Letter from the Secretariat
ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM
www.arecop.org
September-October 2007
ARECOP

PROJECT IDEA NOTE (PIN) WORKSHOP

September 3-7, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The PIN workshop was organized by ARECOP and GERES and designed and conducted by Climate Change Unit of GERES-Cambodia. The training workshop aimed to provide know how on developing improved cookstove projects for the carbon financing scheme. In the workshop, possible future collaborations on and back up facilities for carbon financed ICS project development was also discussed. 16 participants representing institutions in 7 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Nepal, France, Philippines, Vietnam) participated in the event.

Resource persons from GERES (Samuel Bryan, Carbon Technologist; Iwan Baskoro, GERES Country Director; Kimberley Buss, Carbon Analyst) presented lectures on carbon financing scheme, key concepts used in the CDM project development and the process of developing ICS projects based on carbon financing that had been undertaken by GERES.

Draft PIN documents, prepared prior to the training workshop by participants, were used as a tool for active learning. During the group work participants reviewed the validity of their proposed projects for carbon financing, and identified gaps and needs for further works in order to finalize their draft PIN documents.

A resource person from DNV, a leading CDM validation/verification body presented a lecture which provided an insight of the required standards to achieve validation and verification and a focus for the necessary project design to satisfy the requirements of a verifier.

Participants also visited improved stove production centers and stove producer training facilities - the field based infrastructures of GERES' carbon financed improved stove projects.

NEPAL

NATIONAL ICS NETWORK MEETING

July 31, 2007, Kathmandu

Center for Rural Technology (CRT), the network coordinator, reported on the progress of the network, as well updates of ARECOP network status.

There were currently a total of 32 ICS network members organizations of which 24 are within Kathmandu Valley and 8 district level ICS Networks.

During the 2006-2007 period, outreach of promotional campaign has been concentrated at the district level. Orientation to biomass energy technology and kitchen management concept were conducted in the districts of Dhading, Dhankuta and Makwanpur.

The Network initiated Student Support Program had involved students from Kathmandu Unviersty and Tribhuvam University in research works on ICS related topics. Technology research and development has also been undertaken by the network, which includes design development of a wood burning stove model, Pawankhamu and another on going development of rice husk gasifier stove.

The Network coordinator also reported on the planned activities for the 2007-2008 period. The publication of ICS Dispatch and Chulo newsletters will be continued by the network. The Network and AEPC/ESAP will also collaborate in an ICS exhibition. Following up on the regional kitchen improvement and household energy monitoring training last September in Vietnam, the network will be field testing the HOBO CO monitor and UCB Particle Monitor. Student Support Program will also support two students carrying out dissertation work on technical, social or environmental issues of biomass energy. District level training and/or workshops have also been planned for the period.

Specific activities of the Network members were also presented during the meeting.
Mr. Bhushan Tuladhar, Executive Director of Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) presented Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) developed

by his organization for ICS Program.

Mr. Min Bikram Malla, Program Officer of Practical Action, shared the findings of research on "**Performance Test of Smoke hood Technology"** conducted at Rasuwa district. The study which involved 200 households found that the introduction of the smokehood technology had reduced emissions of particulate matters (PM) by 65% and carbon monoxide (CO) by 75%. Further, the research found that in the project areas, hospital visits with Acute Lower Respiratory Infection (ALRI) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) had also been reduced.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Bhandari, presented the progress of activities of district level network in Dhading, coordinated by Rural Environment and Development Association (REDA). He shared the outcomes of the District ICS Network meeting conducted earlier in July, 2007. Mr. Bhandari alo discussed the outcomes of the orientation session on high quality charcoal production, which attracted strong interests from the network members who then were eager to have the training on charcoal production.

Mr. Gyanendra Raj Sharma, Program Coordinator of Rural Engineering and Technology Extension Service Division (RETESD) of CRT/N, shared the knowledge and experience he gained during the Regional Training on High Quality Charcoal Production, held in March in Thailand. The presentation explained different biomass used as the raw materials in the charcoal, various types of kiln to produce charcoal and end uses of charcoal and by products of charcoal production (wood vinegar).

BANGLADESH

PROGRAM CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

With the support of the World Bank, Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has been developing project concept to integrate improved sanitation and indoor air pollution mitigation measures. The integration is deemed appropriate as both, poor sanitation as well as poor indoor air quality are public health issues which occur at the household level. This initial project concept has mainly adapted the successful approach used by VERC in its participatory improved sanitation program, the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

The 8 month project concept development combined both desk study as well as field works. The studies will review existing IAP mitigation programs and policies related to IAP and renewable energy in Bangladesh. The project will also organize a workshop of relevant institutions, to share findings of the study as well as to generate further ideas on the program approach. Field based works that have been carried out to test methodologies as well as technologies to be implemented have also been carried out in VERC program areas.

NEW GLOBAL ENTITY RAMPS UP BATTLE AGAINST 'SILENT KILLER IN THE KITCHEN'

Aims to Achieve a Five-year, $25 Million Investment to Reduce Global Indoor Air Pollution Deaths (Put Shell and Envirofit logos)

Independent UK charity Shell Foundation and leading US environmental nonprofit Envirofit International today announced a ground-breaking partnership that has the potential to significantly reduce the number of global deaths caused by Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) the smoke generated by traditional fires and stoves used in developing world homes. More than three billion people, or almost half the world's population, cook in their homes using traditional fire and stoves, burning biomass fuels like wood, dung and crop waste. Day in and out families breathe in lethal fumes from these cooking fires. According to the World Health Organisation, IAP claims the lives of 1.5 million people a year worldwide, or one person every 20 seconds. Women and children make up the vast majority of these deaths due to their increased exposure in the home.

Envirofit will be tasked with handling the scale-up and spin off of the Shell Foundation's Breathing Space programme,[1] which was founded in 2002 to achieve significant global reductions in IAP. This new partnership is part of the Foundation's mission to see 10 million clean-burning stoves sold in five countries over the next five years. The Foundation is providing Envirofit with investment and organisational support to form an independent global entity. In turn, Envirofit International, working with their technology partner Colorado State University's Engines and Energy Conversion Laboratory, will design, develop, market and distribute clean cookstoves that are engineered to emit significantly less toxic emissions and use less fuel.

For more information on Breathing Space Program: http://www.shellfoundation.org/index.php?menuID=3&smenuID=10&bmenuID=5

CAMBODIA

WENETCAM's Staff movement

In May 2007, Wood Energy Network of Cambodia (WENETCAM) recruited Mr. Seng Phearun to hold the position of stove technician. He was formerly a mechanist working with Don Bosco Technical School for last 2 years, where he was in charge of training of students on mechanical equipment installation.

WENETCAM contributed article to PREP Bulletin

WENETCAM recently contributed a case study article on the School Stove Building Project for Promotion of Resource Efficiency Projects (PREP) bulletin No.9. The case study of a year long project (Feb. 2006-May 2007) discussed the project which successfully replaced inefficient traditional stoves with improved stoves to benefit 260,000 children, 1200 cooks and create employment for 50 stove builders. The article is available online at: www.wisions.net/Download-Dateien/%20PREP_brochureNo9.pdf

APROVECHO & CHINESE FACTORY AGREE TO MASS-PRODUCE IMPROVED COOK STOVES FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKET

High-quality, low-emission and very affordable cooking stoves will soon be available around the world, thanks to a long-term agreement signed by Aprovecho Research Center and Shengzhou Stove Manufacturer in Shengzhou, China, on August 24, 2007.

Shengzhou Stove will manufacture the stoves according to Aprovecho's specifications. Shengzhou Stove will produce three woodburning stoves for Aprovecho: a household Rocket stove, an institutional Rocket stove with a 60 liter stainless-steel pot, and an extremely low-cost refugee stove.

Shengzhou Stove will manufacture the stoves to meet Aprovecho specifications for performance, fuel efficiency, durability, emissions, and price. The stoves will be shipped from a port near Shanghai to customers all over the world. Shipping to farthest ports will add about 30 cents per stove to the final cost.

The factory is well set up for mass production. The design calls for using high-quality, durable ceramic combustion chambers, which the factory can produce at very reasonable prices. Similar coal-burning stoves that Shengzhou currently manufactures retail in China for the equivalent of U.S. $1.50 to $3.00, depending on the size.

Aprovecho is working closely with the Shengzhou Stove owners to ensure that manufacturing conditions are safe and that the materials used are high quality and nonhazardous.

DAXU STOVE WON THE ASHDEN AWARD FIRST PRIZE

Beijing Shenzhou Daxu Bio-energy Technology Company Ltd, China developed and manufactured the the Daxu stove, which won the first prize in the Ashden Award (international prize category).

The Daxu stove is specifically designed to use either loose or compressed crop waste as well as wood. The stove is over 40% efficient and produces hardly any smoke. The Daxu stove model was singled out for achieving the highest efficiency of any entrant in a stove competition organised by the China Association for Rural Energy Industries and the Shell Foundation.

To date, 25,000 Daxu stoves have been sold with 10,000 having been sold in the first three months of 2007. These sales are due in part to subsidies provided by the Yangqing County authorities.

Ashden Award money would be used to promote the Daxu stove more widely and to develop a new series of Daxu stoves for use in different regions and for different purposes.

(Source: Ashden Awards website)