

**Country Report  
Republic of the Philippines  
CTI Sixth Workshop for Asia (at ICETT)**

**1. Name of participant**

JESUS G. REYES

**2. Organization to which participant belongs**

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and  
Nestle Philippines Incorporated

**3. Department and duties**

Environment Committee

As Chairman of the Environment Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), I lead the Committee on its Environmental Advocacy aimed at sustainable economic growth for the long-term benefit of our businesses and people. PCCI's main thrusts in all its Committees are Advocacy and Services. On Advocacy, PCCI act as a consultative mechanism for the business community to put forward initiative proposals and policy recommendations geared towards the promotion of a sound and dynamic business environment. On Services, PCCI provides relevant business services, which effectively address the critical concerns of its members in particular, and business enterprises in general.

#### **4. Impressions of the current situations**

It is observed that environmental awareness among the people has tremendously increased in the recent years. People now talk about the ill effects of pollution and degradation of natural resources. Despite this awareness, more pollution and more degradation of natural resources occur. While the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have discovered through their research that pollution is contributed more by the domestic sector, pollution control is only effected to the private sector.

The government, in its effort to curb pollution continues to tighten environmental standards, which happens every 3 to 5 years. Environmental Laws, Implementing Rules and Regulations and Memorandum Orders are continuously being issued mostly to the industry sector to control its pollution level. Penalties are getting stiffer and the so-called "Environmental User Fees" are being charged.

Implementation of the standards are very stiff to big industries but there are still a big number of small and medium industries who manage to keep their business in operation without Environmental Permits nor any pollution control facilities. If and when Environmental Regulations are strictly implemented among these Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), there is a big chance that these operations may just close down due to the current economic situation of the country. While big companies have resources to technologies such as cleaner production or environmental management systems, SMEs are focused in trying to survive their business given the poor economic condition.

## **5. Problems, challenges and factors preventing the widespread use of technologies**

Seminars and workshops on Environmental Technologies are now being offered by different organizations including the government most often funded/assisted by donor associations/organizations. Oftentimes, these seminars and workshops are attended by Environmental Officers from big companies who are already complying with government standards. Companies who avoid the environmental regulations do not intentionally send any delegate to said seminars/workshops.

Seminars/workshops that present technologies oftentimes requires investments. When investments are required, the lack of capital investment or the fear of the change becomes the major barriers. Labor situation is also a consideration in the country. If the technology will reduce the number of labor force, given that unemployment is rather high, management will likely not adapt the technology at all.

Continuous improvement is achieved through tracking of the operations' performance. To measure the performance of any operations requires installation of measuring device or system. These measuring devices or systems are again investments that businesses will have to hurdle. Not many companies can spend for the installation of measuring equipment.