Kick-Off Meeting and Methodology Workshop

"Turning Rice Straw into Cooking Fuel for Air Quality and Climate Co-benefit in Selected GMS Countries"

Date: February 13, 2015 / Friday Venue Room: B144-B/AITCC		
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration of Participants**	
09:00 – 09:20	**Welcome Address**	SERD Dean **Prof. C. Visvanathan**
	Welcome Remarks and Project Overview	Project PI, Professor, EEM, AIT **Prof. N.T. Kim Oanh**
	Group Photo Session (In front of AITCC)	
09:20 – 10:15	***Coffee Break***	
10:15 – 10:45	**Technology Options: Rice Straw Derived Cooking Fuels and Cookstoves**	Associate Professor, Energy FoS, AIT **Dr. Abdul Salam**
10:45 - 11:15	**Work Plan of Rs Cobenefits Project**	Research Specialist, AIT **Dr. Didin Agustian P**
11:15 – 12:30	**Discussion on Project Work Plan**	Moderator: **Prof. N.T. Kim Oanh** Rapporteur: Miss. Nguyet Dang Anh
12:30 - 13:30	***Lunch Break* (at AITCC Dining Room)**	
	Partners Presentation On Survey Plan In Cambodia, Vietnam And Thailand Moderator: Dr. Didin Agustian P, Rapporteur: Miss. Van Huynh	
13:30 – 14:00	**Mr. Kok Sothea (RUPP, Cambodia)**	(20 minutes followed by discussion)
14:00 – 14:30	**Dr. Pham Khac Lieu (HU, Vietnam)**	(20 minutes followed by discussion)
14:30 – 15:00	**Dr. Prapat Pongkiatkul (KMUTT, Thailand)**	(20 minutes followed by discussion)
15:00 – 15:30	***Coffee Break***	
15:30 – 16:00	**Wrap-Up Session**	Lead by **Prof. N.T. Kim Oanh**
16:00 – 17:00	**Field Visit to Biomass Energy Laboratory**	Energy FoS, AIT
17:30 -	**Dinner Reception**	All participants will be gathered at AITCC lobby

Sponsors:

SUMERNET
Sustainable Mekong Research Network
Building research for policy towards sustainable development in the Mekong Region

SEI STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

BACKGROUND

This project was initiated by Asian Institute of Technology together with Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Hue University, Vietnam, and King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand to address proposal call under the framework of Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET) Phase 3 (2014 – 2017). The proposal entitled "Turning rice straw into cooking fuel for air quality and climate co-benefit in selected GMS countries" (or "RS co-benefits" in short) was submitted on 31 August 2014 and received favourable reviews and was selected to be one of the recipients of the research grant.

This research project is proposed to address a common problem in agrarian countries in Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) where huge amount of rice straw (RS) is burned openly in the field by farmers. Environmental impacts of this open burning (OB) practice have been recognized, particularly on the deterioration of air quality in the surrounding urban/semi-urban areas and global/regional climate. In the near future, due to the increase in rice production and the decrease in off-site use of RS residue the field burning activity is projected to increase if no measures are taken. This alarming situation has called for effective and innovative measures to be implemented so that the field burning can be reduced and associated negative impacts can be prevented. Within the project scope, fuel production potential from RS feedstock will be explored and utilized in adopted cookstove-fuel system. Further, various co-benefits of the proposed fuel-stove system to air quality, climate and socio-economic dimension will be assessed.

This kick-off meeting and cum methodology workshop is a foremost project activity that has specific objectives as follows:

1. To formally start the project activity in cooperation with consortium members, boundary partners, and donor
2. To discuss committed work plan to ensure clear tasks division among of the consortium members
3. To share and discuss methodology framework of the project with consortium members with the input from boundary partners and donor representative.