

Session title: LoCARNet Parallel session 4: Urgent issues for research common to the Asian region

Name: Janya Sang-Arun

Job title: Senior policy researcher/task manager

Organisation: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Email address: sang-arun@iges.or.jp

Abstract of your presentation (limited to one page):

CBA2010-01CMY-Sang-Arun-Promoting sustainable use of waste biomass in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand: Combining food security, bio-energy and climate protection benefits

This project aims to promote the use of waste biomass for food and energy production, and identify viable approaches for utilizing biomass conversion technology in the target countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand. This project has endeavored to involve relevant stakeholders since the beginning of project implementation. Those stakeholders are national governments, local governments, private sector organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who are important for sustaining the project activities in the target countries. The project reviewed laws, regulations, notifications and relevant documents on solid waste management in the target countries. In addition to field surveys, difficulties facing the operation of waste treatment facilities, as well as local government policies on waste-related issues, were discussed intensively with officers-in-charge.

Based on the reviews and surveys, composting and anaerobic digestion were found to be viable technologies for converting waste biomass to a useful resource. These technologies are being used for agricultural waste, but the application for urban organic waste is not yet widely practiced. Most implemented waste utilization technologies were found in Thailand. There is a high potential for shared learning and technology transfer between these neighboring countries. However, piloting of transferred technology is required to ensure successful implementation.

Guides for technology selection and implementation of urban organic waste utilization projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand were developed based on local condition and capacities of local governments. The guides were translated into local languages: Khmer, Laotian, and Thai and distributed to participants of the country's workshop. Workshop participants included representatives from national government, local governments, universities, NGOs, and private sectors. Most participants are interested in introducing these waste utilization technology, especially composting, to their cities. In addition, they are able to estimate GHG emission reduction from solid waste management practices.