

Environment, Health & Safety Academy

About ISC

At ISC, we give passionate, committed people the tools, skills, and resources they need to make their communities better places to live.

Since our founding in 1991 by former U.S. Ambassador and Vermont Governor Madeleine M. Kunin, ISC has led 72 transformative community-driven projects in 20 countries around the world.

ISC's China Program includes:

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY ACADEMY

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

COMMUNITY-BASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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China's Guangdong province helped spur the nation's economic miracle and remains a powerful engine of growth, generating 11 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. At the same time, the province faces frequent energy shortages and deteriorating environmental conditions.

The Chinese government has set ambitious environmental, health and safety targets as well as standards for energy use and intensity. However, due to the large number of factories, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, the province's compliance with these regulations lags that of other regions.

In order to help boost compliance, ISC has developed an Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Academy that will expand the pool of qualified

EHS managers serving factories in Guangdong Province and South China. Located at Lingnan (University) College in Guangzhou, the Academy marks the first time that Chinese and U.S. experts have joined together to create a world-class, independent, Chinese-owned and Chinese-staffed EHS training center.

Through affordable and convenient trainings, managers will learn to apply international best practices in EHS management, enabling their companies to increase compliance with Chinese standards, lower energy consumption, and reduce greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions. The EHS Academy will certify several thousand managers in its first three years of operation, and will serve as a vital source of EHS leadership and expertise in South China.

ISC developed the academy concept in consultation with Chinese government

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In addition to our key partner, Lingnan College at Sun Yat-sen University, we would like to acknowledge our:

DONORS/CORPORATE PARTNERS

General Electric Company
GE Foundation
Citi Foundation
Honeywell
SABIC Innovative Plastics
U.S. Agency for International Development

RESOURCE PARTNERS

Adidas
Johnson & Johnson
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Business for Social Responsibility
Natural Resource Defense Council

PARTNER AGENCIES

Guangdong Economic and Trade Commission
Ministry of Environmental Protection
Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau

agencies, factory managers and multinational corporations. At a conference organized by ISC and the General Electric Company, these corporations agreed that the most cost-effective way to improve EHS practice within their supply chains—and across Guangdong's manufacturing industry—was to expand the number of Chinese EHS managers with the practical knowledge and leadership skills they need to produce positive change in their factories. The Academy goes beyond auditing by building the capacity of Chinese practitioners to meet and exceed international standards—and to contribute to those standards as the EHS profession grows.

The Academy's curriculum, based on trainings developed by leading multinational corporations and international and Chinese experts, is designed to meet the changing needs of industry in Guangdong. A project steering committee made up of ISC's key corporate and Chinese partners provides oversight and guidance. A core group of highly qualified Chinese master trainers will begin training in early 2009, and enrollment for the fall session of trainings will begin mid-year.

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About ISC

The Institute for Sustainable Communities is an independent nonprofit organization with 18 years of experience providing training, technical assistance, and financial support to communities, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and governments. ISC combines expertise in institutional development and community capacity building with environmental and resource efficiency—taking a result-oriented, business-minded approach to improving people's lives and the earth's ecosystem.

The EHS Academy is one of four components of ISC's program in Guangdong, China. We are also working with:

- Regional and local authorities to improve environmental governance;
- Municipal districts and townships to demonstrate how communities can design and implement comprehensive energy efficiency program; and
- Educators to develop and implement courses on resource efficiency and environmental health that will provide hands-on learning to children ages 9-13.