PROCEEDING
ARECOP PHASE III SECOND PTA MEETING
22-25 January, 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand

APPENDIX 3

OPENING & KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Welcoming speech

ARECOP PHASE III SECOND PTA MEETING, 22-25 January, 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Christina Aristanti, Manager, Asia Regional Cookstove Project Secretariat, Indonesia

Good Morning and welcome to the 2nd PTA Meeting of ARECOP Phase III. Welcome to the nice and beautiful Chiang Mai.

It has always been a pleasure for us to have the opportunity to meet old friends, some of whom have been working with us for the past 16 years or even longer. It is also a pleasure to meet new friends and see new faces around the room, which is an indication of the growth of our network.

As we are all aware, we had to cancel the PTA Meeting planned for Dhaka due to an uncontrollable political situation in Bangladesh. Our friends from VERC had worked hard for the preparation of the PTA Meeting and everything was ready; I also know all of you had made your preparations for the meeting. Yet, I think we made the right decision. I would like to thank VERC and especially Mr. Yakub Hossain for all their preparation. We hope that we will still have the chance to have one of our activities or meetings in Dhaka, and that the situation in Bangladesh will get better. I would like to thank every one of you who have accommodated the change of venue and schedule of the meeting. I am very happy that we are now here in this room for the next four days to share and discuss ARECOP's future, and also each of our own in terms of biomass energy and improved cookstove programs.

Time goes by and we have all grown old with ARECOP. The ARECOP network has been around for 16 years, and we have gone through good and bad times together. Seeing the same familiar faces also indicates our level of commitment. ARECOP began with "Phase I", from 1990 – 1995, then from 1996 – 1999 we struggled to survive. Then in "Phase 2," from 2000 – 2003, we were able to obtain support from DGIS for "phase 3," to cover the period of 2004 – 2007.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank DGIS for their belief in us [ARECOP] and the importance of ICS, proven by their continuous support to ARECOP even when most donors was retreating due to the clear lack of success of ICSP in the late 80's to early 90's.

In this regard, I think we have tried our best to reach our objectives and can be proud that many organizations have recognized our achievements and our presence in the region. Internationally, ARECOP has gained a reputation as a strong and active network in addressing biomass energy and ICSP. This is demonstrated by the invitations sent to the ARECOP Secretariat and network members to make contributions to and participate in a number of regional and international events such as the World Renewable Energy Congress, the South Asia Regional Workshop on

Indoor Air Pollution, the WHO Inter-Regional Training Workshop on IAP and Household Energy Monitoring, UNESCO Regional Policy Study on Innovative Grass Root Technologies, the PCIA meeting, the Sustainable Energy Meeting in Marroko, and partnering with PCIA for an exhibition and presentation during the Better Air Quality conference in Yogyakarta.

This shows that improved coosktoves and biomass energy have again gained attention and recognition for their importance for people as well as the environment. This means that what we struggled for in the past 16 years has had a real impact.

However, as we are now in Phase 3 and can say that we have done a lot in the region and the 7 focused countries with national networks. Likewise, a lot has been done in terms of capacity building, information dissemination, and lobbying to get others involved in addressing ICS, evidenced by the growing number of organizations in the network and what is happening in the field. We will also learn more from the coming presentations. During the previous PTA meeting we started talking about having a strong and self-sustainable network. Now, after two years, what is our status? Are we going to be self-sustainable? If not, what are we supposed to do next?

It was pointed out by Mr. Julio Castro in his speech at the previous PTA Meeting, that DGIS, who has been ARECOP's main donor agency, has changed its nature of cooperation, putting much more emphasis on the idea of a bilateral relationship. In addition, we have also been given notice that they have changed their policy and therefore will not be able to provide funding any longer to ARECOP after the Phase 3. Thus, this meeting is very important for us to discuss and plan what we are going to do next.

There are three possibilities:

1. Discontinue ARECOP
2. Continue the network with our own resources – meaning that we keep on exchanging information, news, and expertise, but without outside funding support. This means we would have to pursue funding for regional or national activities independently by fund raising from various donor agencies.
3. Continue ARECOP and develop a proposal to try to get funding from other donors. If we agree on the last one, shall the format of the ARECOP network stay the same or should it change?

So, all of these things will need to be discussed, in addition to the activities and the budget we have to fulfill the needs of the network, both at regional and national levels.

From the program, you may notice that this PTA Meeting is arranged somewhat differently. The theme of the meeting is towards a sustainable ICSP and network. And because of this, at the end of the meeting we will dedicate to the discussion to the potential for improved cookstove programs to get Carbon financing. You may

remember from our previous PTA Meeting, CDM was one of the trends discussed, but at that time it was still considered not possible to be linked to ICSP. Yet I also remember at that time that two of our colleagues from CFSP who worked in Cambodia kept insisting that there was a possibility. They have shown their commitment since then, and have been able to work through the process and prove that it is possible to use ICSP for Carbon financing.

In addition, when planning this meeting and asking for input from the network for the PTA Meeting, it was suggested that we designate time for discussing Carbon financing and ICSP issues. I then contacted people who agreed to share their experiences with us, to show the potential of selling ICSP for Carbon credit. I would like to thank CFSP–GERES for providing ARECOP with the expertise of Mr. Iwan Baskoro and Mr. Minh Cuong Lequan, who even provided support for one more resource person, Mr. Samuel Bryan. We are all looking forward to their sharing of experiences, as well as sharing from anyone else with such experiences.

This provides another example of why ARECOP's network is working and surviving. ARECOP may have a budget, but our budget has always been modest. We have all gone through good and bad times. We have proven ourselves to be a strong, growing, and working network. All of this would not work without the support of all of you and the network partners, experts, and resource people. I would like to thank all of them, some of whom are present right now, who have had a strong commitment and tirelessly supported and assisted us in building our knowledge, capability and capacity: Mr. Auke Koopman, Prof. Sharma, Dr. Karve, Mr. Iwan Baskoro, Mr. Cuong Lequan, Prof. Mukunda, and many others.

I would also like to recognize the support and partnership of RWEDP who has strongly supported ARECOP, especially during our most difficult times.

And of course, I would like to thank all of you and my colleagues at the Secretariat for all that we have done together. The Secretariat also thanks all network members for always accommodating the needs of the network for the regional and national activities, especially those who have hosted CCPs: VERC–Bangladesh, HAU–Vietnam, Yayasan Dian Desa–Indonesia, Approtech Asia–Philippines, CRT–Nepal, and CEDAC–Cambodia.

Last, I would like to wish that we will have a productive and successful PTA meeting and decide upon a good future for ARECOP.

Opening Speech

ARECOP PHASE III SECOND PTA MEETING, 22-25 January, 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Mr. Yakub Hossain, Deputy Director, Village Educatin Resource Center, Bangladesh

Distinguished participants from different countries, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a very good morning. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the network, CCPs of ARECOP, and VERC, to welcome you all to this PTA Meeting. It is a great honor for me to speak a few words in this opening ceremony.

All of us know that the PTA meeting was supposed to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh at the end of last year. But due to political unrest in the country, we had to suspend the scheduled program, which is now being held here in Chiang Mai. On behalf of VERC and the ICS network in Bangladesh, we are very sorry and apologize especially to those of you who had planed and completed all arrangements, including travel, to attend the PTA meeting in Bangladesh. At present we have caretaker form of government and have passed through the emergency period. The situation has been improving gradually, day by day.

This PTA meeting is a means for becoming more effective as CCPs working in different countries and geo-physical contexts by sharing our experiences with knowledgeable experts and hearing their well-thought comments and suggestions. This is indeed a noteworthy opportunity for all.

In Bangladesh we have been implementing ICS programs since the 80's. Like many other countries in the world, Bangladesh used to have a lot of green vegetation everywhere, even few years back, but that has changed dramatically due to a number of reasons, among which is the use of fuel wood for cooking.

The history of improved cookstove activities in Bangladesh is not very long, due to our sufficient wood forest and ignorance. But, due to the high growth of population and indiscriminate chopping down of forests, the situation has become serious. To tackle the situation, the government and NGOs have taken different actions to reduce the consumption of wood fuel. As a result, the ICSP began. Now in Bangladesh the ICSP is gaining importance day by day.

To create momentum and awareness of the situation to all stakeholders, with the support of ARECOP, we are coordinating a network of NGOs working with ICS activities.

I hope we will be able to create a positive impact to prevent the degradation of the environment.

I would like to thank you all for your patience in hearing my speech. I am still hopeful that in the near future we all will meet in Bangladesh.

Thank you

PTA Meeting-From'04to'07 - Changes in focus and perspectives required?

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From '04 meeting as I see..

- A large mix of issues
  - Concern for ICS penetration (dissemination is a word used often) (- Efficiency is a primary feature)
  - Improved indoor air quality (- emissions)
  - Number of designs, pottery/mud stoves occupying greater interest.
  - Poor and deprived to be helped as much as possible
    - Seek large donor inputs to direct or indirect subsidy
  - **Commercialization**, charcoal vs. wood, Other bio-Fuels (to increase the basket of fuels, employment opportunity)
  - Partnership with NGOs, Governments, etc

Missing or weakly emphasized points.

- Whether obtaining better understanding of the process leading to better stove efficiency is essential at all is not of concern (science)
- Fuel quality is not of serious concern (science)
- Metal stoves not as important
- Commercialization in the simple sense of the word
- Standard approaches to product development, technology transfer to private industry and R & D support during the transition phase to full commercialization

On the science

- There is no shared information in the network on what constitutes better design and why
- There is no serious motivation to pursue better designs and ensure suitable tech transfer where needed – an example from India

All stoves better than η = 20 %, qualify for subsidy. If a stove design promised 35 %, it enjoys no preferential treatment. Others may not even know, and even if they know, treat such results with disdain.

What is the result – India will take pride in developing a hundred designs with a mean eff. of 20 %, burying better designs and for over thirty years – too embarrassing!

Should we not think about what is happening in the rest of the world (outside of stoves) – Even if small incremental benefits are seen, they are promoted through patents and commercialization, ultimate beneficiaries being the people

……On the science

- Every new design is hailed and every person who has created a new stove design thinks he has a done a great art work and others let him think so.
- Creating a design by science is not understood as even a greater art that is within the constraint of a precise understanding of nature
- The choice of the fuel is left to the user. Very little science inputs on the enhancement of the quality of the fuel by pelletizing or briquetting for a variety of fuel combinations, particularly agro-residues.

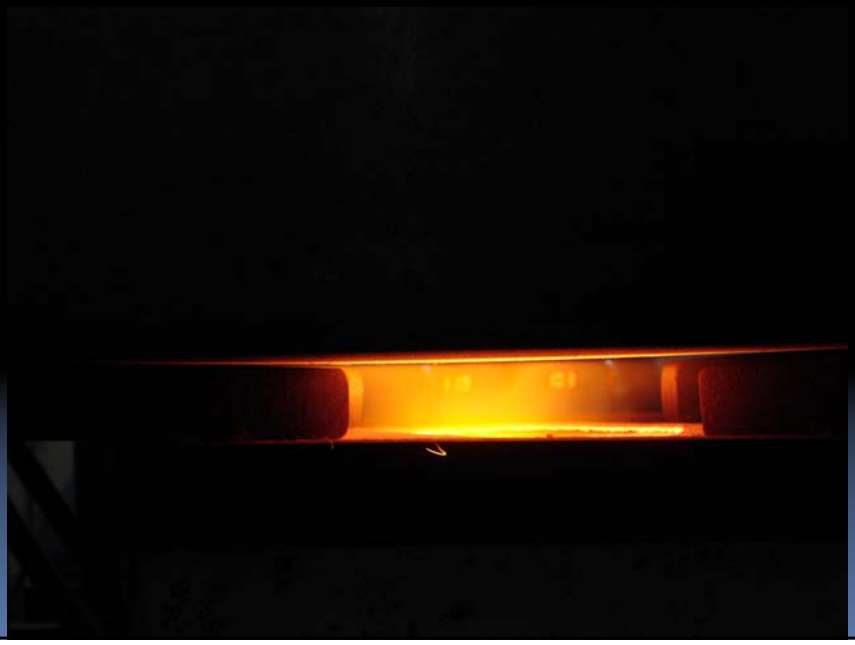
……On the science from the Kunming workshop

The key points on high stove efficiency and emissions :

1. Design the combustion space to obtain as high an area averaged maximum temperature as possible – typically 1250 to 1350 C – this is obtained by carefully mixing fuel vapors and air in stoichiometric proportions locally with near adiabatic thermal environment, using a fan to serve this purpose.
2. Prepare the fuel by reducing the moisture to an acceptable limit, densify it, if it is of low density.
3. Both high efficiency and low emissions will result. These can be made to occur better in a gasification mode.
4. These lead to the era of modern gasifier stoves of a variety.

….From a very recent research and development that is based on a new concept called “Flameless combustion”

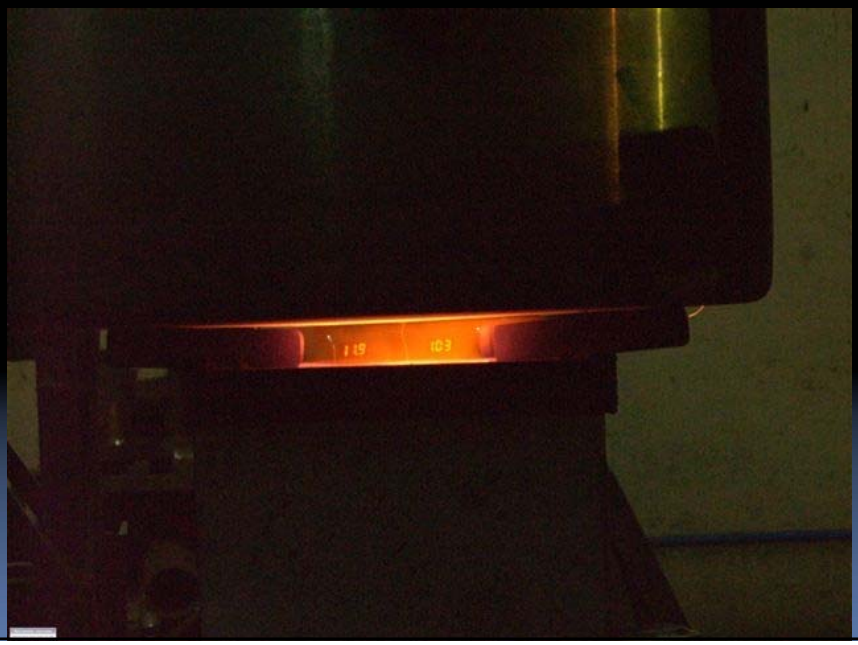
Ejector Induced gasifier Stove–10 kg/h



The EIGAS – 10 on a balance…

The movie….

See-through flame at 1320°C from EIGAS – 10



Poor and deprived to be helped as much as possible through subsidies -

- The value by this approach is very limited and should be used in a very clearly defined way in a transitional mode. If not, what might happen will be like the kerosene in India.
- Kerosene is provided on subsidy to poor for cooking. 10 million tonnes are allocated. Open documentation (TERI report) shows that about 5 million tonnes is sold as fuel for transport – why? The poor will make money, that is why?

What could be a sustainable solution strategy?

- There appears no escape from a commercial strategy.
- Find “one man” (and not Govt. or NGO) who wants to make money by producing and selling stoves.
- Remember: this is possible, only if there is a good product or technology.
- Then, the next man will find out if “one man” has made money and if he has truly made money, he will also want to make money likewise.
- And likewise, a third man. Then one of these persons will start reducing prices to make more money by selling more units than others, and the prices will start tumbling down to realistic levels
- Also better services will be a natural result.
- And all of our efforts should be (a) to produce a good product and if there is already one good product elsewhere, make a better one, (b) to locate a private individual who wants to make money by this means.

…a sustainable solution strategy?

- Would poor be deprived of their access to what they need if commercialization takes place?
- One cannot say, No.
- Take the case of mobile telephones. Rich will possess the better variety and will benefit in many ways. It is not as though poor are deprived. I believe most poor who want to work and earn and improve their livelihood have benefitted substantially through possession of mobile phones, even of the low cost variety – to get more jobs, to manage existing ones, to perform and be seen as performing.
- Likewise, perhaps, the better of the poor will have access to better stoves that maintain their health in better conditions and allow more time to do other things.

…a sustainable solution strategy?

- It cannot be said that the lowliest of the lowliest will still not suffer. But the environment will have more of much less poor and the lowliest will benefit by that over a short time. Slowly, they will also join the bracket of better of the poor.
- And these changes take time – for the society to absorb what the interventions imply and how they can benefit from them.
- All in all, they will begin to shift the distribution towards better living conditions for most people. I think this is all that science will do and should do. Other improvements people will need to undertake by other ways.

…a sustainable solution strategy?

- One downside perceived by some NGO's is that good commercial activity may make them loose business.
- This is not going to be true.
- It will be as true as bank clerks and others in service sector feared computerization as attempting to play a displacing role.
- Yes, to a very limited extent it is true. But most of them will end up doing different class of jobs – keying in instead of writing, keying in one instead of writing several times, analyzing instead of compiling.
- They will act at higher level on behalf of the community like taking care of air quality, quality of the devices and their true performance, CDM benefits in the coming period, etc, etc.

What other new activities…?

- Charcoal is a subject of importance identified by all of you.
- What is not clear whether the charcoal use is really for the most appropriate use.
- If not, thermal treatment and utilization processes will be too expensive financially and environmentally.
- One should really determine where all one can genuinely replace charcoal by biomass.

What other new activities…?

- If not, there is another intermediate stage: An attractive means of producing “grey charcoal” that eliminates undesired volatiles to varying extents, but retains most of the energy – a process known as “torrification” – but really should be called the exact opposite – “de-torrification”
- In this process, one can retain 80 to 90 % energy with a loss of weight up to 30 to 40 %.

…new activities

- While most basic information is internet accessible, the critical information required for a variety of biomass – wood, bamboo or other species needs careful research, because the process involves pyrolisis process that is sensitive to the species.
- Identifying applications where charcoal is replaced by grey charcoal is environmentally benign, and commercially more attractive than charcoal.
- I believe this can be a very attractive area for all participants

Final Remarks

- I think to convert ICS program into a commercially relevant one should be the common objective.
- It is desirable to treat Commercial approach as a friendly one and modulate it. Other aspects, whatever, must and can be dovetailed to this broad approach.
- More relevant research, higher quality research will emerge slowly due to natural demand.
- Better quality products, lower cost devices will also emerge.

…Final remarks

- Some things that we have done at IISc in recent times could not have been done even an year ago with all understanding at our command.
- New technological devices of high performance have entered the market and we have done what I had not dreamt could be achieved like the flameless combustion device **(that began as a subject of international combustion meetings for gaseous fuels only about eight years ago for a different objective – to bring down NOx in gaseous fuels).**
- The world is changing benefiting from science significantly.
- I think the field of stove development has not benefited by science adequately. Time has come for passing on the benefits of S &T as well as commercial approaches to the society.

If I have said things differing from what you have thought, and If you think I have been too provocative,

pardon me…. We will talk it over…

Thank you