



LCM: Linking emerging and more developed economies

Primarily and ultimately, sustainability requires progress in consumption and production patterns, compelling individuals to actively participate with better information and wiser decisions in the ever-growing world of commercial exchange of goods and services. Life Cycle Thinking and Life Cycle Management (LCM) are concepts that adequately implemented should provide the necessary linkage to the systemic vision sustainability requires: binding individuals, businesses, governments and countries all around the globe as policies and product and services exchanges are made.

Nowadays in the context of products' life cycle boundaries, the global or regional context may have as much bearing as the local one. On the other hand, the benefits of one, be it an individual, an organization, a country or even a region, are acceptable and otherwise challenged if such benefits are not at the expense of others.

Also, current systems of production and exchange are more and more globally encompassing in terms of requirements (i.e. performance reporting, certification and accreditation of products, services and processes) and governments as well as NGO's are demanding of business worldwide to comply with new policies and legislation (i.e PP, IPP, Green Procurement, commercial treaties) that affect commerce and thus transcend political boundaries.

However, it is a fact that business in emerging economies have not implemented, to the scale they have in more developed countries, LCM systems and there is a great lack in terms of data, capacity building and application tools in emerging economies. This lack also casts a big question mark as to the LCM application achieved to date worldwide.

The discussion intends to establish first, the shortcomings of any LCM system that neglects global perspective, second, the link that LCM should provide between emerging and more developed economies as it encompasses the production, supply and value chain of exchange of products worldwide and lastly, the ways to best achieve integration of more sustainable economic units in terms of the value added that business, academy, government and NGO's may provide to consolidate better LC concepts and its application.

We look forward to your contribution in this discussion and to work with you towards a better application of LCM in emerging and more mature economies.

Instructions for submission of papers will be made available in August 2006 on www.lcm2007.org. Further information regarding the session is available from:

Ana Quirós
aquiros@ecoglobala.com

Gil Andrei da Silva
gil.silva@poli.usp.br