

CP implementation in the Asia-Pacific region

Barriers and ways to overcome them

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Cleaner production prevents waste generation and emissions. Several technological options exist for cleaner production. Methodology, however, primarily depends on specific requirements of industries. Several Cleaner Production (CP) activities are in various stages of implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. This article discusses these regional initiatives and analyses the barriers to their implementation.



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Introduction

Today's environmentally-conscious world focuses on cleaner production (CP), and CP focuses on the prevention of wastes and emissions as it makes more sense avoiding rather than trying to remedy the problem. But since wastes and emissions are a reality, the focus is also on what to do with wastes and emissions once they have already been created. This usually means building and operating wastewater treatment plants, air scrubbers, waste incinerators, detoxification facilities, and secure landfills, often at great expense.

Defining cleaner production

"Cleaner production is the continuous application of an integrated preventive strategy for processes, products and services, to increase eco-efficiency and to reduce risks to humans and the environment."

Cleaner production involves different considerations in different areas.

For production processes

It means conserving raw materials and energy, eliminating, as far as possible, the use of toxic substances, and reducing the quantity, as well as the toxicity, of all emissions and wastes before they leave any given process.

For products

It means reducing their environmental impacts during the entire life cycle, from raw material extraction to ultimate disposal.

For services

It means incorporating environmental concerns when designing and delivering services.

External recycling and effluent treatment do not, by themselves, constitute cleaner production as they do not stress the preventive philosophy that characterizes cleaner production. However the principles can be applied to both these activities.