

STUDY TOURS 2008

REGIONAL PMU'S PERSPECTIVE

PROCESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT

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Study Tour Selection Process

- Preliminary Discussions with UNDP Country Offices during site visits in March and April 2008.
- Facilitated session in Becici Workshop in May to consider potential locations, institutions, persons for Study Tours in 2008.
- Confirmation from UNDP Country Offices on preferred Study Tour topics and participants nominated from each Country/Territory between May and October 2008.



Countries, Hosts and Sites

- Austria – Mr Fritz Kroiss, Umweltbundesamt (UBA), Vienna;
- Slovenia – Ms Suzana Fajmut Štrucl, CPM – Gradbeni materiali d.o.o., Črna na Koroškem;
- Czech Republic – Mr Jaromir Manhart, Ministry Of Environment, Department of Environmental Damage, Prague.



Countries, Hosts and Sites

- Austria - Vienna – sites visited
- Food production companies: “NÖM” Milk Production Company and Sugar production Plant “Agrana”;
- Waste Water Treatment Plants: “Bad Vöslau” and the Simmering Waste Water treatment Plant in Vienna;
- Municipal and Hazardous & Clinical Waste Incinerators in Vienna.



Countries, Hosts and Sites

- Slovenia – sites visited
- Former mining site “Podzemlje Pece” in Mežice (lead and zinc mine);
- Former mining site in Idrija - Mercury Mine (the second richest mercury mine in the world).

Countries, Hosts and Sites

- Czech Republic – Prague - sites visited
- Diamo, s.p. Straz pod Ralskem – Uranium mine;
- Palivovy kombinat, s.p. - Mine Most **Ležaky**, Marianske Radcice, and Koh-i-noor mine – coal mines (Lignite);
- Sokolovska uhelna, a.s., Sokolov – coal mine (Lignite).

Achievements

- Three study tours were organized in the timeframe end of Sept 08 - end of Oct 08;
- 33 persons have participated in the study tours;
- 15 sites have been visited;
- Important contacts have been established.



Participants' Feedback

- “The study tours were useful”
- Knowledge gained from the study tours includes:
 - Importance of employing new technologies to reduce negative impact on the environment, and to remediate/ rehabilitate the polluted sites;



Participants' Feedback

- Importance of Governmental /Institutional support in remediation / rehabilitation activities and public awareness raising;
- Importance of having public awareness in relation to environmental issues;
- Importance of networking among the participants.



Achievements – Follow up

- Know-how for further rehabilitation/remediation works:
 - For remediation and public use of former lignite and other mining sites – UN ATSCR 1244 Kosovo;
 - Reutilizing former mining sites/ remediated tailings for touristic purposes – Montenegro;
 - Organizing trainings on water consumption savings in Industry; Plans on implementation of 2 IPPC projects – Serbia.



Achievements – Follow up

- Transfer of gained knowledge to students at the Faculty – Macedonia;
- Organizing workshops on management of closed mining sites – Albania;
- Initiating discussion with relevant people in order to provoke their consideration towards solving environmental problems – B&H.



Regional Unit's Perspective

- Austria – Vienna
- Factories such as Agrana Sugar practice a “nil waste” approach and produce “secondary” products from the green wastes as stock feeds, fertilisers.
- Recovery of Energy from waste is extremely advanced but costly with little discharged to landfill. This includes use of hazardous waste, municipal waste, and waste water sludges and biogas production.



Regional Unit Perspective

- Czech Republic – Prague
- The Diamo Uranium mine demonstrated the high cost countries face in cleaning up past industrial activities, the heavy commitment taken by government and the threat these can pose to the countries natural capital (ie the aquifer).
- For the lignite mining the impressive post mine planning for use of the landscape is a great example for all countries.



Lessons Learnt

➤ Two Critical Lessons were identified in the feedback;

1. Managing participant expectations; selection process;
2. Countries/territories to provide greater input in selecting study tour sites, topics and presenters



Next Steps

- Regional Unit with NPCs to screen candidates through an interview process.
- NPCs to give greater inputs in identifying the specific sites and topics



THANK YOU!

