

LEAD UPDATE

January 11, 2010

PSO and LEAD join hands to promote green office environs

PSO hosted a workshop on ecological footprint calculator at the PSO House, Karachi

January 7, 2010

Background

In response to the growing threat of global warming and ecological degradation, LEAD Pakistan has started a project titled Greening Organizations to Reduce Ecological Footprints. The project supported by the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) intends to initiate eco-friendly and sustainable, resource conserving trends among the corporate and private sector organizations in Pakistan.

This projects is a part of LEAD's broader, interdisciplinary Climate Change Program under which LEAD is currently involved in various interventions at the international, national and local levels. The Program builds upon our policy research and capacity development expertise and the strength of our partnerships with the government, industry and civil society.

This innovative resource management project has successfully customized an ecological footprint assessment tool for the organisations which can be used to measure the environmental impact of their office operations, and support the development of green office strategies.

Following successful application of this tool at its head office in Islamabad, LEAD held workshops with various stakeholders from government, media, industry, academia and civil society to raise awareness on the need for climate change mitigation and resource conservation. These workshops were planned in three major cities of the country, i.e. Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

The third and the final workshop in Karachi was organized in collaboration with PSO at the PSO House.



Proceedings

The workshop was attended by distinguished participants from prestigious organizations including Pakistan State Oil (PSO), ENGRO, Baden Aniline and Soda Factory (BASF), Allied Bank, WWF, Indus Motors, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL), IUCN, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Sindh, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Exponent Engineers, Javed Akbar Associates, Getz Pharma, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) and Participatory Development Initiatives (PDI)

EF calculator is a resource accounting tool that measures ecological footprint and highlights the reality of ecological scarcity; the accurate EF results help in making decisions towards sustainability and bringing human demand within the means of the planet.

Karachi.

The overall agenda of the workshop focused on the concept of Ecological Footprint, orientation to LEAD Ecological Footprint Office Calculator, strategies to conserve & manage the available resources, and designing of Green Action Plans to mitigate climate change effects.

Mr. Yaqoob Sattar, Executive Director, Finance and IT, PSO welcomed the participants and thanked LEAD for selecting PSO for the workshop.

In his welcome note, he said that PSO is among the leading oil companies in Pakistan and keen on promoting environment friendly initiatives. He also said, 'conserving natural resources and watching our daily consumption patterns is the need of the time and seeing that this initiative is very



A speaker at the workshop



Participants at the workshop

GOVERNANCE

CSR

ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATION

HEALTH

timely.'

Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, the CEO, LEAD Pakistan, while thanking Mr. Yaqoob Sattar and the PSO, remarked that LEAD's Ecological Footprint Calculator was designed to help us evaluate whether or not our lifestyles are sustainable, and how this nationally customized tool can contribute to optimizing utilization of our natural reserves and reducing environmental degradation.

While talking about climate change, he said, 'it is the most serious challenge facing our nation and it means water scarcity, enhanced vulnerability, food shortage resulting in disasters and possible internal and external migrations, which would affect millions and millions of people.' He said that the corporate sector can play a vital role in that. He also elaborated with various examples how simple behavioral and lifestyle changes can contribute towards the change we are aiming at.

A documentary based on LEAD's EF case study was screened at the workshop. The documentary served as a visual presentation on the development, application and utility of the EF technology at LEAD House in Islamabad and the ecological and financial benefits realized from greening office practices at LEAD. It demonstrated how successfully LEAD Pakistan saved its resources through energy conservation in its routine office practices. Simple initiatives like car pooling, electricity saving and paper saving that helped bringing down the footprint were especially highlighted in the documentary.

Mr. Rizwan-ul-Haq, Coordinator LEAD Pakistan and the resource person for this project, elaborated the concept of EF and its linkages with development. He said that 'following the unequivocal evidence of changing climate, climate change mitigation has become a priority global environmental and developmental concern and there is a dire need to drastically reduce the greenhouse gases emissions.

He further stated that 'this is largely due to the absence of awareness among the stakeholders, and a continuing misconception in the society that

large scale industrial concerns are solely responsible for the environmental pollution that people fail to link their lifestyles and consumptions patterns of entities other than industries & factories with the ecological and climatic aberrations.'

'EF calculator has a number of functions and roles. Depending on how detailed and accurate an estimation a client wants, one can spend anything between ten minutes and several days calculating the Ecological Footprints', he said.

Explaining the utility of this calculator he said that a customized calculator ensures availability of a cutting edge and innovative resource management technology in Pakistan. It also inspires and enables organizations to take a positive lead in environmental protection and climate change mitigation. This also provides a break-down of the impacts resulting from individual office functions. Accurate EF results can help in making decisions towards environmental sustainability and bringing human demand within the means of the planet.

Following Mr. Haq's session, Ms. Dina Khan, Coordinator LEAD's Climate Action Program, presented an 'Organization Greening Model' to the audience charting different stages involved in developing, implementing and monitoring green processes at a workplace, and the role of the EF calculator within this cycle. She presented sample Action Plans that practically demonstrated the design and development of strategies for greening office functions.

In order to simplify the model practices, the participants were provided with action planning formats on which they were requested to draw up two simple green strategies for their own offices and share for review and mutual learning.

Conclusion

At the end of the workshop, the participants were able to know that without compromising organizational efficiency they can conserve and optimize resources within the means of their organization. And with the help of

a customised calculator they can quantify the ecological damage by their office practices and can plan remedial actions.

List of Participants:

- Mr. Ahmad Nadeem, EHS Manager, GSK
- Mr. Ahsan Khan, AM, Technology Service & Safety Getz Pharma
- Mr. Akbar Musharraf, MHSEQ, PRL
- Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO, LEAD Pakistan
- Mr. Asim Abro, Projects Coordinator, LEAD Pakistan
- Mr. Altaf Hussain, Manager Programme Development, PDI Karachi
- Mr. Bilal Haleem, Manager R&D, Clariant Pakistan
- Mr. Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRM Coordinator, IUCNP
- Mr. Hashim Raza, Executive-HSE, PSO
- Ms. Hina Lotia, G M, LEAD Pakistan
- Mr. Javed Akbar, CEO, Javed Akbar Associates
- Mr. Karam Ullah, HSE Executive, SO
- Mr. Khalid Mir, UP, ENGRO
- Ms. Meherunissa Hamid, Programme Management Officer, WWF
- Mr. Mohammad Mubeen, EHS Manager, GSK
- Mr. Mustafa Ali Khan, M(Eri),PRL
- Mr. M. I Salahuddin, Manager Environment, IPGDL
- Mr. Naseer Memon, Provincial Coordinator, LEAD Pakistan
- Mr. Nasir Ali, Programme Coordinator, WWF
- Ms. Rehana Batool, Assistant Manager, TCF
- Mr. Salman Ali, Retail Executive, City FM 89
- Mr. Salman Kazmi, Marketing Executive, City FM 89
- Mr. Shahid Lutfi, Director, Exponent Engineers
- Ms. Shahana Kankas, GM, BASF
- Mr. Sheheryar Piracha, Manager Copp. PCNG, Indus Motor
- Ms. Sonila A. Wassay, Assistant Director, EPA, Sindh
- Mr. Syed Asif Masood, Manager ESH, Clariant Pakistan
- Mr. Tanveer Hussain, Group Head Engineers, Allied Bank
- Mr. Syed Danish Ali, D.E. HSE, PPL
- Mr. Tauseef Khan, Manager HSE, PPL
- Mr. Youshey Zakinddin, Project Manager, AKPBS-P
- Ms. Zofeen J. Ebrahim, Journalist

Resource Persons

- Mr. Rizwan Ul Haq, Coordinator, LEAD Pakistan
- Ms. Dina Khan, Coordinator, LEAD Pakistan