

12th NEAC

Session 2. Create a Recycling Society

The governmental policy to enhance capacity of regional authorities to transfer to “Environmentally efficient society”.

Case of Russia

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The Russian Federation similar to the other countries of the former USSR has inherited from the previous regime the environmentally unsound structure of economy characterised with the low efficiency of use of natural resources and high level of the environmental pollution.

Compared to the developed countries, the national indicator of energy consumption per unit of GDP is 2-3 times greater and that of the greenhouse gases emission – 3-4 times. The consumption of the forest resources for production of 1 ton of paper is comparatively 6-7 times high. For the recent 10 years the non-efficiency of national economy has even grown by 30-60%.

The annual volume of wastes produced by all sectors of the economy is estimated as 2 bln tons, 60% of that is being disposed. For the period of 1995-2002 the volume of toxic wastes increased from 90 to 139 mln.t.

The GDP volume in the country has dropped by 50% since 90s but for the recent 4 years it has indicated the rising trend. This growth is mostly accounted for the sectors connected with use of natural resources. In case of retaining this pattern of the economic growth the fuel and energy sector, oil and gas, metal production and forestry might be the dominating sectors of the Russian economy by 2010. It might aggravate the existing environmental situation in the country.

However on the other side the gradual reconstruction and liquidation of unefficient enterprises is under way. And the situation might improve in our country. But it is a long-term process, the notable changes can be expected only by 2010.

There are good prerequisites created by the activity of the Ministry of Natural Resources RF to counterbalance the situation: the approval of the Ecological Doctrine of Russian Federation (2002), the development of the legislative base providing efficient use of natural resources (Federal Law on Environmental Protection, Federal Law on Industrial and Municipal Wastes, the Governmental Decree on the Routine of the State Cadaster of Wastes and Toxic Wastes Registration, etc.), the Federal target program “Ecology and Natural Resources of Russia” (2002-2010), the intensifying international cooperation in the environmental sphere and a growing participation in the international agreements connected with taking the national obligations in this sphere.

For the last years some regions of Russia have succeeded in the introduction of advanced and environmentally sound technologies basing on

international cooperation with neighbouring countries and accumulated a positive experience in this sphere.

It is the most rapidly developing regions – the Russian north-west territory– Leningradskaya, Murmanskaya, Arkhangelskaya, Kaliningradskaya oblasts, etc.

Cleaner Production Programme,

The case is the Cleaner Production Programme, implemented within the framework of the Russian - Norwegian co-operation based on the appropriate intergovernmental agreement of 1992. It has been supported since 1994 by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF and local authorities. The Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre (RNC) has been set up to arrange, carry out and disseminate the CP Programme.

Its objectives – the most efficient use of resources and prevention of climate change, mitigation of the negative impact of the process of production at all stages of the life-cycle (production, use and disposal).

The program consists of 3 components:

1. Capacity building in the Clean Production – training of the high managers and engineers, post- courses, project proposals and recommendations for modernization of the industrial process at their enterprise - inventory and assessment of proposals
2. Capacity building in the Financial Engineering - training in the business-plan development for the selected projects and in the concordance procedure with an investor.
3. Reforming the existing enterprises management system.

Over 1600 specialists from more than 500 enterprises have been trained since then, mainly representatives of Russia's north-west territory, that is the regions of Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Kaliningrad, Kirov, Leningrad, Lipetsk, Murmansk, Novgorod; the Republics of Karelia and Komi; and the City of Saint-Petersburg.

The programme is addressed to the major branches of the industry. Now it has been extended to the Asian part of Russia. Under support of the Arctic Council now the program is being implemented at the Norilsk ore mining and processing enterprise (“Norilskiy Nikel”), the territory of Krasnoyarsk. There have been done highly efficient proposals on utilisation of sulfur dioxide extracted from the emissions for industrial production of sulfur as the main world producer.

As the practice shows, each dollar invested into the Programme yields 2 to 5 dollars of profit, due to substantial cut in consumption of electric power, raw material and water and increase in waste recovery. A finance and credit line has been established in co-operation with the NEFCO (Nordic Environment Finance Corporation). Based on the Finance Engineering Programme, it will help choose the projects most attractive in respect of rational

us of resources and reduction of effluents, to be then implemented at concrete enterprises.

At present a number of such projects are being prepared, and credit agreements have been signed and executed with many companies.

“Policy of Clean Production”

As result of 10-years activity of the Cleaner Production Centre the Document “Policy of Clean Production” has been proposed in order to increase the priority of the clean technologies in the environmental cooperation activity of the major European countries and international organisations (European Union, etc.). This strategic document consists of the following activities to be implemented in the coming decade:

1. Capacity building (Rising awareness on the negative impact of production on health and environment, development of educational programs)
2. Integration of efforts on the “life-cycle principle” of the governmental, regional and local bodies basing on new instruments (environmental management, environmental marking, etc.)
3. Communication – wide participation and sharing of responsibilities mainly through the involvement into joint projects and partnership with western neighbouring countries
4. Implementation – development of economic instruments
5. Research - support of the innovative preventive technologies
6. Plan of Actions – and special sectoral plans
7. Financing

This year the document has been included into the major European strategies (“Northern Dimension” of the European Union, the Barents Euro-Arctic region program). The Russian territory has been selected as the focal area of the implementation of this Strategy

International “Round Table” – December 2004

The regional policy of the Clean Production based on Russian-Norwegian Center has proved its efficiency and vital significance to be extended over the entire country.

In connection with the 10th anniversary of the Cleaner Production Programme in Russia the Center in collaboration with the Russian Regional Environmental Centre makes a proposal, approved and supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF, aimed at holding in Moscow, probably in December 2004, the first Russian Cleaner Production Round Table, with the participation of many foreign specialists.

It is expected that the Round Table will contribute to the extension of the focal area of the Program “Clean Development” over the entire territory of Russia.

It will be discussed the feasibility to perform the environmental reconstruction of the economy and its sectors (industry, energy, transport, municipal services and agricultural production) for the period of 7 years – by 2010.