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OFFICE:

JL Kaliurang Km.7, GG. Jurug Sari IV/19, Yogyakarta, Indonesia Phone: 62-274-885247 Fax: 62-274-885423

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO BOX 19, YKBS, Bulaksumur, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

INTERNET:

www.arecop.org arecop@yogya.wasantara.net.id arecop@ydd.org

SUBSCRIPTION:

For subscription, please contact ARECOP Secretariat.

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The Asia Regional Cookstove Program (ARECOP) is a forum for voicing the concerns of improved cookstove programs in the Asia Region. It influences and facilitates effective and efficient programs in improved cookstove issues.

DEAR READERS

ARECOP had just completed one of the most important event in the Program calender, The Second - Phase II - Planning Technical Advisory Meeting, which was held in Dhulikhel, Nepal, in March 2002. It was a forum that facilitated direct and focussed sharing of experiences; a forum to reflect on activities carried out by various actors; a convergence of interests, needs and resources wherein cooperations and collaborations were explored. In this opportunity, we would very much like to share an overview of the meeting with a wider audience.

A highlight in the biomass energy sector in Asia, is the receipt of the prestigious Ashden Award by Appropriate Rural Technology Institute (ARTI), India, with its project, "Converting Sugarcane Trash into Fuel Briquettes." The Award was presented for ARTI's contribution in the field of biomass energy and rural poverty eradication. A short report on ARTI's outstanding achievement is included in this volume of Glow.

An article contribution from Nepal provides an interesting and in-depth analysis of the socio-economic factors of chimney stoves that contribute to failures of stove programs. The article goes through various case studies as a base of its analysis. An assessment of chimney hood is also presented as an alternative means of smoke removal.

We will also take a closer look at an integrated natural resource management and improved cookstove project, conducted by Centre d'Etudes et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC). The article points out CEDAC's approach in the integration of improved stove dissemination in the context of natural resource management program.

An update from the Philippine, is, a brief profile of the recently developed improved rice hull cookstove, the Mayon Turbo Stove (MTS). Resource Efficient Agriculture Production, Canada, took charge in the MTS development, which originated from local and Vietnamese rice husk stove designs.

ARECOP Secretariat

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Front Cover: Stove with chimney hood in Vietnam (Le Van Thong, 2002)