ASSIGNMENT 14 - 20 FEBRUARY 2006

(Discussed on 27 February 2006)

On Tuesday, 14 February 2006, you should open the weekly home page on the course web site (http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre105/lectures.htm). The narrative for this week is entitled, “Finding Partners for the Journey.” Please read the narrative. You may wish to explore some of the Internet links provided in the footnotes. Please remember that you will not be tested on the content. Instead, you will have to work with your classmates to find ways to integrate the content and find a path to sustainable development for the “virtual” company described in the case and for the City of Cambridge (Massachusetts, USA).

After you have become basically familiar with the topic, you should read the case. You should be very familiar with the information in the Guide to Using the Case Method. Please make sure that you use the case to discuss the content. It is your opportunity to test the completeness and reality of what has been presented to you. You should also be addressing how you can integrate what you learned about stakeholder engagement and process characterization last week and how it can be used on the journey. How will these topics along with what you learned in the first week help establish the environmental, social and economic responsibilities in the weeks yet to come?

Please review the information in the Guide to Using the Discussion Board. Please look for the proper folder in the third week that was created for your discussion of the content with the perspective of the case. You should follow the discussion through the weekend. Remember that you will be graded on your entries according to the rubric that has been presented in the Guide. You can correspond with the teaching assistant that provided the grade to see how you might be able to improve in future weeks. If you do not post a discussion point during the week, you will receive a grade of “zero” for that week. Should you have any problems posting or with your travel schedule during the course, please contact the teaching staff to seek a waiver or to allow you to post at a later time.

You should complete your discussion on the case by Sunday, 19 February 2006. The class will be discussing this information and your ideas in the summary discussion on 27 February 2006. There is no summary discussion on 20 February 2006 because of the Presidents’ Day Holiday in the United States. However, there will be an assignment for that week that will be discussed along with this case on 27 February 2006.

Please review the Guide to Participating in the Weekly Summary Discussions. Please come to the weekly discussion summary session on 27 February 2006 with what you believe best answers to the questions posed at the end of the case. If you are a distance learning student and wish to contribute to this discussion, please e-mail your suggestions.
to the graduate student that you have been teamed with or a member of the teaching staff on Sunday, 27 February 2006.

This is another reminder about the book report. You should have already purchased the three (3) books that are named in the Guide to Preparing the Book Report. You should be reading these books. The book report is due on Friday, 24 March 2006. These books should enrich your knowledge of sustainable development at the local level. I am hoping that you will cite information from these books as you participate in the discussions of the case each week.

It is time for the Graduate Students to start thinking about their semester paper or project. Please read Guide to Preparing the Semester Report. If you do the Semester Paper, you will have to choose a process to focus on. A list of processes has been provided in the Guide. For these processes, the Instructor can help you retrieve process information similar to that used for the printing case in the course. Please send the Instructor an e-mail and let him know what process you are interested in. He will send you information regarding a process that you can work with. Even though you have selected one of the featured processes, you still need to prepare and submit a prospectus by 3 April 2006.

For your semester paper, you can choose a process from your job or other experience. If you wish to choose a process that is not on the list, please send the Instructor an e-mail message with a description of the process you would like to choose. He will try to assist you in finding process information on that process. You have to submit a prospectus by 3 April 2006.

Finally you have an option for conducting a semester project, either alone or with some other students. Details can be found in the Guide. If you are considering a semester project, please contact the Instructor by e-mail and start discussing your choice so that you will be prepared to submit a prospectus by 3 April 2006.

Once again, please feel free to contact any member of the teaching staff if you are having problems keeping up with the pace in this case method course. As stated before, we want this to be a pleasant experience for you. It is our experience that most students require a few weeks to get into the routine of the course. Please try not to fall behind! During you transition, and after, we will do whatever we can to help you get the most from this course.