Arnel Abanto, Director, DAP

Ms. Elena Cruz, Director, DAP

Ms. Divine Clarino, Project Officer, DAP

Mr. Jesus Motoomull, Director, BPS, DTI

Dr. Olivia Castillo, Chairperson, Asia Pacific Roundtable on Cleaner Production

Dr. Nuna Almanzor, Deputy Director, Ind. Tech. Development Institute

(c) Names and designations of participants

See Attachment I.

(d) Other supporting material

Revised recommendations for the Philippines Product ELP (see Attachment IV)

Part B - Evaluation and Recommendations of Measures for Improvement of the Project**(1) Evaluation of preparation by APO and NPO**

(a) Suitability of topics selected, indicating applicability of techniques to the local situation

The topics were all relevant to Type I Ecolabelling.

(b) Duration allocated for the various topics

The task could be finished within three days, if every meeting and discussion was more carefully arranged.

(c) Lead time for planning and preparing materials

Not enough. I was told to go ahead with the assignment in the middle of July and the topics were decided on July 20 (See Attachment III-B, E-mail correspondence between Ms. Clarino and myself). It left me with only one week to prepare the lecture material and to send them to Ms. Clarino at DAP.

(2) Evaluation of implementation by NPO

(a) Assessment of implementing NPO

The Filipino NPO was responsible for picking me up and taking me back to the airport. Other arrangements were carried out by DAP.

(b) Performances of counterpart lecturers

Very good. They are very knowledgeable about the topics.

(c) Participation by those attending

Also Very good. The participants at the Awareness Seminar were very interested in the topic. They also raised many relevant questions during the course.

(d) Training materials and equipment

Since there was an e-mail transmission problem before the Seminar, my teaching materials (in electronic format) did not arrive at the DAP office in time. The training materials were hurriedly reproduced. Therefore, both the quality and the arrangement of these materials were not perfect.

The equipment at the seminar was adequate.

(e) Physical arrangements

The hotel accommodations were perfect. Local transportation was also adequately provided.

(3) Recommendations

I believe that the assignment was satisfactorily completed. Actually, a similar type of technical service may be needed by other Asian Pacific countries, since most of them are either implementing or considering starting a Type I Ecolabelling program.

News from Members



The Environmental Choice Program (Canada)

TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc.

Canada's Environmental Choice[™] Program (ECP) determines and promotes higher standards of environmental performance against which products and services can be assessed. Manufacturers and suppliers of environmentally preferable products and services are encouraged to participate in the ECP to and have their products and services certified by the Program. Certification entitles a company to incorporate the EcoLogoM in their advertising and promotional efforts. Environment Canada's official mark of environmental leadership, the EcoLogoM; three doves, intertwined to form a maple leaf, represent consumers, industry and government improving Canada's environment together. To date, more than 9000 products, services and technologies have been certified by the Program.

Since August 1995, TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc. has been licensed by Environment Canada to manage, market and promote the Program, oversee the development of certification criteria, certify products and services against the criteria, and license the providers of those products and services.

A company may have its product or service certified one of the following ways: the product or service meets or exceeds the environmental criteria outlined in ECP guidelines; or, if no criteria exists for the product or service type, a panel of experts convened by the ECP (Panel Review Process) determines that a specific product or service has significantly less adverse environmental impacts than competing products or services.

Guideline criteria are developed in cooperation with industry, environmental groups, consumer groups and government. The criteria are intended to encourage and recognize reduced environmental impacts, and outline the environmental and performance characteristics that product or service must meet to be certified. The criteria are designed to be challenging, yet feasible. For each guideline, a Committee composed of relevant stakeholder groups is established and tasked to ensure that:

- all relevant technical issues are addressed;
- the scientific validity of the criteria is maintained; and
- the economic feasibility of the criteria is taken into

account.

The guideline development process involves the following four major steps:

- Research is conducted into the product's or service's life-cycle to outline environmental, technical, market and economic considerations associated with the product category;
- A draft guideline, containing criteria addressing the environmental issues identified in the research, is developed;
- A four to eight week public review of the draft is announced in the Canada Gazette (the Government of Canada's official announcement publication) and the draft is distributed directly to stakeholders. During the review period, all comments submitted to the ECP are considered and the criteria are revised accordingly.

Once completed and government acceptance received, the final guideline is published and announced in the Canada Gazette.

ECP guidelines may be revised at any time if significant technical or market developments occur which justify revising the criteria. Nevertheless, guidelines are reviewed every three years to ensure their continued relevance and stringency, and may be reconfirmed, revised or revoked. The revision process includes consultation with licensed companies and other interested parties.

Companies seeking ECP certification for products or services for which a guideline has not been developed may receive consideration under the panel review process. Scientific rigor for the establishment of environmental and performance criteria is assured by an independent panel. The panel, meeting quarterly, sets the criteria based on documentation submitted by the applicants, and supporting market and environmental research. If a similar product has been certified previously, an applicant's product must meet the established or equivalent criteria.

The ECP currently has 48 guidelines and 67 panel review

criteria, and over 9000 certified products and services. New panel criteria include: Computer Components; Indirect-Fired Hot Water Storage Tanks; Gas Heaters; Vented Gas Fireplaces; Commercial Modular Carpet; Upholstery Services; Drain Cleaner-Biological; Apparatus for Solid Waste Recycling & Conversion; Industrial Lubricants: Vegetable Oil Based; Bamboo Flooring Products; Shade and Organically Grown Coffee; Energy Efficient Harmonic Cancellation Transformers; and, Neoprene Latex Roofing System.

The ECP is currently finalizing a guideline for Renewable Low Impact Electricity. Electricity from renewable resources such as wind, hydraulic (typically run-of-the-river), solar and others will be eligible to apply for certification.

TerraChoice to Host the 1999 GEN Conference

October 17, 1999 - October 19, 1999

Delta Ottawa Hotel

At the request of the Global EcoLabelling Network (GEN),

TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc. prepares to organize and host the GEN's Annual and Executive Committee meetings this fall. In fact, TerraChoice will be hosting the GEN's first ever international conference under the theme "Products, Services and Climate Change". This important conference will make the link between environmentally responsible products and services such as yours and the reduction of greenhouse gases and CO₂ emissions.

Some 200 international delegates are expected to attend and will participate in both plenary and breakout sessions. Topics include: Product Design and Manufacturing; Transportation; Services; Green Electricity; Green Product/Ecolabelling Marketing; Trade & Environment - ISO 14000; and, Greener Procurement.



German Blue Angel Scheme (Germany)

Federal Environmental Agency

The "Jury Umweltzeichen" adopted five new product categories in its recent meeting in May 1999:

- washing machines (RAL-UZ 96)
- dish washers (RAL-UZ 97)
- laundry dryers (RAL-UZ 98)
- de-icing agents for airports (RAL-UZ 99)
- car sharing facilities (RAL-UZ 100).

All these product categories are now ready for application by interested companies and for certification by the competent German body RAL. The official documents can be requested from RAL (e-mail: ral-institut@t-online.de) or from the Federal Environmental Agency (jutta.kirchner@uba.de).

Household equipment might possibly be developed into a new focus in the German "Blue Angel" scheme, in which consumers want to be well informed about their environmental performance. 93% of German households own a washing machine and 2.6 million washing machines are sold annually. Most of them are substitutes for old

products. The criteria are addressing low energy and low water consumption as well as low-noise levels. Included are requirements for addressing "recyclability" and take-back duties as well.

The brand new service, "car sharing facilities" is the one hundredth criteria document for the "Blue Angel". Car sharing opens the potential for key reductions to environmental impacts that are caused by the traffic sector. Car sharing participants will use automobiles three times less than normal car users do because a lot of trips (most unnecessary) will be substituted by more environmentally sound traffic systems or will be avoided all together. The criteria are related to requirements for the cars as well as to the conditions of this service system. At present there are approx. 30,000 car-sharing participants in Germany, with a potential of 2.5 million participants being assessed for the future.

The "Blue Angel" for de-icing agents for airports provides professional purchasers with technical criteria and certified products so that they can meet green procurement targets.



Eco Mark (Japan)

Japan Environment Association (JEA)

Total number of valid criteria: 70, as of June 30

Number of certified products: 3177, as of June 30

Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 months): 2 (Revised)

Number of criteria currently under development: 2 (Newly Developing) , 2 (Under Revision)

1. Introduction to the Revision of the General Procedures for the Eco Mark Program

The ISO 14024 for Type 1 Environmental Labeling that the Eco Mark Program should follow was published on April 1, 1999.

To ensure more proper and effective operation of the program according to ISO 14024, the Eco Mark Promotion Committee (Chaired by Akio Morishima, Professor of Sophia University) deliberated on revision of the General Procedures for the Eco Mark Program at its 24th meeting, and they decided to go ahead and make the revision (revised on May 1, 1999).

More specifically, it has been decided to discontinue "the Eco Mark Promotion Committee" and "the Eco Mark Expert Committee" as well as to reorganize "the Eco Mark Steering Committee", "the Eco Mark Committee for establishing Category and Criteria", "the Eco Mark Committee for Product Certification", and other organizations.

2. Establishment of Criteria for Eco Mark Certification for Revised Product Categories

Most of our activity is now devoted to revising present categories into the new form. The Eco Mark Committee for establishing Category and Criteria established two revised product categories as shown below in August 19, 1999. The procedures in the Eco Mark program and the development of the certification criteria are carried out in accordance with those of ISO standards. Categories revised during the last 6 months are as follows;

(No.115) Wooden Products Using Waste Wood^ÅThinned-out wood, Small-diameter logs, etc.

(No.116) Water-Saving Equipment

These categories were developed by revising the old categories; No.12, 28, 50 and 60 and the old ones were abolished.

New categories under development are "Copiers" and "Personal Computers". Other ones include categories in revision such as "Plastic Products that Use Recycled Materials" and "Returnable Containers". The revision of the remaining 52 categories will be commenced within a couple of years.



Korea Environment Labelling Program (Korea)

Korea Environment Labelling Association (KELA)

Total number of valid criteria: 49 as of August 31, 1999

Number of certified products: 133 as of August 31, 1999

Newly developed criteria (last 6 months): Laser Printers, Facsimile Machines, Personal Computers, Computer Monitors, Televisions, VCRs, Hot & Cold Water Dispensers, Magnetic Ballasts for Fluorescent Lamps, Serial Printed Matter, Wooden Tables & Desks for the Office, Wooden Wall cabinets & Bookcases for the Office, Imitation Jewelry, Automotive Tires, Gasoline Engine Oil, Automotive Engine Coolant, Solvent born Paints, Brass Ingots and Castings.

Criteria under development: None

- In July of 1999, KELA published a catalogue of certified products and released it to the government and their various branches, as well as NGOs for the green procurement policy.

- We plan to develop new criteria such as dishwashing

detergent, detergent for dishwashers, consumer batteries, diesel engine oil, dishwashers, vending machines, grease, and others.

- The Minister of the Environment has been amending the law on the Environmental-labelling program.



Environmental Choice New Zealand (New Zealand)

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

Total number of valid criteria: 17

Number of certified products: 93

Newly developed criteria (last 6 months): Printing Inks

Criteria under development: Printing Cleaning Agents

Printers and print purchasers can now reduce the environmental impacts of their business and printed products. This follows the launch of a new environmental labelling specification for printing inks by Environmental Choice New Zealand.

"This is great news for printers and consumers as the new product specification not only recognises the genuine moves made by manufacturers and distributors in reducing the environmental impacts of their products but will also enable consumers to specify and promote the use of Environmental Choice labelled inks on their printed

products", says Melissa Arseneault, manager of Environmental Choice New Zealand.

A number of companies have expressed interest in the new printing ink specification and we anticipate that Environmental Choice labelled printing inks will soon be available.

Visit our web site for further information and the latest copy of our newsletter 'The Choice' at www.ianz.govt.nz or email Melissa Arseneault at marseneault@ianz.govt.nz



Green Mark Program (ROC(Taiwan))

Environment and Development Foundation (EDF)

Total number of valid criteria: 53

Number of certified products: 721

Newly developed criteria (last 6 months): Outdoor Gas Instant Water Heater

Household Microwave Ovens

Shampoo

Criteria now under development: Household Detergents, Oil Products

A. From July 1, the Green Mark Program will enter into its seventh year. The work content of the forthcoming 18-month project includes: (a) formulation of at least twelve new product criteria and revisions to existing criteria, (b) certification of at least 200 products, (c) promotion of the Governmental Green Procurement Law, (d) development of one common product criteria together with TerraChoice of Canada and the introduction of ecolabelling for service industries, (e) publication of the Green Mark Newsletter and teaching material for green procurement (f) seeking mutual

recognition with other programs in the world.

B. EDF is seeking accreditation for its Green Mark Ecolabelling Program from the United Kingdom Accreditation Services (UKAS). Hopefully the accreditation will go through by the end of this year.

C. Technical Assistant to the Philippines

The writer was invited by the Development Academy of the Philippines in the second week of August to help start the national Type I Ecolabelling program in that country.



Good Environmental Choice (Sweden)

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SNCC)

The Good Environmental Choice label -- a tool for a better environment

The Good Environmental Choice label is one of the most important tools the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has for dealing with environmental problems. When the criteria for household chemicals were laid down, the goal was clear: Away with useless ingredients like optical brighteners and fillers, and let's replace specific substances like chlorinated solvents and surfactant LAS with less environmentally hazardous alternatives. After ten years, we have achieved our goals.

It was no accident that laundry detergents were the first product group that the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) started working with. In 1988 about 100,000 tons of household chemicals were sold for the purpose of washing clothes and dishes, cleaning various other items and as ingredients in soap and shampoo. Eight years later the amount had decreased to 85,000 tons, primarily because eco-labelling had created a demand for more concentrated products. Of all household chemicals, laundry detergents represent 50% of the annual consumption; however, when one excludes water content, this figure will rise to 70%!

In 1988 the SSNC commenced helping consumers with environmental awareness in their choices of the right household chemicals. We observed that some of the chemicals that were hazardous to the environment could be replaced with more suitable alternatives, and a variety of substances could even be excluded completely. Now, ten years later, we have analyzed the results. We find that what was once deemed as an unrealistic dream, has now become a decisive part of real life.

In 1996, 60% of the chemical ingredients in soap, shampoo, detergents and cleaners that had been used in 1988 had changed. The remaining 40% were, on the whole, those approved by the Good Environmental Choice. The 38,000 tons subjected to change had been replaced by 29,000 tons, i.e. 9,000 tons could be entirely excluded. Furthermore, 7,000 tons of water had disappeared. The chemicals substituted for the hazardous substances were all Good Environmental Choice-approved; which means that chemicals that pose fewer environmental risks and that are more biodegradable end up in nature and in sewage treatment works.

World Champions in Eco-labelling

Around the world, there are various Eco-labels for household chemicals. However, the impact of eco-labelling in Sweden is internationally unique. The SSNC's cooperation with the retailers of everyday products has been important. The role of the latter as large purchasers gives them leverage in demanding eco-labelling for more and more products from their own suppliers. Furthermore, the sale of Good Environmental Choice-products has expanded from sales in a limited number of health food stores to every grocers and supermarkets throughout the country. Thus, it has become easy for everyone to buy eco-labelled products.

In 1997 every other detergent package or bottle of household cleaner carried the Good Environmental Choice-label. 40% carried the Nordic Swan Eco-label. On the average each household purchased 18 Good Environmental Choice products. In total, more than 90% of laundry detergents and 75% of household cleaning agents were eco-labelled.

CONCLUSION

With the Good Environmental Choice label as a tool, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has demonstrated that acceptable products can be manufactured without environmentally harmful substances. As long as Swedish legislature does not restrict the use of these substances by law, the Good Environmental Choice- concept will remain a decisive part of reality.

Susanne Hagenfors

Project coordinator - Good Environmental Choice

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Reports: "Changes in household detergents", A statistical comparison between 1988 and 1996. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation 1999.

"What effect has the eco-labelling of household detergents had on sewage treatment plants". Beckerus&Rosander HB for Kemi & Miljö AB.

"Eco-evaluation of the 'Good Environmental Choice' -- label on household chemicals", SCANDIACONSULT SVERIGE AB 1999.



Green Seal (USA)

Green Seal Inc.

Number of criteria: 37

Number of certified products: 275

Newly developed criteria: Lodging Properties (Hotels); Degreasing Solvents

Criteria under development: Industrial and Institutional Cleaners; Adhesives; Fast-Food Packaging

Our Global Issues Initiative has begun with a project examining the linkage between biodiversity loss and products and services. The purpose is to focus on major environmental problems as a framework for ecolabeling, so that it addresses the most significant issues. The approach allows us to set priorities among those products and services

that have the most impact on the environment through biodiversity loss, global warming, pervasive toxic pollution, etc. We are attempting to make similar linkages with respect to global warming through our partnership with the Earth Day Network and Climate Neutral Network.



European Union Eco-label Award Scheme

European Commission

Total number of valid criteria: 15

Number of certified products: 55 licences granted to 40 manufacturers and 2 importers for 240 products (August 1999)

Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 months): 2 new product groups + 4 revisions

Number of criteria now under development: 9

So far this year (1999), criteria have been finalised for four new product groups, namely textiles, footwear, dishwashing detergents and portable computers, and have been or are being revised for laundry detergents, light bulbs, refrigerators, washing machines and copying paper.

Work is starting, or is ongoing in sanitary cleaning products, hard-surface cleaners, hand dishwashing

detergents, tourist accommodations, furniture, tyres, TVs, vacuum cleaners, and ceramic tiles.

Please consult the EU Eco-label web-site at <http://eropa.eu.int/comm/dgll/ecolabel/index.htm> for up-to-date information.



News from GEN Secretariat

NEW GEN SECRETARIAT -- TERRACHOICE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC., CANADA

As of September 1, 1999, TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc. has assumed responsibility for providing Secretariat services to the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) and its membership. Specifically, Mr. Evan Bozowsky has been selected to lead efforts with support from other TerraChoice personnel.

Mr. Bozowsky has over fifteen years experience in the environmental labelling, management and policy, and program management areas. Most recently, he has performed a lead consulting role on various international and domestic projects. Notably, he has directed the preparation of the "GEN Guide to Ecolabelling", a "Mexican Ecolabelling Program Feasibility Study", and an "Evaluation Study of the Indian Ecolabelling Program". He has also collaborated with other TerraChoice and ROC/Taiwanese Green Mark officials in the development, production and presentation of "Advisory Reports and Presentations on Ecolabelling Delivery Strategies and Mutual Recognition Models".

Since 1992, Mr. Bozowsky has been involved in a variety of management and delivery functions relating to the Canadian Environmental Choice[™] Program (ECP), notably in the area of strategic and operational policy development and review. As the former ECP Operations Manager, he prepared business plans, represented the ECP in government matters, managed program administrative functions, and played a key role in planning, negotiating and directing ECP delivery privatization.

At the international level, Mr. Bozowsky has served as a Canadian representative and technical expert on environmental labelling at ISO and UNEP/UNCTAD meetings. As an ECP representative, he has also participated in the design, development, implementation and advancement of the GEN. Domestically, he has served as an environmental labelling expert on government and industry advisory committees addressing trade/environment interface issues.

The upcoming GEN Annual Meeting and Conference will provide an opportunity for the new GEN Secretariat and the GEN membership to get [re-]acquainted. However, the membership should not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at any time with issues, inquiries or suggestions. The GEN Secretariat can be contacted at the following coordinates:

telephone: 1 - 613 - 247 - 1900
 facsimile: 1 - 613 - 247 - 2228
 email: gensecretariat@terrachoice.ca

regular mail address: GEN Secretariat
 c/o TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc.
 2781 Lancaster Road, Suite 400
 Ottawa, ON Canada K1B 1A7



"I am honoured to have been selected to take the lead role in providing GEN Secretariat services. I will strive to continue the quality and comprehensiveness of services which SIS officials have provided.

As ecolabelling efforts increase in levels, influence and impacts around the world, it is both challenging and exciting to be so directly and significantly involved in GEN activities. The GEN can and must serve a significant and positive international role in this regard."

From GEN General Affairs Office

About 2,500 - 4,000 pages of our website are viewed every month.

We are updating the "Product Category List of Ecolabelling Programs Worldwide" on the website. Hopefully, it will be useful and helpful for all organizations and individuals who are concerned with ecolabelling.

Hiroyuki Sato
 GEN General Affairs Office



GEN Home Page Address: <http://www.gen.gr.jp>

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