

# Dow Partners With China's State Environmental Protection Administration to Develop Cleaner, More Profitable Production

China's leadership is putting increasing focus on environmental sustainability as a key national policy. Dating back to 2003, China implemented the "Regulation on Promotion of Cleaner Production" designed to promote Cleaner Production on the Mainland. Commonly referred to as "CP", Cleaner Production is the continuous application of an integrated

preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks and possible damage to humans and the environment.

The Dow Chemical Company (Dow) shares this same commitment and proudly serves as a multinational role model fully aligned with the government's drive to develop cleaner production and pollution prevention measures.

## Cleaner Production Pays in China

In June, 2004, Dow and China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) signed a Letter of Intent for a three-year partnership project to support the promotion and development of CP in the country.

The "National Cleaner Production Pilot Project" was officially launched in March, 2005. It focused on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) from the chemicals related industries such as pharmaceuticals, dyeing, electroplating, paper and brewery. The project was implemented through a series of education, training as well as appraisal and recognition programs to support and promote the development of Cleaner Production in China.

The training programs—which were conducted in various provinces—aimed to support capacity building in both the public and private sectors, raise the awareness and understanding of Cleaner Production and encourage industries to incorporate the concept into production processes.

In 2005, nineteen enterprises from seven provinces and municipalities participated in the project, achieving signifi-



Jim McIlvenny, Dow Asia Pacific and Greater China President and Wang Jirong, former Deputy Minister of SEPA jointly announce the Start-up of the Dow-SEPA National Cleaner Production Pilot Project

cant economic and environmental benefits and creating positive impacts on the society as a whole. The project generated a combined reduction of wastewater by 3.3 million cubic meters, a reduction in exhaust gas emissions by 553.5 tons, of liquid waste by 551 tons and of solid waste by 487 tons for the 19 participating enterprises. This has resulted in 538 cleaner

production measures and RMB 103.49 million per year in overall economic benefits.

Into its second year of implementation in 2006, 21 enterprises from seven provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions including Beijing and Inner Mongolia participated. Most recent results indicate a reduction in exhaust gas emissions by 2,400 tons, water savings of 3.7 million tons and 108,000 tons of coal reduction for a total of RMB 145 million in overall economic benefits.

Currently, 427 more improvement projects are being undertaken by the participating enterprises with an estimated economic benefit of RMB 200.49 million. These achievements confirm Dow's belief that Cleaner Production not only reduces waste in the production processes, it also increases the efficiency of energy resources and ultimately improves competitiveness of enterprises.

## "Triple Win"

Such sustainable development programs are sometimes referred to as yielding "triple bottom line" benefits; that is, programs that yield financial results as well as social and environmental achievements. The National Cleaner Production Pilot Project is no doubt a "triple" win for all participants.

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