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René VAN BERKEL (PhD) is UNIDO Representative and heads the Regional Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in India, which is directly responsible for India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and coordinates country offices in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. UNIDO works to foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization in its member countries.

René has 28 years professional experience in resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP), industrial symbiosis and eco-industrial parks, industrial productivity, sustainability and green industry/economy, with extensive international experience in Europe, Australia and Asia, covering a variety of manufacturing and related sectors.

From 2015 to 2017 he served as Chief Technical Advisor for UNIDO's RECP programme in Indonesia and assisted national project partners with implementation of RECP methods and techniques in prioritized textile and garment, food processing and tourism sectors. Between 2008 and 2015 he headed the global RECP programme at UNIDO headquarters and was in charge for overall programme strategy and new developments in regards to RECP methods and tools, eco-industrial parks, green industry policy and (corporate) social responsibility in particular in Asia and Eastern Europe.

During 2006-2008 he was an independent international consultant and from 1999-2006 he was Professor of Cleaner Production at Curtin University of Technology in Perth Australia. From 1989 – 1999 he served in different applied research roles at the University of Amsterdam, during which period he also consulted extensively on cleaner production and waste minimization in India and China.

Dr Van Berkel is a Dutch national with a PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Amsterdam.