

## ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING

With the lofty goal to develop an industrial society that has an intrinsic culture of **pride in environmental excellence (EE)**, the Department of Environment (DOE) has embarked on a program entitled “**Guided Self-Regulation (GSR)**”. To assist the regulated sectors to achieve the state of self-regulation, the DOE has formulated a set of **environmental mainstreaming (EM)** tools to be implemented in the organizations and industrial premises. The **EM tools** include:

- Environmental policy (EP)
- Environmental budgeting (EB)
- Environmental monitoring committee (EMC)
- Environmental facility (EF) (which includes pollution control systems and laboratory requirement)
- Environmental competency (EC) (which includes personnel and competent person requirement)
- Environmental reporting and communication (ERC)
- Environmental transparency (ET)

The EM tools are briefly explained in the following sections.

### 1.1 Environmental policy (EP)

The environmental policy (EP) of successful organizations uses **strong and unequivocal statements** to convey their environmental commitment to their employees, clients, stakeholders and the public. The EP is disseminated to all relevant parties and translated into action in the organization's work procedures, materials purchasing policy, business decision making process and cascades down to the **supply chain**.

## 1.2 Environmental budgeting (EB)

Sufficient budget must be set aside solely for the purpose of taking measures to comply with the **environmental regulatory requirements** and other **environmental-related efforts**. At the design stage, budget must be available for the design and installation of the pollution control facilities, while at the operational stage, budget must be allocated for proper operation and maintenance of pollution control systems and management of waste generated by the industry. The environmental budget also includes the cost for setting up of laboratory facilities, provision of personnel, and purchase of performance monitoring equipment.

## 1.3 Environmental monitoring committee (EMC)

The success of an organization to comply with the environmental requirements is contingent upon the relevant personnel in different departments in the organization playing their role in an effective manner. To promote **collective responsibility** to be environmentally compliant, two monitoring committees are set up: one at the working level, the other at the policy level. At the working level, the committee known as the **environmental performance monitoring committee (EPMC)** is chaired by a senior official of the organization and it meets on a monthly basis. At the policy level, the committee is known as the **environmental regulatory compliance monitoring committee (ERCMC)**, which meets once a year. The chief executive officer or chairman of the organization chairs the ERCMC.

## 1.4 Environmental facility (EF)

The primary components of the environmental facilities (EFs) include industrial effluent treatment system, air pollution control system and associated support facilities such as laboratory, performance monitoring equipment, on-line instrumentation system, and waste management infrastructure. The above form an integral part of the company's overall **infrastructural planning**, which cannot be compromised.

### 1.5 Environmental competency (EC)

The relevant personnel involved in discharging various environmental responsibilities within an organization need to possess the required competencies. The personnel include those who have been assigned the task to perform **DOE-regulated functions**: to manage waste and supervise the operation of air pollution control and effluent treatment systems. The organizations must draw up a comprehensive **training program** to produce **competent persons** and trained **support staff** to ensure full compliance with the DOE requirements in the regulated activities.

### 1.6 Environmental reporting and communication (ERC)

A formal **communication channel** must be established for reporting environmental concerns and system upsets which warrant prompt actions to be instituted. **Internal reporting** can be initiated to report on a regular basis the regulatory compliance status of the organization to the **chief executive officer (CEO)** and various heads of the department within the organization. Updates of new environmental requirements and their implications can be disseminated to the relevant company personnel. ERC requires **systematic analysis** of PM data, which must be summarized in appropriate format for easy understanding and communication and maintained for management review purposes.

### 1.7 Environmental transparency (ET)

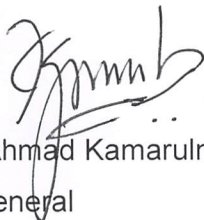
To foster rapport with the immediate neighbors, promote green image, and improve public confidence, companies are encouraged to be more transparent in their **environmental compliance** and achievement. Compliance status can be displayed on company website or billboard located at the boundary or entrance to the company's premise. An **environmental sustainability report** can be prepared for the company to showcase its success in managing the environmental concerns of the company and minimizing the **environmental footprint** of its business. The corporate image of the organization is markedly enhanced through environmental transparency.

## **2.0 IETS performance monitoring from the perspective of environmental mainstreaming**

IETS performance monitoring is an activity, which is connected directly or indirectly to all of the environmental mainstreaming tools discussed above, especially, the environmental facility (EF), the environmental competency (EC), and the environmental reporting and communication (ERC). IETS performance monitoring is an integral part of the operation of the IETS, which is an environmental facility installed within an industrial premise to prevent water pollution and ensure its uninterrupted manufacturing operation.

## **3.0 Environmental mainstreaming leads to environmental excellence**

Rigorous implementation of the above EM tools by the regulated sectors, particularly the industrial sector, will result in creating organizations and businesses which are successful and at the same time take pride in their achievement of **environmental excellence (EE)**. EE is exhibited in the intrinsic values of being **environment conscious** (where environmental agenda is factored into the industry's **management and decision making process**), achievement of sustained environmental **regulatory compliance**, high degree of **environmental transparency and accountability**, and strong commitment to **continuous environmental improvement**. Highly successful organizations are also exemplary in their environmental compliance and achievements, which go beyond regulatory requirements.



Dato' Dr. Ahmad Kamarulnajib Che Ibrahim  
Director General  
Department of Environment, Malaysia

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