

REPORT ON

**ARECOP**  
**Planning Technical Advisory Meeting**  
*January 22-25, 2007*  
*Chiang Mai, Thailand*



To facilitate active involvement of ARECOP network members, every two years ARECOP holds a Planning Technical Advisory (PTA) Meeting. The purpose of PTA meetings is generally to provide an opportunity for the ARECOP secretariat and leading ARECOP network organizations and partners to meet and discuss the needs and development of the biomass energy situation in Asia, and to create concrete objectives and plans for the future of the network.

As ARECOP's primary funding source will end after 2007, the main priority of the meeting was to decide if and how ARECOP as a network should proceed. The main question was: How can ARECOP members be self-sustainable, yet maintain cooperation as a network?

The 4-day meeting engaged participants in a combination of informative presentations by network members and partners, small-group brainstorming and focused group discussions. The meeting proceeded as follows:

- Presentations of progress and achievements of ARECOP network members during the past 2 years
- Review of network priorities
  - discussion and identification of regional and national level needs
  - identification of regional and national levels trends and issues in the improved cookstove/household energy sector
- Identification of common-ground initiatives and actions to be taken by the network
  - Review ARECOP's plan of action
- Presentations on using ICS programs for carbon trading
  - Discussion about the potential use of carbon trading to finance ICS programs.

- 1 day workshop on moving towards selling ICS programs to carbon buyers as one alternative for self-sustainable funding.



After reviewing the presentations of ARECOP's developments and achievements of the past 2 years, the group discussed what common actions the network should take in the upcoming 2 years.



Identified Trends	Actions to be taken by ARECOP
<p><b>Clean Development Mechanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bench marking of ICS efficiency</li> <li>• Energy plantation</li> <li>• Biofuel plantation</li> <li>• CDM interconnected with commercialization</li> <li>• Standardized quality control</li> <li>• ICS can be sold to get carbon credit</li> <li>• Indoor air pollution measurement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a carbon training system that can be applied to many types of projects</li> <li>• Training programs for carbon trading</li> <li>• Bench marking of ICS technologies for carbon trading</li> <li>• Lobbying for including ICS under CDM</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cleaner biomass fuel technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizing the importance of cleaner biomass fuel technology</li> <li>• Involvement of International agencies in biomass related issues</li> <li>• Utilize experts within network countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of compendium of gasifier stoves</li> <li>• Bench marking the efficiency and emissions of gasifier stoves</li> <li>• Development of grey charcoal-based fuels for ICS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Awareness of biomass as a sustainable energy form</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy plantation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy advocacy to national governments by ARECOP members</li> <li>• Glow magazine brings out special issues on: biomass</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic biomass energy production</li> <li>• Use of biomass for power generation</li> <li>• Joint community-government forest management</li> <li>• Number of community-managed forests</li> </ul>	<p>briquetting, gasification, efficient production of charcoal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass media campaign to promote advocacy</li> <li>• Promote efficient production of charcoal and charcoal stoves through feasibility study, skill development, implementation &amp; monitoring</li> <li>• Promotion of energy plantation for households and institutions through country-level action with ARECOP's support</li> <li>• Coverage of ICS to be realigned with the MDG target by 2015 and climate change issues</li> <li>• Facilitate/initiate transfer of stove gasification technologies to the commercial model/private sector</li> <li>• Continued capacity development of country focal points – for the newly emerging tasks</li> <li>• Develop a program to inculcate the value on biomass energy in education systems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commercialization of ICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microfinancing in household energy</li> <li>• Support for ICS program</li> <li>• ICS for small industries and institutions</li> <li>• Link microfinancing to ICS commercialization to reach the poor</li> <li>• Bench marking of ICS efficiency</li> <li>• Income generating for livelihood</li> <li>• Branded stoves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase factory-produced stoves</li> <li>• Promote factories to produced stove components which can be assembled by consumers/installers in homes.</li> <li>• Use Carbon financing to fund stoves for the poor</li> <li>• Help stove enterprises to provide training for dealers and users, not only manufacturers. After-sales services must be included, spare parts available for sale</li> <li>• More workshops required, at least 1 more by 2007. Locations suggested: Vietnam, China</li> <li>• Develop business plans for retailers up to manufacturers</li> <li>• Training for ARECOP network members of how to create business plans</li> <li>• Commercialization of upgraded fuels</li> <li>• Utilize existing marketing channels and networks for selling stoves</li> <li>• Promotional activities, stove competitions, stove fairs, demonstrations, show rooms, films, posters, etc.</li> <li>• Design registration and patenting for creating specific documents</li> <li>• Within countries, facilitate tax concessions, get government agencies involved where possible</li> <li>• Get government agencies and channels involved in advocacy where possible</li> <li>• Establish production standardizations for quality control.</li> <li>• Forming associations of producers and retailers, on a case-by-case basis</li> </ul>
<p><b>Networking and partnership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of membership in member countries, partners, donors</li> <li>• Strive to use MPA in ICS projects as much as possible</li> <li>• Advocacy with government (biomass for cooking), donors</li> <li>• Communication/exchange through e-group promoted</li> <li>• Conduct over-all evaluation of national/regional/ARECOP by a third-party</li> <li>• ARECOP secretariat to inform CCPs of opportunities for funding, participation in international meetings, conferences, trainings, research studies</li> <li>• Facilitate preparation of proposals for CDM/carbon trading, esp. in training and baseline data</li> <li>• Plan/strategize to extend the networking activities of ARECOP beyond 2007 through attracting donors</li> <li>• Get involved with international stove networks</li> <li>• Require commitment of one report from each country per month posted on e-group</li> </ul>

<p>Gender, poverty and livelihood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen linkage with ENERGIA and national gender networks (in relation to education, health, trade, and industry, etc.)</li> <li>• Produce publications on gender, ICS, and poverty</li> </ul>
<p>Indoor air pollution and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAP issues are getting popular</li> <li>• Health and environment Awareness caused by biomass fuel use</li> <li>• Perception of ICS users on environment and health benefits</li> <li>• Indoor air pollution measurement</li> <li>• (IAP, COM,CDM) bench marking of ICS efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pamphlets/literature on indoor air quality should be prepared for distribution and translation</li> <li>• Integrate IAP into school curriculums in every country</li> <li>• Preparation of symptomatic assessment and conduct sample studies in each country</li> <li>• Need for replication of Kitchen Improvement trainings in more countries, need for a compendium</li> <li>• Quantitative measurements of IAQ need to be done, training program must be developed and affordable equipment identified</li> <li>• Affordable technology interventions needed in all countries, clean stove technology must be introduced</li> </ul>

After reviewing what has already been achieved in these areas, participants developed a list of actions they will take in upcoming years. Participants then identified the necessary revisions and additions to ARECOP's budget to make these actions possible.

From here, the meeting turned to focus on the possibility of pursuing carbon financing as a means for sustaining the network. Using the Kyoto protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), ICS programs can sell the carbon emissions they save to voluntary buyers in the Carbon market. Network members from GERES-Cambodia presented their achievement in developing a successful carbon credit scheme, and offered their experience, resources, and support to anyone interested in beginning the process.

To end the meeting, participants reached consensus that everyone was interested in pursuing carbon credit, but needed a large amount of help from GERES. Participants then broke into groups based on the types of ICS programs they wanted to pursue, and discussed what assistance they would require.

The meeting concluded with an agreement from GERES that they would provide technical assistance and capacity building, but country contact points must help GERES by gathering data and conducting baseline studies.

Closing remarks included:

- The ARECOP network is growing and should continue, but more inter-network communication and exchange needs to take place.
- The ARECOP secretariat must be more directive.
- Cambodia will take a leading supportive role.
- If ARECOP wants its work to be recognized as legitimate, hard quantitative data is needed.