

Nature and the Environment in the News

Source: Vietnam news

Issue: 6400

Date: 25/6/09

Simple ways to deal with climate change

HÀ NỘI — Green Office, a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Finland programme, will provide enterprises with simple and effective methods to deal with climate change and reduce their impact on the environment.

A workshop to promote environmentally-friendly offices held by the WWF, with the support of Toyota Motor Việt Nam (TMV), opened in the capital yesterday.

Environmental activists said that increasing environmental awareness was changing enterprises' point of view.

"A lot of organisations have realised that environmental protection is everyone's responsibility in order to conserve the planet's precious natural resources, protect the Earth and our survival from one generation to another," said Trần Minh Hiền, WWF Việt Nam country director.

Vietnamese enterprises, non-government organisations and embassies attended the workshop to learn about the Green Office programme.

At the workshop, potential members of Green Office learned about the benefits of becoming part of the WWF's Green Office programme, which connects them with a global network of Green Offices. Member names are also listed on the WWF's website. So far, five

enterprises and organisations in Việt Nam have joined the programme: the Embassy of Finland, the British Embassy, the Conforama corporation, the OUT-2 Design Co and TMV.

TMV is co-ordinating with the WWF to hold 5S/Green Office training courses, based on a model of a Japanese-style office in combination with the Green Office programme. The training courses will teach members how to implement the programme using case studies. Green Office is part of TMV's Go Green programme, which is being implemented in modules: Practical activities to protect the environment; education and information campaigns to raise awareness about environmental protection; and the encouragement of sustainable activities run by the community.

WWF first developed the Green Office programme in 1997 and introduced it to Việt Nam ten years later. The model offers simple solutions that can be applied to all offices, like printing on double sided paper, using recycled paper, and arranging office space to maximise electricity. Solutions to reduce the consumption of natural resources, like energy and water, have been successfully applied to offices all over the world, saving them money and making them more environmentally friendly. — VNS