

Brief on Activity Based Capacity Development (ABCD) Project of Pak EPA

‘Activity Based Capacity Development’ (ABCD) project has been established to enhance the capacity of all the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) in order to effectively implement the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997). The main objective of this project is to provide support to the Environmental Protection Agencies in Pakistan to improve their environmental regulatory compliance and enforcement mechanisms. The purpose of the project is to help EPAs develop facilities and skills by undertaking various activities grouped together in shape of different programmes.

The following programmes are being conducted under the project:

- Industrial Pollution Control Programme
- Awareness Campaign and Capacity Building Training Programme
- Hazardous Substance and Waste Management Programme
- Vehicular Pollution Control Programme
- Environmental Permitting Inspection and Legal Support Programme

The following salient activities are being undertaken under various programmes of ABCD project.

- 25/75 Industrial Environment Improvement
- Pakistan Green Seal
- Industrial Survey
- Demonstration of environment friendly Bricks manufacturing.
- Training for capacity building
- Campaign against Use and Production of Plastic Bags
- Hazardous Substance and Waste management
- Vehicular Pollution Control
- Environmental Permitting Inspection and Legal Support

Importance of the Project:

4. The ABCD project is the backbone of EPAs because a very little budget is available with the EPAs from the regular side. The project particularly supports monitoring activities of industrial and vehicular emissions as well as hazardous substances and wastes. Besides, a number of studies are to be conducted, the recommendations of which will be used for future policy formulation for the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council. Mass awareness on environmental issues and Capacity Building Training Programmes for EPAs are also included in the project.

Achievements of the Project:

The project has successfully achieved the following targets.

Establishment of a separate project Office and equipped with necessary equipments

- Conducted a nation wide survey on Plastic Bags production and use by hiring a Survey Expert, the findings are planned to be presented in National Seminar at Islamabad to provide a discussion/consensus forum to the stake holders
- an awareness campaign on various environmental issues through press in 2007
- Vehicle emission monitoring activity is continued and monitoring of 32000 vehicles in around Islamabad area have been done
- Survey of Industrial Estate Islamabad is continued, which is expected to provide a permanent solution of the Industrial Pollution in Islamabad
- Industrial visits and management of Self Monitoring and Reporting tools
- Up gradation of Self Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) software
- creation of web site on SMART
- Partial recruitment of Technical staff
- Procurement of necessary laboratory equipments, computers and furniture
- Established coordination with Provincial EPAs regarding project activities and transferred the required funds for execution of activities to provincial EPAs
- Prepared lists of Hazardous substances and activities planned for Inventory on Hazardous substances and management of Hazardous Waste