

Taiwan Kicks off Carbon Footprint Label

The Nation's Electronics Industry Addresses the World Environmental Trend. (Nov.5, 2009)

Contributed by the Environment and Development Foundation, Taiwan, China

After two years of development, Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA) announced a pilot plan of "Carbon Footprint Label", which immediately gained support from Taiwan's five technological giants, including Chi Mei Optoelectronics (CMO), United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Ltd. (TSMC), Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Inc. (ASE) and ASUSTeK COMPUTER Inc. (ASUS).

The pilot plan was initiated by the joint force of TEEMA, DNV (a Norwegian certification company), Environment and Development Foundation (EDF), and Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). During the press conference organized by TEEMA on Nov. 5, the above five corporations received their carbon label certificates and jointly announced a "green declaration" on carbon reduction.



TEEMA CFP Logo

In 2008, electronic and electrical companies on the island generated US\$216.6 billion of revenues, which composed 48.84 % of Taiwan's annual industrial output value. Meanwhile, they exported US \$118.7 B of products, which made up 46.4% of Taiwan's exports, and imported US \$59.7 B of goods, equivalent to 24.8% of the nation's annual imports. Whereas according to the latest statistics released by International Energy Agency (IEA), in the year 2007 Taiwan accounted for 0.95% of the world's total carbon emissions, with 12.08 tons of CO₂ per capita, which ranked the 18th place among others. It is of crucial importance that the electronic and electrical industries start to act on carbon reduction.

TEEMA's CFP Label has a strong basis in Type III Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). All the five corporations developed their CFPs after their individual products, i.e., TFT-LCD Panel for CMO, Integrated Circuit for UMC, TSCM and ASE and Portable Computer for ASUS, had gone through comprehensive

LCA and EPD certification beforehand. Adjustment to add indirect carbon emission at the corporate level (Scope 3 as defined by ISO 14064) was then made to highlight the CFP of the product. The CFP calculation method described by BSI PAS 2050 was also referenced.

TEEMA encourages its almost 4000 member-manufacturers to apply for the CFP Label and to team up to push for better carbon management throughout their supply chains, which would also co-generate green business opportunities.