Before beginning, you should invite local dignitaries to give an introductory speech and welcome to the participants and facilitators. Suggested speakers should include high officials in the country’s environmental program, individuals from the U.S. Embassy or other U.S. officials, and the host agency or organization. The allotted time for the session anticipated several such speakers.

Welcome to the Environmental Compliance Inspection Training Workshop. We are pleased to see so many of you here representing your country’s environmental programs. During the next three days, we hope to get to know each of you better, and share experiences so that we all may learn from each other.

Inspector training is fundamental to the success of any environmental compliance and enforcement program. There is wide consensus that a range of both carrots and sticks are needed to achieve improvements in environmental performance and to protect the public and natural resources from illegal activities that threaten sustainable development. At the foundation of the most innovative and traditional approaches is the need for credible, professional and quality inspections. Our mutual goals are to inaugurate world-wide capacity building through a cadre of trained facilitators who will continue to provide inspector training. We also hope to stimulate ongoing exchange between inspectors within the context of broader networking.

WHAT FACILITATED TRAINING MEANS

We call this facilitated training because, to the extent possible, we are here to help you learn through your own participation and experience in the course, and through the input of your fellow participants. In this type of course, you will think for yourself, and work together to resolve the problems.
Role of Facilitator

The facilitator will introduce the material, answer questions about the exercises and stimulate your own discovery of principles and their application. The facilitator will challenge you to think for yourselves and will make sure that the ground rules are agreed upon and followed.

Role of the Participant

You should participate as much as possible in the course, learning from each other, testing out new theories amongst yourselves, and taking on different roles to encourage thoughts about different perspectives. Your participation is essential to making this work.

Networking

(This will vary with the circumstances) You may or may not work together in the same organization, but how many can say that you know everyone in the room well? One of the advantages of learning in this type of setting is the sharing of your experiences. To help that continue, we’re passing around the attendance list so you can make sure your information is correct and contact your colleges after the course.

Train-the-Trainer

As you know, most of you have been selected to attend this course to prepare you to become facilitators and present the course yourselves to your colleagues with your program and in other organizations or countries. As such, continually ask yourselves how you will present the material, and how the course could be improved or altered to better suit your needs.

Course Evaluation

As we end each day’s session, we will want to explore together what you gained from this experience and how it may be applicable to your current situation. We will also discuss the course, and will ask for your suggestions in improving it. You are helping us to polish and streamline this course and we look forward to receiving your feedback. There is an evaluation form in your manual that may help guide your comments.
GROUND RULES

*Listen while others are speaking*

We want everyone to participate as much as possible and to feel free to express his or her ideas. Therefore, we ask that you listen closely to those ideas so that you may respond to them later on. Also, please turn off your cell phone to reduce interruptions.

*Respect others' opinions:*

There are no wrong answers, we are all on the same level, and we can all learn from each other. Therefore, we encourage you to listen to and respect others' opinions, to offer your own opinions, and generally, to have a free and open exchange of ideas.

*There are no wrong answers or dumb questions:*

Even if someone's response doesn't make sense to you at first, it can often lead to other thoughts and new ideas. Any question is welcome. If you have a question or wish to discuss a topic that is outside the topic at that time, make a note of your question for later. At the end of each day, and at the end of the course, we will hold a panel discussion to capture any remaining issues that may not have been covered in the course.

*Use your imagination:*

Feel free to be creative--do not be constrained by the way things are done now. Find imaginative ways to resolve the problems.

*Participate:*

You will get out of this course only as much as you put in, and others will benefit from your thoughts. We welcome your input at any time. In fact, the facilitator will make sure that no one dominates the discussion and that everyone participates. Try out new ideas and question anything when you disagree!

*Timeliness:*

We request that we start each session promptly in order to provide everybody the opportunity to participate as much as possible and to ensure that we have time to cover all the material thoroughly. Regular breaks are scheduled into the agenda.