

Letter from the Secretariat

July 2001

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



dear colleagues,

For the past two months, we have managed to gather for the LfS, news briefs on a range of ICS related activities from countries across the region; for example, the housing and ICS programs integration in the Philippine, the energy assessment in Nepal, a pilot project on the introduction of improved brick kiln in Sri Lanka and more of others.

At the Secretariat

After engaging two regional experts on monitoring, Karunatissa Athukorala from Sri Lanka and Ratna Indrawati from Indonesia, ARECOP has finally come up with sets of guidelines and tools for participatory gender sensitive monitoring of ICS programs. The development of such guidelines and tools are part of the overall effort to improve ICS adoption rate and to increase women involvement in the decision making process related to improved cookstove program from the planning to implementation stage. Following this, **The Workshop cum Training on Gender Sensitive Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation**, is scheduled for August 8-13, in Seam Reap, Cambodia. The **Wood Energy Network of Cambodia (WeNetCam)** will co-organize the workshop training. Resource persons/facilitators for the workshop/training will be Mr. Athukorala, Ms. Indrawati and Amin Robiarto. The event is coordinated by Christina Aristanti, ARECOP's manager.

Two outcomes are expected from the workshop-training: the first that participants will help contribute toward the improvement of the guidelines and tools, and that participants will be able to implement the participatory monitoring method in pilot ICS programs. The pilot programs will be test grounds for local spe-

cific applications of the guidelines and tools. It is expected that the trials will yield feedback for further development of the guidelines and tools.

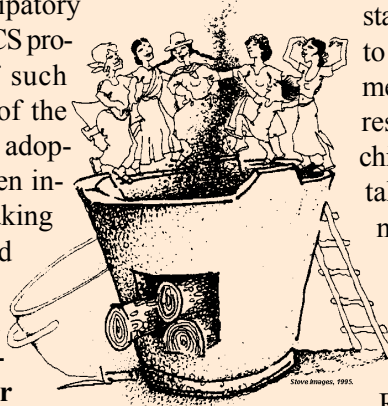
After the Cambodia training, Christina Aristanti and Syahri Ramadhan (ARECOP's new staff member) will visit Vietnam to finalise the kitchen improvement guidelines with the kitchen research team from Hanoi Architectural University; while also taking the opportunity to meet network members.

The Secretariat would like to welcome and introduce our new staff member, Syahri Ramadhan, also known to many colleagues as Adhong, who had formerly been involved in the **Cambodia Fuelwood Saving Project (Phase I)**. He will be supporting the program as well as being involved in ARECOP multi media development and production.

Networking

Philippine

Integrated Development Services (IDS) Philippines has finalised the agreement with **HABITAT for Humanities, Philippines** (Mindanao Chapter) on the integration of ICP



in the construction of some 3000 low cost housing units for the Muslim and Christian communities in Southern Philippines.

A collaboration of **NORFIL Foundation Inc.** in Luzon, **the Ayala Foundation Inc.** in Visayas and **IDS Mindanao**, implements a participatory baseline study on stove, kitchen, community and gender profiles in typical urban and rural settings. The study, is expected to be completed by the end of 2001.

Affiliated Non-Conventional Energy Center (ANEC), the implementing arm of the **Department of Energy (DOE)** established in various State Colleges and Universities in the 13 regions of the country, is planning a region-wide ICS training and construction covering 5 municipalities. The program will provide assistance mainly in the networking and enterprise initiatives, such as mobilizing resources from the local government units.

Sri Lanka

The **Integrated Development Association (IDEA)** in partnership with the **Intermediate Technology Development Group** has embarked on a project on the introduction of improved technologies for the medium and small-scale brick production. The project's has targeted brick manufacturers in two regions, the Kahagala and Akuragoda GN Divisions in the Kamburupitiya Divisional Secretary Area. The **Southern Development Authority** has also agreed to allocate a financial assistance for the improved technology dissemination.

Nepal

Center for Rural Technology/Nepal (CRT/N) had lent technical supports in the Assessment of Existing Energy Scenario in the conservation area of Rhododendron Area in Tinjure Milke Jaljale Area, Eastern Nepal. The assessment report showed the heavy use of forest resources as fuel wood for household energy consumption in Rhododendron Area. The assessment was followed by a participatory rural energy planning program. An exhibition of Rural Efficient Technologies was also held and received a good response judging from a strong demand to organise training on the construction, operation, repair and maintenance of ICS and Kitchen Management. The **IUCN** (The World Conservation Union) Nepal, then requested **CRT/N**, in close cooperation with the field office of **IUCN Dharan** and **NORM**, to conduct an ICS training for various CBO members in three districts, which was later held from May 26-June 2, 2001.

NATURAL DRAFT GASIFIER STOVE FOR INSTITUTIONS

The Asian Institute of Energy, funded by **SIDA**, has developed a natural draft institutional gasifier stove. The Institute would like collaborations in the dissemination of the technology.

More information regarding the stove and the Institute's biomass related work can be found in the web-site: www.retsasia.ait.ac.th (by following the path: Phase II > Images > Briquetting>Institutional gasifier stove IGS developed at AIT).

Contact: Professor S.C. Bhattacharya
Energy Program, Asian Institute of Technology
PO Box 4, Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120
Thailand
Fax : (66-2) 524 5439/516 2126
e-mail: bhatta@ait.ac.th

- **Call for Contributions - GLOW Vol 25, September 2001: Incorporation of gender in ICS**

Improved cookstoves (ICS) have been cited to benefit target groups, specifically women: reduced cooking and fuel collection time; reduced negative health impacts; and provide women the opportunity to become primary actors in a development project. Unfortunately, adoption of ICS is far less than expected. Often, in many ICS programmes the specific needs of the users were not taken into account in the formulation of the planning and solutions. In many cases the improved cookstove introduced is a new piece of equipment and new ways of cooking and in most cases does not serve the need of their cooking habit and food type. On the other hand, there have been reports of more successful ICS programs because the users were involved in all stages of the formulation of the solutions; in other words, more successes could be expected when a gender approach is applied, in which all stakeholders are considered. Yet, in the field of ICS, little attention has been given in the integration of gender in ICS program.

Glow, vol. 25, will feature a theme on **Gender incorporation in stove programs** and is calling for article submissions on the subject.

*>>Please contact ARECOP secretariat for your submissions. The Secretariat provides modest remunerations: US\$100 for every thematic article and US\$50 for every non thematic article, published in **Glow**.*

Recently, CRT/N had also organised an ICS Trainer's Training for its network members from July 16-21,2001 at Dhulikhel.

Another on-going activity in Nepal, is a research on the "Women's Perspective on Kitchen Management and Health Problems," which is being implemented by the **Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust (MSMT)**.

two pot-hole pottery stove. Contact the Secretariat to obtain copies of the manual.

We have also made available a list of ARECOP's publications, which include back copies of Glow magazine, manuals, case studies, proceedings and others. Contact the Secretariat for the list of publications.**

Resources

The Samaki Stove and Palm Sugar Stove video manuals (in Video Compact Disc format) are now available again, after the first copies went out of stock.

ARECOP will soon publish a video manual (in VCD format) on the production of SAE

Just to remind readers that the LfS is a means of networking, i.e. if you wish for more details regarding specific news items put in the LfS, we encourage you to contact either the secretariat or the organisations/person concerned directly. We, at the same time appreciate readers sharing news on your ICS related activities in the LfS.*

The Secretariat