

full range of environmental SR activities. This city beautification is a short-term environmental project undertaken by a company. Where SR is concerned, it is necessary to be environmentally responsible all the way from the sourcing of raw materials, through the manufacturing processes and via the delivery chain to the final customer. In ISO 26000 guidance, four issues are distinguished under 'the environment'.

1. Prevention of pollution: Reducing waste, not releasing polluted emissions to the air; not discharging waste water into ponds and rivers and reducing noise pollution; these are examples that make good business sense. Bangladesh has many good examples of initiatives to protect and improve the environment of the country. Converting Dhaka taxis, buses and three-wheelers to compressed natural gas was a farsighted and environmentally friendly initiative. However there are bad practices too, for example the discharge of heavily polluted waste water into rivers and ponds which local people must use as water for household activities. Every factory has a duty to purify all liquid solid and gaseous emissions before discharge and to reduce noise pollution from mechanical process operations (e.g. from crushing and grinding). Having a functional Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) is essential for all manufacturing sectors including RMG, knitwear, pharmaceuticals and tanneries and dye works.
2. Sustainable resource use: Although Bangladesh is blessed with natural resources, responsible business personnel need to seek more resource-efficient manufacturing practices. When the prices of energy and raw materials increase (which is inevitable with fast reducing supplies), every unit of resource saved will be worth more and more. Thus, adopting resource efficient practices not only results in a better environment, it is also increasingly cost effective. Fewer resources can be used and the business be more sustainable by saving energy, adopting more efficient processes; recycling materials and by re-using waste materials.

Reed Consulting Bangladesh Ltd. and other engineering consulting firms are involved in a project to introduce cleaner production to wet process production areas in the textile industry. This International Finance Corporation South Asia Enterprise Development Facility (IFC-SEDF) initiative helps textile factories to identify and rectify inefficiencies so that their operations become more streamlined, more cost-efficient and more environment-friendly. When factories discharge highly coloured water, it shows that expensive chemicals are being wasted. Using just the