Development Activities of China on LCA

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Life Cycle Assessment is discussed and the research is emphasized in China. From 1998, supported by the National R&D Program, the project Research on Materials Life Cycle Assessment was put in practice to develop practical MLCA methods primarily with some typical materials and processes, including steel & iron, aluminum, cement, etc.

Based on the national research project, according to the principle of ISO 14000 series, the first center for National Materials Life Cycle Assessment in China was established, in cooperation with related functional department. As a technologic platform for evaluation and ecomaterials research, the center will provide services to the government, industry and the public, to progress in the methodology and standard of LCA and promote standard for corporations, industry and the nation, also put great efforts on the promotion of ecomaterials and eco-friendly field in China. Also as an open window to the world, the Center launches international collaborative researches with JEMAI, UNEP and so on.

Combined with ISO 14000 standards, LCA will be a good method to evaluate the environmental performance of materials, efficiency of resource and energy, waste emission and so on. As a highly speedy developing country, China’s public opening degree in EMS system is very lower although Eco-Label Type I and II or III are put into practice. There is no green procurement system. In fact, it is no real application for LCA and Eco-design approach, no standard, no software suitable for China. To set up recycling-oriented society is the foremost issues facing China on its path to sustainable development in the new century. It is a new growth opportunity to transform the development mode into eco-friendly one. Formulating and adopting related laws and policies, developing advanced science and technology, and improving the public morality may be the key points towards the eco-friendly development road. In which more advanced methods such as Eco-Design, LCA, and MFA should to be developed by science and technologic research.