

Energy Efficient Products: Stimulating Demand and Facilitating Trade through Communities of Practice

The course was presented by Mr. Adam Hinge of Sustainable Energy Partnerships in the USA, Mr. Stuart Jeffcott of the International CFL Harmonization Initiative in Australia, and Mr. Shane Holt of the Australian Greenhouse Office. Several stakeholder representatives from industry, NGOs, and UN agencies, have made brief interventions.

It focused on *Communities of Practice* to learn how this approach is galvanizing action in addressing the energy and environment impacts of appliances and equipment. Participants were shown how existing communities of practice have led to real and measurable improvements in several end-use electrical product types, focusing on Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL)s, motors, and computers. During the session the following modules were introduced:

- the mechanisms by which communities of practice have mobilized representatives from different stakeholder groups, especially targeting key industry and efficiency advocates who advise governments on practical, cost-effective technology improvements;
- how barriers to the development and market delivery of efficient products are identified and how communities of practice could overcome these barriers;
- the varying processes employed by different communities of practice to develop consensus solutions acceptable to a range of stakeholders relevant to the energy-using product.
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Community of Practice are a form of sustainable energy partnership that have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas abatement and energy savings, lower prices for consumers through economies of scale and higher product efficiency through better enforcement against non-compliant products, improved international trade through common product testing procedures and aligning performance standards, lower costs for manufacturers who have harmonized product offerings and improved international cooperation.

The session further explored the CFL initiative led by Australia where lighting stakeholders are developing a single testing methodology and performance requirements acceptable worldwide. The success of this partnership was a trigger for the recent decision by the Australian Government to phase out inefficient incandescent lighting, now being replicated in many other countries. The session also heard about other communities of practice, particularly personal computers.

