

Letter from the Secretariat

August 2001

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



*d*ear colleagues,

During the month of August, we had mostly been engaged in activities conducted overseas. ARECOP and local partner, the Wood Energy Network of Cambodia, organised the Gender Sensitive Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (GSPME) on Improved Stove Program- Workshop/Training, in Cambodia, starting from 8th of August. A country visit was also made to Vietnam to discuss programs with ARECOP Country Contact Point and other local partners. In Thailand, ARECOP staff visited the Department of Energy Development and Promotion (DEDP), to explore possible collaborations with local partners.

At the Secretariat

The secretariat will be updating the GSPME guidelines and tools used during the training workshop, as a follow up to participants' feedback and input. We are already receiving written feedback through emails, and are waiting for more of such feedback.

There are also plans to conduct full tryouts of the GSPME guidelines and tools in Indonesia and Cambodia. These try outs will be a process by which the tools could be further developed.

We have also received requests to develop participatory planning tools for stove programs, from those who participated in the GSPME workshop/training. In response to this, we have now started to work with a resource person, Ms. Ratna Indrawati on developing participatory program planning tools.

On request from our Philippine's CCP, **APPROTECH Asia** and local partner, the **Ayala Foundation**, ARECOP is providing assistance in the preparation of surveying tools, prior to a potter training scheduled for November this year.

Networking

Thailand

ARECOP staff members, Syahri Ramadhan and Aryanto Sujarwo visited the **Department of Energy Development and Promotion (DEDP)** in Ratchaburi province and was welcomed by Mr. Sumphun Seingsanor, the head of the institution and Ms. Phom. In Bangkok, Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Sujarwo visit Dr. Boonrod Sajjakulnukit, Senior Chemical Engineer of **Bureau of Energy Study Research and Development, DEDP**. Government of Thailand through **DEDP** has planned program on energy conservation for the next five years. There will be six program themes started next year by **DEDP** which supports biomass energy, including the Thai Bucket Improved Stove (TBIS) dissemination and promotion and another program theme on biomass stove for industry.

To popularise TBIS, **DEDP** has a plan to disseminate 1.8 million subsidised TBIS within 5 years. Subsidy through a "coupon system" will be applied, where producers will be able to collect the subsidy through **DEDP** outlets.

ARECOP also explored potential collaborations with **DEDP**. A possible collaboration is

on the adaptation of the step by step video manual on TBIS, produced by **DEDP**, for Asia wide dissemination. Bucket stove is also popular in several Asian countries and it will be in our interest to try to disseminate the improved version of the already popular stove.

ARECOP and **DEDP** has also expressed mutual interests in conducting training on biomass energy related topics, especially on gender and participatory approach in energy programs.

Indonesia



Stove workers from **Sapa Persada Indonesia (SPI)**, a local NGO, trained by **The Indonesian Stove Network**, has embarked on an improved stove dissemination for palm sugar producers in Poerworejo, Central Java. So far, **SPI** has received positive responses from users, who experienced improvement in terms of time saved in cooking palm sap and also a decrease in fuelwood consumption. The

success came about only after several failures at the early stages of implementation, for which the workers gained lessons. **SPI** will continue to expand its stove programs to meet a strong demand from palm sugar producers in the area.

1. The construction of improved palm sugar stove by SPI and community members. Notice an added feature, an oven for drying spices which utilises the excess heat from the stove.
2. Improved palm sugar stove built by SPI workers and community members.

PHOTOS: BY SPI.



Vietnam

During a country visit to Vietnam, ARECOP team (Ms. Christina Aristanti, Syahri Ramadhan and Aryanto Sujarwo) visited the **Research Centre for Architectural and Indoor Climatology and Environment (RCAICE)-HAU**, ARECOP's CCP. ARECOP conducted a consultation with kitchen experts from **RCAICE** (Ms. Vu Thuy Hang, Mr. Le Quang Thong and Mr. Nguyen Trong Phuong) on the development of kitchen improvement guidelines.

There is also a plan to try out the participatory program planning tools (which will be developed by ARECOP) in Vietnam, sometimes in November.

The team also visited the office of **VECP (Vietnam Energy Conservation Program)**. ARECOP has been working with **VECP** in developing a household energy assessment tool. The assessment which is on going, aims to gain knowledge on the current status of household energy situation, from which the results will be used to guide household energy policy direction. The assessment are now being conducted in three countries: Vietnam, Lao and Cambodia.

A meeting was also conducted with another Vietnamese partner, **Population Development International (PDI)**. Discussion was conducted with Steven Lux, the Regional Director and Do Duc Khoi, the Environment and Population Manager. **PDI** is an international NGO, with its head office in Bangkok and country offices in Vietnam and Lao. Colleagues from **PDI** has requested ARECOP to conduct a training on Improved Stove Selection and Dissemination in Lao.

distribution of benefits arising from ICP and how the benefits could be sustained;

- A series of specific indicators connected to sustainability, needs, gender, and poverty;
- A series of tools to assess the indicators
- Applying scoring system to get the qualitative data in addition to the quantitative data collected from the participatory assessment
- A cross-sectoral framework to analyze the sustainability and its connection to the needs, gender and poverty

Cambodia

From August 8 – 13, **ARECOP** and local partner, **WeNetCam** held a Workshop and Training on Gender Sensitive Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation on ICP. Twenty participants from Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka participated in the training.

The objective of the workshop and training are: 1) To field test the GSPME in ICSP guidelines and tools; 2) Participants understand how to use and apply the guidelines and tools.

Thanks to colleagues at WeNetCam for the excellent support during the co-organizing of the events.

What is GSPME in ICP ?

- A method to help community, organizations and decision makers to achieve equitable



Scenes from the GSPME on ICP Workshop cum Training, 8-13 August 2001, Seam Reap, Cambodia



Nepal

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) had organized an “Orientation Training on ICS” from August 10-12, 2001. The three-day training has been effective in developing basic knowledge on ICS to the fresh counselors (volunteers) of ECCA. Training was organized successfully with the technical support of the **Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N)**.

Fourth National ICS Network Meeting was held on 24 August at CRT/N office.

During the meeting, annual progress, work plan for forthcoming year was discussed as well as two new members were endorsed. Mr. Saurav Shrestha of **Alternative Energy Promotion Centre** presented the third approach of National ICS Program.

Philippine

In November, **APPROTECH Asia** and the **Ayala Foundation** will organise a potter training in Cebu. ARECOP will provide potter experts, technical expertise as well as assistance in the development of needs assessment tools.

We will stop here. We are waiting to hear from you. You are the network. Your voice means the network is alive!

THE SECRETARIAT