

## **CSD12 Learning Centre: Brief Summary**

Eighteen courses were offered by the Learning Centre during regular sessions of the Commission, including one course held in French. These courses provided practical, hands-on knowledge to better implement Agenda 21 and the JPOI on water, sanitation and human settlements as well as cross-cutting issues aimed at building capacities and institutions and improving access to finance. Many course instructors incorporated case studies in their lectures, and most courses included question and answer periods and, most successfully, interactive discussions. Instructors represented a wide range of stakeholders and institutions including major universities, the private sector, NGOs and international institutions.

Courses were well-attended with the average number of participants between 25 and 30 people per course. Some courses had broad-based appeal and attracted many more participants, filling the conference room to capacity, including those on GEF funding, integrated water resources management and national sustainable development strategies. Participants represented a cross-section of CSD participants and included national delegations, NGOs, other institutions as well as experts attending CSD12. Discussion sessions were often lively interactions among these groups and between participants from developed and developing countries, and this represented a significant component of the learning experience. One course included presentations by secondary level students who had benefited from integrating sustainable development practices in their curriculum. Participants have expressed enthusiasm for the Learning Centre and its inclusion in the regular sessions of CSD, and initial feedback on individual courses has been positive.