



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

"KEY ELEMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: ENERGY, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

A University Centre for CP in Cienfuegos (Cuba)

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The Belgian developmental cooperation among universities granted a project allowing to develop a centre for cleaner production in the province of Cienfuegos, Cuba. The project started in September 2008. This project roots in the needs of the Cuban society to transit from traditionally equipped, outdated industry and services to modernization that brings on board more rational resource use and less pollution. To this end this project aims at establishing in the University of Cienfuegos a Centre for Cleaner Production.

The centre will deal with training, research and information on cleaner production and environmental management. A focal output of this project is the establishment of a master degree in cleaner production and environmental management. The 35 audits programme entails 10 compulsory and 6 optional courses. The programme puts emphasis on knowledge and skills, including research skills, related to cleaner production. Professors are trained and the facilities for the programme are being realized. The maestria programme will be organized for the first time during the academic year 2009-2010. A limited number of research lines started to support the training.

Currently the research includes cleaner production in a coffee plant, in the line industry, in a sugar refinery and waste management in a regional hospital. These issues were selected because they are all most relevant for the socio-environmental development of the province of Cienfuegos.

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São Paulo – Brazil – May – 20-22 – 2009



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Initiatives will be initiated to make the centre a point of reference where information on cleaner production can be gathered and to promote awareness raising on cleaner production in the region and Cuba wide. In the long term the master degree and the related activities might act as templates for similar initiatives in other Cuban universities.

Contributions from experts at this conference are most welcome.