BSN receives green award for its agent banking channel

The National Savings Bank of Malaysia, Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), was conferred the Malaysia Green Tech Financial Institution Award 2013 for Green Practice for its agent banking (EBB) channel. The award is a recognition by the Malaysian Green Technology Corporation and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water towards financial institutions for their active roles and contributions towards green practice. BSN’s Chief Executive, Datuk Adinan Maning, received the award from the Deputy Prime Minister, Tan Sri Dato’ Hj Muhyiddin bin Hj Mohd Yassin. To date, the Bank has over 5,000 EBB agents nationwide operating mainly in rural areas where setting up a branch is not viable. This channel has helped customers to save traveling time and money as well as reduce carbon emissions from vehicle usage to get to the nearest branch. Furthermore, as agents are appointed within the community, customers have a sense of comfort and security when performing their banking transactions. For the Bank, EBB has helped reduce carbon footprint by eliminating the need to set up a physical branch as well as reduce electricity, paper and air conditioner usage. To date, six transactions can be done online and real-time via a point-of-sales (POS) terminal, namely withdrawals, deposits, purchase of BSN’s Premium Savings Certificate, bill payment, prepaid mobile top up and cashless purchases.

IPDC of Bangladesh offers green finance

Green Finance describes a broad range of funding for environment oriented technologies, projects, industries or business. From the perspective of a financial institution green finance refers to environment oriented financial products or services. IPDC recognizes the value of environment and treatment as a capital, while trying to improve human well-being through reducing environment risk and maintaining ecological balance. IPDC offers financing facility to replace old machinery to ensure less carbon emission, introduce solar panel for household to make better use of renewable energy as well as to construct efficient brick fields to minimize the use of natural resources.

DBT receives IDB fund to finance environmental investments

Development Bank of Turkey (DBT) and Undersecretariat of Treasury signed a loan agreement on the fund provided by Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in the country. The long term loan amount of USD 220 Million, provided as restricted mudarabah method from IDB, will be used for the renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. This will generate environmental benefits, preventing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Acting General Director Metin Pehlivan said that Development Bank of Turkey has maintained successful cooperation with IDB from the year of 2000.

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Creating an ecological work environment

Even if a business owner has a strong sense of environmental awareness, the big challenge often lies in figuring out how to get employees to share the mindset to that they themselves would proactively go ‘green’. This may seem like a daunting problem but, given the right ingredients, you can lead initiatives that can help transform the organizational culture into one of healthy sustainability. Here are some strategies for gaining such quick wins:

- **Lead by example.** A company’s vision to alter the ways of its employees has to start from its leaders. Employees usually look up to their big bosses as examples in any company undertaking—if the leaders are not practicing what they preach, the employees can immediately write off new initiatives.

- **Engage employees.** In order to stir employee interest in the advocacy, they must be able to feel that they are very much part of its success. Create small programs and activities that will educate them more about going green and promote volunteerism among the members of the company. Eventually, you can implement an awards and incentives system to encourage employees who show initiative and who can serve as role model.

- **Link KRAs to green objective.** When employees’ key result areas (KRAs) include conservation initiatives, it makes them really pay attention. KRAs such as reduced consumption of office supplies, energy consumption (if a team’s consumption can be monitored), and the formulation of creative solutions to reduce waste and help to drive the point that the company wants tangible results in its greening program.

- **Follow through.** All efforts toward establishing an environmentally-friendly work atmosphere must be consistent throughout the organization. From recruitment, to hiring, to employee compensation—all these must reflect the goals of the company in saving resources and in contributing to saving Mother Earth.

- **Measure effectiveness.** Evaluating the engagement of the employees is one of the most crucial steps in making sure that the advocacy is being picked up by the rest of the company. How to effectively measure the appropriateness of the activities? Log in the number of hours members of the company are dedicating for volunteer work. Round up a survey form. Measure the environmental impact (both positive and negative) of all the company advocacies.

**Source:** SME, a Plantersbank publication for entrepreneurs

Green initiatives that you can implement now.

**Upgrade existing equipment.** Replace antiquated office equipment, such as PCs and monitors, with units that have better energy efficiency ratings. Don’t forget to set up a maintenance program to keep up your equipment in tip-top shape.

**Encourage communications through e-mail.** To save paper, ink and money, (among many others), implement an “online communication policy.” Evaluate first whether or not a document is worth printing and if it is, print using the “draft” mode on the printer.

**Don’t forget to shut down.** Assign custodians to switch off airconditioning after office hours. The same goes for lights and computers.

**Stock up on used papers.** Need to print a draft? Print on the clean side of used paper and keep them on a handy pile. Need to finally get rid of this file? Gather all your used paper, broadsheets, glossies, etc and donate them to junk shops that recycle.

**Maintain healthy air flow in the office.** Place indoor plants in cubicles to help increase oxygen levels and remove toxins from the air. You no longer need to buy expensive air purifiers because you get clean air for free

Source: SME, a Plantersbank publication for entrepreneurs

What is Global Environment Facility?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a major source of grant funding for the global environment. The GEF provides grants for projects related to six focal areas (Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Land Degradation, the Ozone Layer, and Persistent Organic Pollutants). Since its inception in 1991 the World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP have been the three implementing agencies of the GEF, complemented by seven more agencies since 1999, but remain the major recipients of funds from the GEF. Donor countries have provided funding to the GEF in four year replenishment cycles, with the third GEF replenishment covering the period from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2006 (FY03 through FY06), and the fourth from FY07 through FY10. The GEF Council approves and the GEF CEO subsequently endorses funding decisions for project proposals brought forward by the implementing agencies, which negotiate these with the recipient countries. The World Bank as Trustee of the GEF trust fund commits these funds, after CEO endorsement, to the implementing agencies.

Global environmental spending continues rise

Nearly two-thirds of corporations worldwide will increase environmental spending this year with about half of that group expanding their budgets by double-digits. Verdantix surveyed 250 heads of environment, health and safety (EHS) in 13 major economies and reported that just 3 percent plan to cut spending this year compared to 2013, while 36 percent will hold spending in line with inflation. Spending on air, soil and water pollution, permitting, waste, water and emissions will continue at a robust pace this year, according to Verdantix. The report reveals that spending on environment, health and safety (EHS) will comparatively be more attractive than energy management and sustainability. The Verdantix report, Global Survey 2014: EH&S Budgets & Priorities reports on trends, including: 68 percent of North American EHS & budgets will remain flat in 2014 compared to 2013 with 30 percent of corporations making increases; 14 percent of corporations in the AsiaPacific region will increase EHS spending by 10 percent; 36 percent of corporations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa will increase their EHS spending in 2014 of which 11 percent plan a double-digit increase.

Source: [www.environmentalleader.com](http://www.environmentalleader.com)