

NSTDA's Asia Biomass Center and the Renewable Energy Institute (REI) International Establish Collaborative Research Efforts on Renewable Energy and Fuel Technologies

Bangkok, Thailand (Thailand Science Park, 31st March 2006) - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sakarindr Bhumiratana, Director of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding to carry out collaborative research and development efforts on clean, renewable energy and fuel technologies with Dr. Dennis Schuetzle, the President of Renewable Energy Institute International (REI International). REI International is a non-profit research Institute, whose World Headquarters, is located near Sacramento, California.

The objective of the cooperation is to develop a “world class” international research, development and demonstration effort on biomass conversion technologies including processes for the efficient, economical, and clean production of renewable energy, fuels, and materials. In addition, this cooperation will improve the quantity and quality of current information on renewable energy technologies through the promotion of high quality research, testing and demonstration programs.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sakarindr Bhumiratana, Director of NSTDA, mentioned that the cooperation between the Asia Biomass Center (ABC) and REI International, aims at developing biomass conversion technologies to reduce dependencies on fossil fuels at the local and national levels. ABC will supply potential investors and customers with accurate, unbiased information on the real world performance of emerging renewable resource technologies. Furthermore, ABC will provide testing services including energy and mass balance measurements; air, water and solid waste environmental measurements; safety evaluations; thermodynamic and thermochemical analyses; and system process analysis. The testing will be carried out in compliance with ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 standards.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paritud Bhandhubanyong, Director of National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), explained that:

- NSTDA and REI International will share operational data on renewable resource technologies that are undergoing research, testing, and

demonstration at ABC and other REI International affiliated technology laboratories.

- The collaborative parties equally support educational programs that provide opportunities for the regional community to learn about state-of-the-art renewable energy and fuels technology, as well as, release new information regarding developments to the public.
- This MOU is executed on March 31, 2006 and is effective through March 31, 2011. The collaborative parties may mutually choose to extend this MOU beyond March 31, 2011.
- The collaboration can be expanded to cover Fuel Cell and Solar Cell technologies.

Dr. Dennis Schuetzle, former Director of International Research and Technology for Ford Motor Company and the current President of REI International, is leading the establishment of this renewable energy and fuels partnership with Thailand. Dr. Schuetzle was granted an audience with HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 2002, for a discussion of future energy and environmental issues facing Thailand. HM the King encouraged Dr. Schuetzle to return to Thailand and help the country solve these problems, in part through the introduction and development of new technology. In response to HM's encouragement, REI International is establishing its first international collaborative partnership on renewable energy and fuels in Thailand.

Dr. David Ganz, Vice President of REI International, added that REI International would provide advice, coordination and guidance on research, testing and demonstration projects that are conducted at ABC. In addition, ABC will carry out research activities in collaboration with government, private industry, academia, research institutes, and non-profit organizations around the world. REI International anticipates that the Asian Biomass Center will become a leading organization in Asia for research, development and deployment efforts on renewable resource technologies.