

sustainable development

Sustainable Development is frequently misunderstood. One of the best definitions is: *“Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

putting the theory into practice

This focus of sustainable development on improving quality of life is becoming more widely accepted by governments, companies, civil society organisations and others. It also places the emphasis more on solutions rather than problems.

Here at Foster Wheeler, sustainable development is inherent within everything we do. We apply good practice on each of our projects, in co-operation with our clients, and sustainable development is integral to our work practices.

Increasingly, we are applying the principles of sustainable development throughout the supply chain and across all the phases of the project life cycle. We develop partnerships within the communities in which we operate. This is usually implemented as part of a sustainable development review and plan.

A typical example of sustainable development in action is the \$4.3 billion CSPC Nanhai Petrochemicals Project under construction in southern China, a new world-scale petrochemicals complex.

In the environmental arena, the project team has completed environmental quality baseline work for offsite facilities that will be used during the construction. This includes the laydown area, the marine offloading facility and the electrical transmission line corridor. None of these studies revealed any findings of concern.

The marine benthic baseline survey revealed there to be more diverse and healthier coral in the causeway area than expected. In cooperation with the South China Sea Fisheries Institute, the project team has arranged for 400m² of ball-shaped coral, which may be impacted by the construction, to be relocated to a safe area approximately 10 kms away. A survey three months after relocation showed a survival rate of 95%.

The project is committed to local procurement. To date, 19% of all purchases have been made in the immediate vicinity of Daya Bay and a further 41% have been placed in a one-hour radius of Daya Bay.

The project team is paying a great deal of attention to the restoration of the livelihood of local people affected by the development. HSE awareness training has been given to over 700 resettled villagers. In addition, 90 villagers are currently following formal training as electricians provided by the steam and power EPC contractor.

The team, in co-operation with the local authorities, helped the villages impacted by the development set up engineering firms. These firms have been awarded contracts with the project and will provide employment, on-the-job training, and replacement income to the resettled population.

Other ideas include establishing manufacturing and landscaping companies. In addition, a small business resource centre is being developed to support villagers' own initiatives.



Committed to the environment



Prestigious award for David

David Stewart (right), Foster Wheeler construction manager, was one of 28 environmental professionals awarded the prestigious British Safety Council International Diploma in Environmental Management at an awards ceremony at Ironmongers' Hall, London.

David Ballard (left), director general of the British Safety Council, said: *“By achieving the Diploma in Environmental Management, Mr Stewart has shown a big commitment to improving environmental management and performance.”*

“Issues such as pollution, waste management and ecological sustainability affect us all. However, the public has every right to expect businesses to be environmentally responsible.”

“By reducing damage to our planet through proactive environmental management systems, firms are not only preserving the earth's ecological future, but they can also save thousands of pounds in production and waste management costs.”

Fred Tomlin, divisional director, construction operations, Foster Wheeler, said: *“We are proud of David's achievement, which reflects our company's ongoing commitment to improving our environmental performance to meet our clients' and our employees' ever-increasing expectations.”*