

Letter from the Secretariat

March 2001

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



dear colleagues,

Welcome to another installment of ICS news. In this edition, we bring you updates on activities at the secretariat. We will also look briefly at the progress of ICS programs in Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

At the Secretariat

The secretariat finally has the opportunity to conduct a follow up to the 1996 workshop on kitchen improvement in Nepal and has now engaged several kitchen improvement experts for the preparation of kitchen improvement guideline.

We are also collaborating with regional experts in drafting a guideline for participatory monitoring and evaluation of improved cookstove program. There is also a plan for a workshop and training on monitoring and evaluation to be held sometimes in July this year. Through the workshop we will engage participants to provide us with further input before the finalization of the guideline.

ARECOP will also be participating in the workshop, 'Assessment of Resources, Best Practices and Gaps in Gender, Science and Technology in the Asia-Pacific Region (APGEST), to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 5-9 April 2001. ARECOP manager, Christina will be a resource person during the

workshop. ARECOP participation is part of our commitment in bridge building for popular support in ICS issues from international audience.

Networking

Vietnam

ARECOP's CCP in Vietnam, the **Research Center for Architectural Indoor Climatology and Environment (RCAICE)** has started ICS national networking when it held a network meeting for the northern provinces of Vietnam,

from 12-13 March, 2001. Christina and Erwan from ARECOP participated in the meeting. During the meeting, representatives from both governmental and non-governmental and

academic institutions from various provinces and districts reported the status of improved cookstove program and shared their experiences in ICS program implementation in their areas. And based on the discussions and inputs from the participants, ICS networking activities were



Vietnam national network meeting, March 2001

drafted and will hopefully begin in April.

In Vietnam we also had the opportunity to get to know further several organizations involved in ICS programs. We called on the office of **Population Development International (PDI)** and got to know more about **PDI's** participatory approach in the implementation of ICS. **PDI** in its projects in remote areas, in Quan Binh and Nghe An provinces, has always endeavoured to make optimal use of local resource and knowledge. However we were also informed about the current lack of technical skills. In this regard, ARECOP has offered them access to training.

With the **Vietnam Energy Conservation Program**, we discussed about possible collaboration in producing a guideline for need assessment for ICS program. Currently there is a lack of a guideline for conducting a need assessment for ICS implementation despite growing interests of various organizations to get involved in ICS implementation. It is also often the case that many stove programs without prior need assessment or with inadequate assessment fail to address the needs of program beneficiaries. Therefore such a guideline or tool should fill the gap in the approach of future stove programs.

A visit was also made to the **Institute of Energy** to look at the biomass bricqueting project currently underway in the institute. The project was a collaboration of the **Institute of Energy and Asian Institute of Technology**, Thailand. The project is focused on the experiment to produce bricquet fuels economically from agricultural wastes, such as sugar cane bagasse,



coffee and rice husk and saw dust. The project also involved transfer of bricqueting technology from China and Thailand.

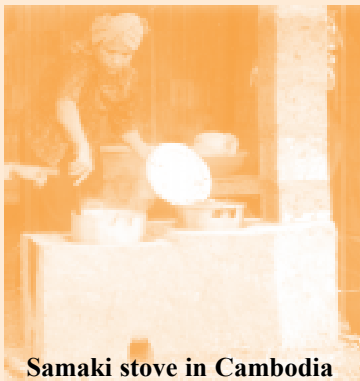
Cambodia

We continued the country visit to Cambodia and were hosted by the **Wood Energy Network of Cambodia (WeNetCam)**. **WeNetCam** has been organizing/facilitating actions in ICS since its inception; for example, co-organizing ICS training, co-producing ICS training curricula and commercial TV spots. Although Cambodia has only started ICS in 1997, we have already witnessed a promising start.

At the present, many organisations are implementing their own ICS activities. It was also good to know that many of those involved in ICS are former trainees from the ARECOP-RWEDP training.

Commercialization has also started to take off in Cambodia, especially for the twin stove and the Thai bucket stove, known as the New Lao bucket stove in Cambodia.

Possibility of **WeNetCam** co-organizing the participatory monitoring workshop



Samaki stove in Cambodia

and training in Cambodia, was also discussed. The event is tentatively scheduled for July this year. It will be both theoretical as well as practical/field based. We will keep readers updated on this.

Future activities of **WeNetCam** and their counterparts will address the needs of Cambodian ICS, among which is the lack of ICS literature in Khmer. This will include producing a guideline on how to start ICS program and adaptation of ARECOP training manual on stove selection and dissemination, to better suit Cambodian conditions.

Sadly though, the **Cambodia Fuelwood Saving Project (CFSP)**, is closing its phase I activities at the end of March 2001. **CFSP** has been one of the first organizations to introduce ICS in Cambodia and has been an important actor in the development of ICS there. We are hopeful that **CFSP** will begin its second phase activities soon.

Sri Lanka

Subsequent to the national network meeting, Sri Lanka will have its first national training on ICS selection and dissemination skills. The training will be facili-

tated the **Integrated Development Association**, our Sri Lanka's CCP with the supports of **RWEDP** and **ARECOP**. The training will start on the 24th April and will last for 11 days.

The Philippines

We were informed that the **Ayala Foundation** has committed resources for an ICS program and has been implementing stoves in Cebu and Mindanao. As part of ICS program progress monitoring, **APPROTECH Asia** will also convene a meeting of Philippine improved cookstove program committee, in April this year.

Nepal

One of our staff members, Edwin, has just returned from Nepal and Bangladesh where he conducted a monitoring of ICS networking there. He was fortunate to have the chance to participate in the Kitchen Management Workshop organized by RUCODES.

A five day Kitchen Management Workshop was organized from 18 – 22 March 2001 at Aapghari, Baluwa VDC, Karve district of Nepal. The workshop was part of the



Kitchen Management Workshop, Nepal, March, 2001

research and development activity “A Healthy Kitchen for a Healthy Family”, of the ARECOP supported ICS Network in Nepal and has been implemented by RUCODES. The main objective of the workshop was to create awareness on the importance and benefits of well-managed kitchen including health and socio-economic aspects of indoor air pollution and management of kitchen waste. About 25 local people participated in the workshop. The workshop has been successful in achieving the objective and got positive feedback from the participants. During the workshop, the participants were encouraged to manage their kitchen with the local resources to reduce the time and energy spent in the kitchen as well as improve the health condition of the kitchen. ****

NEWS FROM THE NET :

The Household Energy Network (HEDON) is conducting a global review of household energy. A questionnaire could be filled in online:
<http://ecoharmony.net/hedon/survey>.

Thanks to our colleagues, who took the effort to send us news items, which in turn enable us to share them throughout the region. Let us share more!!