

# BEST News

Better Environmental Sustainability Targets (BEST)



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## SIAM to Host Lead Battery Workshop

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is hosting a one-day workshop entitled "Improving Lead Battery Manufacturing, Collection and Recycling: The Role of OEMs" in New Delhi on November 3, 2008. This workshop is being organized in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the Quality Council of India (QCI).

This workshop will focus on specific measures, which industry leaders can take to promote environmentally sound manufacturing and recycling of batteries in India. Among these steps are encouraging battery companies to take back used batteries for environmentally sound recycling and the adoption of voluntary standards for obtaining the Better Environmental Sustainability Targets (BEST) certification.

Speakers from OK International and the National Referral Centre for Lead Poisoning in India will be featured. A keynote address will be delivered by Maruti Suzuki's Head of Technical Affairs, Mr. I.V. Rao.

For further information and registration [click here](#)

## OK Environment Launches BEST Battery Website

To keep all stakeholders up to date on Better Environmental Sustainability Targets (BEST) Certification and auditor accreditation, OK Environment has launched the BEST Battery website. On it you will find important information on the BEST certification process, as well as the latest news and events. Please click on this link to browse the site: [www.bestbattery.org](http://www.bestbattery.org)



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## Upcoming Events

**November 3, 2008:**  
"Improving Lead Battery Manufacturing, Collection and Recycling: The Role of OEMs". November 3, 2008, 10:00am to 5:30pm, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

For more information [click here](#)

## OK International Presents at The UNEP's 6th Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Perry Gottesfeld represented OK International at the UNEP's 6th Session of Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) held in Dakar, Senegal, from September 15-19, 2008. The IFCS process has been

considering the implications of international trade involving lead and lead-containing products with consideration of possible international involvement to address the resulting pollution and health impacts. Perry discussed the implications of changing foreign trade patterns in lead and lead batteries. He discussed how these trends may impact national efforts to introduce extended producer responsibility initiatives to encourage battery collection and environmentally sound recycling.

The BEST Standard was presented as a model for addressing these issues in developing countries. Although no formal recommendations were forwarded due to a lack of consensus, the Chair's report included a statement proposing independent certification as a means to improve battery manufacturing and recycling practices.

## Dakar, Senegal - Lead Poisoning Incident Kills 18 Children

The World Health Organization reports that at least 18 children reportedly died from lead poisoning over a three-month period earlier this year in the Dakar suburb of Thiaroye sur Mer. The residents of this area made their livelihood from melting down used car batteries to sell the salvaged metal. After the deaths were reported, an investigation revealed that at least 950 people living in this district were significantly exposed and dozens of additional children were found to have potentially lethal levels of lead in their blood. Some of the critically ill children had more than eight times the acceptable threshold of lead. While WHO and the Senegal Ministry of Health are treating children found to be severely poisoned, many still face long-term neurological damage. Perry Gottesfeld of OK International visited the area in September as part of an international effort to assess the situation and make recommendations on additional actions that may be needed to cleanup the residual contamination and avoid future tragedies of this nature.

To read more about this lead poisoning outbreak [click here](#).

## Lead Battery Fact

Approximately 80% of worldwide lead production goes into lead batteries.



## **Electric Bikes Gaining Popularity**

While electric bikes (E-bikes) do provide important benefits in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and smog, they may contribute to lead poisoning unless the batteries they rely on are manufactured and recycled in an environmentally sound manner. In fact researchers at the University of California have calculated lead emission rates per kilometer may exceed 1013 mg in China where they already account for 13% of lead consumption. China already has more than 70 million E-bikes and the market is expected to grow by 80% per year.

E-bikes are now just being introduced in India and other countries where their market is expected to grow rapidly. Hero Electric of India recently announced that it is producing two new models. With a maximum speed of 25 km per hour, they can travel about 70 km on a single charge. Hero Electric also announced that it is planning on installing 2,000 recharging stations throughout Delhi during fiscal year 2009, with the expectation of expanding to 10,000 recharging stations over the next three years.

As in China, E-bikes being offered for sale in India are powered by lead batteries (with an average weight comparable to a car battery) that can only be recharged about 300 times before being replaced. Although lithium ion batteries are offered with some models, these account for a very small portion of the total market due to the much higher cost. The need for a replacement lead battery on an annual basis, along with the expected popularity of E-bikes, is a potential boom to the lead battery industry.

## **OK International to Speak at Vietnam Battery Take-Back Workshop**

The Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency (VEPA) is organizing a workshop to seek input on the design of a lead battery take back system for the country. The workshop is to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 14th. OK International and the University of Tennessee are working with VEPA to implement a lead battery collection system to encourage the environmentally sound recycling of batteries.

## **OK Environment Accredits TUV India Private Ltd.**

The board of directors of OK Environment has announced the accreditation of TUV India Private Ltd. to conduct environmental audits under the BEST Standard 1001. TUV India, a subsidiary of German based TUV NORD, is a leading certification and inspection agency with operations in 70 countries. The certification body, with headquarters in Mumbai, has been conducting ISO 14001 certifications for Environmental Management Systems since 2005. Their accreditation offers opportunities for battery companies to conduct ISO 14001 and BEST audits simultaneously with greater efficiency. TUV India now joins TUV Rheinland as the second accredited certification body to facilitate the implementation of BEST.

## **OK International Reaching Out on Facebook Causes**

OK International has created an Internet page on Facebook Causes to bring attention to the global lead poisoning epidemic. Facebook is a popular, free social website that connects people with friends and others locally and around the world. Facebook Causes was created for users to leverage their network of friends to effect positive change. OK International is utilizing this forum to further educate people about lead poisoning and recruit new friends to the cause. If you're already a member simply click on this link

<http://apps.new.facebook.com/causes/about> and type into the search window, "Stop the Lead Poisoning Epidemic." If you're not a member of Facebook, you can view this page by joining up at:

<http://www.facebook.com>

Occupational Knowledge International

[www.okinternational.org](http://www.okinternational.org)