
Sri Lanka Brandix factory gets eco award

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(LBO) - An energy efficient and low emission factory run by Sri Lanka's Brandix apparel group had won an Austrian-based green award for the best such factory in the island, the company said. The Brandix Green Factory at Seeduwa had won the national prize in the 'air' category of the 'World Energy Globe Awards for Sustainability' started by Austrian energy pioneer and Energy Globe Foundation president Wolfgang Neumann in 1999.

The 'Air' category recognizes measures to improving air quality, including avoidance of CO₂ emissions, optimization of combustion processes, reduction of green house gases and improvements in indoor air quality. The factory has also been nominated for the global award in the 'air' category to be held in the Czech capital of Prague on April 14 to coinciding with the European Environmental Ministers Meeting. "This recognition before a truly global audience is as important for Sri Lanka as it is for Brandix," said Ashroff Omar, chief executive of Brandix said in a statement. "It shows the world that tough economic conditions and the domestic conflict notwithstanding, there. The Brandix Seeduwa factory has been rated in the 'Platinum' grade by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system of the US Green Building Council. It has reduced Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 80 percent, Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions by 71 per cent and Oxides of Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 92 per cent, the company said. The factory has achieved an energy savings of 46 percent, reduced potable water use by 70 per cent. Almost all of the site-generated solid waste is recycled. "These are indicators that match those of the best eco-friendly manufacturing operations anywhere in the world," says Brandix director A J Johnpillai. "They represent a significant reduction in the factory's impact on global temperature." The factory had achieved a score of 76 (12 points higher than the 64 required for Platinum status) on the 85-point LEED certification system. The factory is Brandix's lead manufacturing plant for Marks & Spencer, a UK based retail chain. Brandix says it makes casual bottoms, intimate apparel and underwear, textiles, knitted fabrics, sewing and embroidery thread, accessories and hangers, and also offers wet processing and finishing and fabric printing. Brandix supplies global labels including Victoria's Secret, Gap, NEXT, Lands End, Abercrombie & Fitch, Tommy Hilfiger, H&M, Express and Tezenis. Courtesy: lankabusinessonline.com