

# aede

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[www.cfsd.org.uk/aede](http://www.cfsd.org.uk/aede)



ASIA PRO ECO



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Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) is funded by the European Union as part of the Asia-Pro Eco Programme



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## Background

The Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) project aims to support electronics companies in Asia that are required to meet increasingly stringent legal and customer requirements related to environmental and social issues from the EU, Japan and the US. These developments are impacting on the global electronics industry with significant implications for manufacturers and assemblers in developing countries in Asia, especially those that already export or plan to trade with EC, Japan and US. Particular drivers are a range of EC legislative developments focusing on eco-design, recycling and hazardous materials reduction in the electronics, electrical and home appliance sectors.

- EU: Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive
- EU: Waste from Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive
- EU: Energy Using Products (EuP) Directive
- EU: Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) Directive
- EU: Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP)
- US: Electronics Industry Code of Conduct (EICC)
- Japan: Home Appliance Recycling Law (HARL)
- Japan: Law for the Promotion of Effective Utilisation of Resources (LPEUR)
- Japan: Green Purchasing Law (GPL).

With more and more outsourcing and contract manufacturing migrating to Asia, there are increasing requirements for suppliers to become more aware of environmental and corporate social responsibility (CSR) issues. However, outside of subsidiaries of transnational corporations, most small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) generally have little awareness and understanding of environmental and CSR issues and few governments in Asia have started support programmes covering these issues.

Asian countries such as China, India and Thailand also have significant manufacturing activities in the electronics, electrical and home appliances sectors. Companies in these countries now face a growing number and range of customer enquiries related to compliance with environmental laws and CSR issues and specifically on product-related issues such as eco-design, materials reduction, energy efficiency, reduced toxicity and recyclability. This presents major challenges for the supply chain e.g. the need for timely and relevant information and appropriate education and training.



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## Objectives

The overall goal of the Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) Project is to assist Asian electronics, electrical and home appliance suppliers to meet the challenges of existing and forthcoming EC and Japanese product-related environmental legislation and emerging CSR developments.

The specific objectives of AEDE are:

- To provide appropriate and up-to-date information to Asian suppliers covering the implications of the Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS), Waste from Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Energy using Products (EuP) Directives, Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), Integrated Product Policy (IPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) developments. This will be done through a series of working conferences in China, India, Thailand and Europe.
- To undertake a gap and needs analysis for the electronics industry in China, India and Thailand and elaborate capacity building plans for these countries, keeping in mind the forthcoming EU and Japanese legislation and other environmental and CSR requirements. The analysis will pay special attention to the needs of SME suppliers who risk being marginalised due to supply chain rationalisation. This will be focused specifically on the capacity to meet EU and Japanese requirements and is not intended as an overall assessment of the electronics sector in these countries.
- To develop a set of eco-design and other training tools developed on the basis of the capacity building plans, needs assessments and as an outcome of working conferences in Asia and Europe. The tools will be tailored to the requirements of EU Directives and be designed to enable close cooperation between European and Asia partners.
- To facilitate interaction and dialogue between Asian and European stakeholders (to include 'standard setters', buyers and environmental/CSR managers from transnational corporations) in the electronics industry.
- To create a system for managing and disseminating information to Asian suppliers that can be sustained after the project comes to an end.



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## Conferences

Four conferences will be organised with aim of raising awareness and understanding of the implications of product-related environmental legislation and corporate social responsibility (CSR) issues as they affect Asian electronics, electrical and home appliance sectors.

The initial three conferences in Thailand, India and China will aim to:

- Disseminate the results of country studies with special emphasis on the implications of the EU and Japanese legislation (WEEE, RoHS, EuP, REACH, IPP, HARL, LPEUR, GPL) and CSR (EICC) developments for producers.
- Obtain feedback from delegates on the needs analysis and capacity building plans presented in country studies.
- Develop a clear programme on future eco-design training requirements and ideas on how the training should be implemented in China, India and Thailand.

Bangkok, Thailand

10 April 2006\*

Delhi, India

29 June 2006\*

Beijing, China

September 2006\*

The final conference will be organised in Brussels (Belgium) and will aim to:

- Disseminate the results of the European and Japanese study.
- Enable delegates from China, India and Thailand to interact with the European stakeholders (to include legislators, 'standard setters', buyers and environmental/CSR managers from transnational companies) and discuss issues of mutual interest associated with implementation of the EU and Japanese legislation.
- Facilitate tie-ups and future technology co-operation on eco-design between European and Asian partners.

Brussels, Belgium

December 2006\*

\* Specific venues and dates to be announced – see [www.cfsd.org.uk/aede](http://www.cfsd.org.uk/aede)



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## Reports

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Four specific studies will be completed and translated into English, Thai and Mandarin. The reports will provide:

- An overview of existing product-related legislation covering environmental and sustainability requirements in Europe and Japan.
- An analysis of the implications for suppliers in China, India and Thailand of the proposed EU and Japanese legislation, especially impacts on employment creation, marginalisation of small suppliers and subsequent impacts on poverty alleviation initiatives.
- An overview of national legislation pertaining to the electronics industry in China India and Thailand.
- An assessment of voluntary electronics industry related environmental and CSR initiatives in Europe, Japan, China, India and Thailand including implications for Asian suppliers.
- Identification of key electronics industry associations, multipliers and information dissemination routes in Europe, Japan, China, India and Thailand.

Based on the country specific overviews, gaps and future needs will be identified. The assessment will cover both managerial and technical needs of Chinese, Indian and Thai suppliers in relation to meeting forthcoming EU and Japanese legislation.



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## Tools

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The Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) project will provide a portfolio of tools to support improved decision-making that will be available in English, Thai and Mandarin.

## Components

A tool will be produced that highlights the key lifecycle environmental impacts of components manufactured by SME suppliers in Asia. This will be done for four component categories presently exported by Chinese, Indian and Thai suppliers to the EU.

## Eco-design

Two related tools will be developed that cover both technical and management aspects of eco-design. These will take into account legislative and management requirements of WEEE, RoHS, EuP, REACH, ISO 14001, ISOTR14062 and ISO 9000.

## Procurement

A tool will be produced that supports the incorporation of environmental and CSR considerations in procurement and supply chain management.



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## Useful information

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Below are a series of web-links that provide a range of useful information on legislative developments, CSR issues, and eco-design tools and techniques:

<http://www.cfsd.org.uk/seeba>

The site provides a range of free information (in English) on legislative developments in the electronics sector.

<http://164.36.164.20/sustainability/weee/index.htm>

Good site for progress on what is happening in Europe on WEEE and RoHS.

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/index.htm>

European site on Waste management and includes the WEEE/RoHS legislation.

<http://www.buyusa.gov/europeanunion/weee.html>

US government web site on the WEEE and RoHS with member state information.

<http://www.europeanleadfree.net>

Provides a range of useful lead-free issues.

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco\\_design/index.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco_design/index.htm)

European website for the EuP Directive.

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/index\\_environment.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/index_environment.html)

An overview of key waste management and recycling laws is provided by this website.

<http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press/2004/041021a.html>

The Electronics Industry Code of Conduct (EICC) provides guidance to companies on CSR issues.

<http://www.cfsd.org.uk>

Provides a range of free information (in English) on legislative developments in the electronics sector.

<http://www.cfd.rmit.edu.au/>

Centre for Design at RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) highlights reports on various aspects of eco-design.

<http://www.o2.org/>

The global eco-design network site has excellent links to a wide range of resources.

<http://www.ecosmes.net/cm/index-EP>

Highlights a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) tool for SMEs.

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## Contact details

For more information on the AEDE, Project see: [www.cfsd.org.uk/aede](http://www.cfsd.org.uk/aede) or contact the AEDE Project Directorate.



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Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) is funded by the European Union as part of the Asia-Pro Eco Programme



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