

Dear Colleagues of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative,

It is my pleasure to announce the launch of the **"UNEP/SETAC Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases"** on **28 August, in Berlin, in conjunction with the 2011 LCM Conference.**

## NEW!! 'Shonan Guidance Principles'

The Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases also known as the 'Shonan Guidance Principles' in honour of the city of Shonan in Japan, where the negotiations were held leading to the agreed-upon principles, represent a milestone in the harmonization of how datasets are developed and how life cycle assessment databases are created, managed and used in an interoperable and transparent manner by LCA practitioners worldwide.

The publication of the Guidance Principles is the culmination of over two years of work by numerous individuals from around the world and is, in essence, the beginning of the formation of a uniform set of practices utilizing a set of expanded, enhance and consistent databases in managing product and service lifecycles.

The next steps will focus on dissemination, training and implementation of the Global Guidance Principles.

Database managers and data providers from around the globe are inquiring about the recommendations of the global guidance principles and seeking assistance and training in their application. In emerging and developing economies database managers and providers are looking to combine the training with their capacity building efforts for new practitioners on how to collect and model data for inclusion in LCI databases.

This growing interest by database managers will help to build networking opportunities and foster understanding, cooperation and increase awareness on how adaptive methods such as national statistical data (input-output) and other non-process based approaches can be used to answer emerging questions using LCA and support the data demands of LCA.

Lastly, the Shonan Guidance Principles call upon the LCA community to not be reactive to developments in emerging IT and social web systems. Rather, it recommends active consideration of how these techniques can put more data in the hands of users while maintaining quality and compatibility. This publication can be downloaded from <http://lcinitiative.unep.fr> and [www.setac.org](http://www.setac.org)<sup>2</sup>.

Please circulate this information to other persons who might be interested in this topic.

We hope that this work will be useful to your organization.

<sup>1</sup> Click on the store link at the top, then 'Books' and 'Life Cycle Assessment' on the left navigation panel

<sup>2</sup> Click on the store link at the top, then 'Books' and 'Life Cycle Assessment' on the left navigation panel

## Upcoming events

You are kindly invited to follow-up and attend the following events:

**'Outreach to the Chilean Community and Mercosur Partners and Workshops on the Global Guidance Principles for Life Cycle Databases and Life Cycle Sustainability Approaches'** co-organized by UNEP/SETAC, The Fundacion Chile, the Chilean Life Cycle Network and the University of Talca.

*Location: University of Talca and Fundacion Chile, Santiago de Chile, Chile*

*Date: Tuesday 6 (whole day) and Wednesday 7 (1/2 day) December 2011*

**'First Mediterranean UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative session on Life Cycle Assessment and Management'** co-organized by UNEP and The Tunisian Ministry of Environment (TBC).

*Location: TBC, Tunisia, Tunes*

*Date: Monday 19 (1/2 day) and Tuesday 20 (1/2 day) December 2011*

**'Workshop on the Shonan Guidance Principles-First steps for implementing the Global Guidance Principles on LCA Databases in Asian countries'** co-organized by METI and UNEP. *Location: Tokyo, Japan*

*Date: 27 January 2012*

**'5th SETAC Europe Special Science Symposium on Ecosystem Services'** organized by SETAC

*Location: Marivaux Hotel, Brussels, Belgium:*

*Date: 15-16 February 2012*

**'Expert Meeting of the UNEP/SETAC Project Group on Land Use in LCA'** organized by the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

*Location: TBC, Brussels, Belgium*

*Date: 17 February 2012 (09:00-13:00)*

**'6th SETAC World Congress'**

*Location: Berlin, Germany*

*Date: 20-24 May 2012*

**'Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases: Implementation and Capacity Building'** co-organized by UNEP/SETAC.

*Location: Berlin, Germany*

*Date: between the 20 and 24 May 2012 (date to be confirmed).*

**'3rd International Conference on Green and sustainable innovation'**

*Location: Le Meridien, Chiang Mai, Thailand*

*Date : 24-26 May 2012*

**'United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)'** organized by the United Nations.

*Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*

*Date: 4-6 June 2012*

**'River Flow – International Conference on Fluvial Hydraulics'**

*Location: Costa Rica*

*Date: 5-7 September 2012*

**'SETAC North America 33rd Annual Meeting'**

*Location: Long Beach, California, U.S.A.*

*Date: 11-15 Nov. 2012*

**'Ecobalance'**

*Location: Yokohama, Japan*

*Date: 20-23 November, 2012*

Kind Regards,

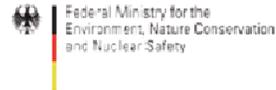
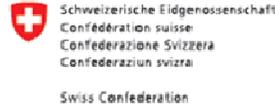
Secretariat of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

For more information, please visit our website: <http://lcinitiative.unep.fr/>

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