

# Letter from the Secretariat

August 2004

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



**ARECOP PHASE III (First) PTA Meeting (9-12 August 2004, Hanoi, Vietnam)** was attended by altogether 38 participants representing 25 organizations from 9 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, USA and Vietnam). Participants were ARECOP Country Contact Points (CCPs), leading network members (NGOs and other institutions), government representatives and ARECOP Partners (INGO's and other institutions). In this PTA Meeting, ARECOP was not able to get representatives of Bhutan, China and Pakistan to attend the meeting.

There was much interaction and exchange throughout the meeting through various presentation, workshop and group discussion sessions. Added to the above sessions, were exhibitions featuring ARECOP Country Contact Points and Energy Research Institute (India). A field visit was also conducted to villages in Hai Phong district where pilot project was initiated by Vietnam ICS National Network.

## Day One

The PTA Meeting participants were welcomed by Rector of Hanoi Architectural University, Prof. Dr. Tran Trong Hanh. To open the meeting, were speeches by Dr. Nguyen Huu Dung (Director of Scientific & Technology Department, Ministry of Construction, Vietnam), Ms. Christina Aristanti (ARECOP Manager), Mr. Julio D. Castro (DGIS, Netherlands).

The first day of the meeting consisted of an overview of ARECOP Phase II and Phase III; a group discussion to provide an overview of Biomass-Household Energy Sector (BHES) in Asia and; finding common grounds on issues in BHES.

Ms. Christina Aristanti orientated the participants to the framework of the meeting and gave a presentation on ARECOP Phase II achievements and Phase III planned activities.

## *Forming the Picture of Biomass-Household Energy Sector in Asia*

Following that, was group discussion sessions "Forming the picture of Biomass-Household Energy Sector (BHES) in Asia". Participants were divided into five groups: **Group 1** (Participants from Indonesia and Mangrove Action Project); **Group 2** (Participants from Philippines, Cambodia and Winrock International); **Group 3** (Participants from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India); **Group 4** (Participants from Vietnam and Energia); **Group 5** (Participants from Nepal and Partnership in Clean Air Initiatives - USEPA). The result was an overview of major issues/events that have occurred in BHES, specifically in Asia region - providing participants with a common perspective on the subject.



*Mind Mapping* - Participants then mapped current trends/issues in BHES, producing a “map of issues/trends in BHES and their relative significance”. The trends/issues identified were clustered into common grounds, i.e. issues considered significant and that could be addressed together through cooperative and mutual efforts by those concerned. The six common grounds were:

**Indoor air pollution and health, Biomass as a renewable energy resource, Commercialization, Gender, poverty and livelihood, Partnership and networking, Cleaner biomass fuel technology.**

### Day Two

#### *Achieving Common Grounds - Identification of Achievements and Gaps*

Participants followed up the results from the previous session. Participants divided themselves into the **six groups** - further identified achievements and gaps, with regards to actions addressing the **six common grounds**. Each discussion group presented and discussed its results with the participants.

Regional level actions were also discussed - comparing ARECOP Plan of activities with the regional actions suggested by the country groups. Several changes were made to the planned activities as recommended.

#### *Vision – ARECOP after Phase III*

The last agenda of the PTA Meeting was to identify possible strategies for **ARECOP Network to continue addressing future biomass-household energy issues after the ending of ARECOP PHASE III in December 2007**. This was followed by a session on Evaluation and Recommendations of the PTA Meeting.

### Day Four

On the last day, participants went on a sightseeing trip to Halong Bay. The trip was followed by a field visit to villages in Hai Phong district (Hanoi) where improved stove program was conducted by Vietnam Women Union in cooperation with Research Center for Architecture, Indoor Climatology and Environment.



*Presentation of ARECOP Partners* –ARECOP partners introduced to participants their organizations and activities and how their activities could potentially be integrated with ARECOP activities. The partners were: Energia (Netherlands), Cambodia Fuelwood Saving Project, Winrock (USA), Partnership in Clean Air Initiatives/USEPA (USA), Mangrove Action Project (regional network).



### ARECOP(FIRST) PHASE III COUNTRY CONTACT POINT MEETING

The above was a two-day back to back meeting organized following the PTA Meeting, and was attended by representatives of ARECOP Country Contact Points in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. ARECOP Secretariat together with ARECOP Country Contact Points converged to consolidate plan of actions of National Improved Stove Network (PHASE III) in the above countries. The meeting was also meant to discuss future strategies of the national and regional networks to continue addressing the biomass energy sector in Asia, after the ending of the Phase. Further, the meeting was focused on strengthening the cooperation among ARECOP CCPs (horizontal networking). The meeting also discussed the monitoring system that would be developed for monitoring of the national network programs, as monitoring of results of national network program has been identified as lacking during the evaluation of ARECOP Phase II.

### Day Three

#### *Addressing Common Grounds – What should be done at the national and regional level?*

Working through country groups, participants identified **potential actions at the national level** that could possibly address the gaps identified earlier. Further the groups also identified resources needed in order to carry out the potential actions identified. Complimentary **regional level actions** to overcome the gaps were also worked out by the groups.

During the presentation of the country groups’ plan of activities, participants were encouraged to start discussing possible exchanges of skills, expertise and resource among themselves.

