

SMITE Meeting Amman July 2003

Short report by IT Consult

1. Raouf Dabbas, The Friends of the Environment Society¹

Three environmental consultants from Jordan gave presentations at the meeting. In particular Raouf Dabbas showed great interest in SMITE. He is interested in hosting the system - once it is ready - in Jordan. He said he developed a similar system, but without the benchmarking, with over 90 registered users (who paid something for this). His

idea is to merge his system with SMITE. Furthermore, he believes that such system in Jordan could act as the central system for all South Med countries. In terms of safety of sensitive user data (to be protected from governmental access) he believes that Jordan is as safe as Europe.

While all this sounds very positive, I suggest to find out more about the system he mentioned and if possible about his organisation and the consultant network around it.

He provided us with a number of interesting case studies in Jordan, carried out with the help of the DELTA Programme (LIFE) and using the housekeeping management tool developed by the GTZ. However, few of these - if any - would have profited from the SMITE benchmarking system, primarily since they were not based on any measurable EPIs that the end-user could have provided as input for the SMITE system.

2. JETCO

The Jordan Export Trade Cooperation (JETCO) has asked RSS (Sirin) if it was possible for SMITE to organise another event specifically for industry (including training). I suggest that they pay for it.

In any case this needs follow up by Sirin.



¹ The FOES is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation formed in 1995 and specialised in environmental education. In 2002 the FOES has launched the establishment of the National Cleaner Production Programme NCPP, consisting of 9 partner institutions. Among them are the Amman and Zarqa chambers of commerce, the RSS, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and the National Energy Research Centre.

3. Next Phase

- i) Ongoing system testing with real data. We need to prove that the benchmarking really works and we clearly need to identify possible problem areas - not so much in the software but from the end-users' point of view (e.g. lack of data on their side).
- ii) We need to develop a training programme for end-users on
 - ◆ Principles of environmental management and assessment
 - ◆ Data acquisition in the factory: minimal requirements; typical instrumentation and its cost; managing the collected data, i.e. monitoring software requirements
 - ◆ ISO 14000, Eco labels, Awards, etc. and their role in the export market

Set-up:

The training courses (developed by SMITE Partners) should be given together with one or two local consultants. Since we cannot pay for these consultants, the local core or technical partners should set up a contract with them that would give them free presence on the future commercial SMITE site for a year or two.

We need these local consultants because:

- ◆ Part of the course should be given in Arabic, at least an Arabic speaking expert must be present to answer questions
- ◆ Local consultants have a much better view of the situation in the country (laws, level of awareness, etc.)