

**Minutes of Developing Country Workshop**  
**- ANZSES Conference, Dunedin, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**Present:**

Bob Lloyd, Ian Shearer, Suliana Siwatibau, Graham Thorpe, Tuquaso Tesfamichael and Bob Fuller

**Two Questions were addressed:**

1. How well has conference addressed the issue of developing countries?
2. How can it be done better?

**Question 1**

It was generally felt that the conference had raised the issue well enough and that there were a number of papers on application of solar technologies in developing countries. There had also been a keynote presentation and a workshop. It was recognised that there are limits to what can be achieved at a conference.

**Question 2**

A number of ways by which ANZSES might improve its involvement and promote the issues facing developing countries were suggested. These included:

- Making contact with various community groups that represented migrants from developing countries to Australia prior to the annual conference. It was recognised that people in these groups retain strong links to their country. They are often involved in small development projects. It was suggested that suitable local representatives might be assisted to attend the solar conferences to make them aware how renewable technologies might benefit their communities back home. For example, the next conference is to be held in Canberra, where many embassies are located. Student bodies should also be approached. AusAID (also in Canberra) could also be approached to attend and fund some registrations.
- A suggestion had been made by Dr Kok Ong (Malaysia) that there were people in the region who might like to be part of ISES but had insufficient numbers to form a Section of their own. Although they can join as individual members, there may be some advantages to be an affiliate of an established Section such as ANZSES. **Bob F** to look into this.
- We decided that it would be beneficial if a "registry of projects" related to developing countries be maintained on the ANZSES website. We would need to get a category added on the web page menu. Members could add 10-line descriptions of their projects. **Bob L** to follow up this one as committee member. In addition to the registry, an email service could be set up to offer free advice on small projects from members with appropriate expertise.
- The workshop noted that there appeared to be little evidence to demonstrate whether "Community-Building Power Schemes" or single household "Solar Home Systems" projects were most successful in developed countries, and what were the success factors. It was suggested that ANZSES may be able to facilitate some collective research using members with projects/links in developing countries. The research could be done by questionnaire, or via

research based on entries in the ANZSES "register of projects", but would involve measurement too. **Ian** to describe this more comprehensively and circulate to group.

- A long-term aim to promote and highlight the need for renewable technologies in developing countries could be to organise an ANZSES conference in the region. It was pointed out that it might be almost as cheap to fly to Fiji as New Zealand. This might be an appropriate place for a NZ-organised conference. PNG might be a good place for an Australian-organised conference. **Bob L** to follow up this one as committee member.
- Graham saw potential for choosing overseas projects in Victoria University's Problem-Based Learning initiative, which is being promoted at this university. **Suliana** to think up some projects.
- In conjunction with the Renewable Energy Promotion Fund, which has considerable funds, we might be able to support a small renewable energy development project. A project in Nepal has been previously supported. Students from the University of NSW installed solar PV systems. Alastair Sproule is the contact here. Trevor Lee is contact on REPF. **Bob L** to follow up this one as he is going to be on the REPF. It was suggested that Solar Progress (November/December issue) be used to solicit donations for a renewable energy project in a developing country in lieu of giving Christmas presents. Many aid organisations (Oxfam, TEAR) currently do this.