



# Report

Visit in Vietnam

2012 – 03- 20 – 04-01

Gerd Sävenstedt

Project leader



*The Swedish delegation 2011 headed by mayor Peter Roslund at the town hall in Long Xuyen city.*

## Background

The inception phase carried out in 2011 elaborated the possibilities for further cooperation in a partnership program focusing on sustainability and energy. There are three areas of common interests, a partnership regarding development of a climate and energy strategy between the Municipality of Piteå and People's Committee in An Giang Province, a technical collaboration between MEVA Innovation/ Energy Technology Center and An Giang regarding a gasification technique where waste is used as a feedstock and the third area is linked to the Luleå University of Technology, LTU and a University in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam. Enter record number: 2010-0129. When Piteå visited An Giang in 2011 representatives from the Municipality and ETC, Energy Technology Center, participated.

A project proposal was submitted to ICLD in October 2011 and approved by SIDA in January 2012.



*Lars-Olof Persson*



*Johan Hedin*



*Krister Vikström*



*Kentaro Umeki*



*Håkan Holmberg*

## Participants

During this visit participants from Piteå were based on functions needed in the partnership program and the wider spectra of collaboration.

The members of the Monitoring Committee are mayor Peter Roslund, Åsa Wikman community development officer and Johan Hedin project leader at Solander Science Park.

The other participants were Krister Vikström GIS engineer, Lars-Olof Persson webmaster, Maria Widman environmental engineer, Gerd Sävenstedt project leader and Kentaro Umeki assistant professor at LTU. On his own expenses Håkan Holmberg, CO for MEVA Innovation also participated.



*Maria Widman*

*Åsa Wikman*

*Gerd Sävenstedt*

*Peter Roslund*

## Objectives

According to the regulations for the monitoring committee (MC) the committee should have two annual meetings, one in each country. According to the project plan preparations for the action plans for communication, GIS and CEP should also be carried out during the visit in An Giang. Piteå is a center for development of renewable energy, with Solander Science Park and its members and LTU, as important platforms. MEVA Innovation, one of the members of Solander Science Park is the owner of the gasification technology developed in Piteå which has caught attention from An Giang.



*Chairman of People's Committee Mr Wung Binh Thanh and vice chairman Mr Nang who is part of the Monitoring Committee*

## Program

The program for the week was formed in collaboration between the People's Committee in An Giang and the Municipality of Piteå.

March 21; Swedish embassy in Hanoi



*Håkan Holmberg MEVA Innovation AB and Åsa Wikman member of the MC at the Swedish Embassy in Hanoi*

Meeting between Carol Bäckman, Thomas Hertzman Director of Swedish Centec Vietnam and from Sweden Johan Hedin, Solander Science Park, Åsa Wikman, Gerd Sävenstedt from the Municipality of Piteå, and Håkan Holmberg MEVA Innovation AB.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Piteå – An Giang project and to get an overall view of different Swedish projects carried out in Vietnam. Centec is an important actor to facilitate concrete and viable Vietnamese - Swedish partnerships in the areas of environment, energy and climate change.

March 22: Together with those coming from Sweden travel to the south



March 23- 24: Team building (personally funded)



*Maria Widman, Pireva and Kentaro Umeki from LTU on their way to team building activities*

March 25: **Travel to Long Xuyen**

March 26: **Long Xuyen**

8:00 -09.30 Meeting at People's Committee Hall

- Introduction – An Giang (general, rice-energy)
- Presentation of the approved project
- Report from Meva Innovation AB – Burning test
- Comments from both leaders



*Rice straw statue in front of the Town Hall in Long Xuyen*

10:00 – 11.30 *Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting*

Discussion about the project

Overall Project Strategy 2012- 2014

- What is the role and mandate for MC?
- What is the role and mandate for the PL?
- What are the objects for this week?
- What are the objects for this year?
- Proposed schedule of activities for this year, revise, realistic etc...



*The two leaders*

13:30 – 17:30 *Split to three groups*

1. Web/public media group
2. Technical group of electricity power plan
3. Action plan for CEP (Climate and Energy plan) and GIS (Geographic Information System)



*Mrs Van Ha, Åsa Wikman and Mr Thu*

1.
  - Visit the project meeting room (proposed for video meeting)
  - Testing of communication system
  - Presentation of “design” of web structure and content

2.
  - Discussion between Solander Science Park, Meva, Hoang Ha and universities on cooperation and following actions
3.
  - Content of CEP plan
  - Focus of the plan
  - Delimitations in the CEP plan
  - How to collect the necessary information
  - How to work with the process

Comments; group 2 and 3 merged during the afternoon

### **March 27**

08.00 – 17.30

Continue to work in the groups the whole day

Following questions should be included

- Equipment/ software for the meeting room
- GIS database
- Targeted groups of the cluster network
- Contents of training campaign

### **March 28 - Field trip Phu Tan**



*Comments: Peter Roslund and Gerd Sävenstedt participated during the morning session in interviews of 19 candidates who want to come to Piteå this year for capacity building activities.*



*In Phu Tan there is already a site for a pilot plant.*



*Lars-Olof Persson, Maria Widman, Peter Roslund, Åsa Wikman and Krister Vikström in front of the communist headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City*



## March 29

07:00 – Departure HCMC (Ho Chi Minh City)

13:30 – 14:30 LTU/HCMC University department of Natural Resources and Environment,  
Solander/MEVA Innovation and Natural Resources and Environment

Continuation with action plan work

## March 30

**09:00 – 11:00 Hoang Ha and Meva Innovation AB meeting** about potential business plan of gasification. Visit the mechanic factory.

Continuation with Action plan work

Wrap up meeting

## Outcome of the week

### Monitoring Committee

Three Swedes and four Vietnamese are members of the MC. There is a vacancy in the Swedish part that needs to be handled. The main task for this meeting was to clarify the role and the mandate for the MC .

When MC meetings are held in Vietnam they should be chaired by Mr Nang and in Sweden by Mr Roslund. In contacts with ICLD Mr Roslund is chairperson for the committee.

A final MC and wrap up meeting was held in HCMC where the activity plan (app 1) of the year and the mandate and role for the Monitoring Committee was finalized. (Minutes from MC meeting, app 2)

### The Role and Mandate for the Monitoring Committee.

The committee work should be based on an **overall perspective** and also show **trust** to the working groups.

The MC should focus on **strategic** discussions, **important decisions** making, **establish guidelines** to the working groups as well as the working group framework for the coming yearly period.

The MC shall also **identify potential risks** within the project.

The project leader shall, twice a year, **report from the working groups** to the MC about the status of the groups work. The MC shall follow up the work done by a number of chosen **indicators**.

The MC shall also control the **budget** in relation to the project plan.

Both parts in the MC (Vietnamese and Swedish side) shall also try to **find new funding** to be able to **extend the project** with new issues which will be identified throughout the project.

Finally, at the end of the project, the MC shall present an **evaluation report** about the project. An interim report should also be presented in the projects half-time.

### Comments from the Activity plan

- *Invite the target groups in Phu Tan*

Mrs Xuan, local project leader will be the initiator to invite the target groups and identify the target persons in Phu Tan. There will also be an activity plan related to these groups.



*Mrs Xuan*

- *Prepare the cluster group*

To establish the cluster group very soon is desirable. This should consist of people linked to the work done in Phu Tan as locals, representatives for the business community and the University. An activity plan for the cluster group should also be done.

- *Flow chart of rice production, location included with transportation*

To get a university student from LTU familiar with flow chart production should benefit the project. There might be a number of obstacles but to explore the possibilities should be prioritized, regarding interest, costs, covering of the costs, tutoring etc. As the University of Natural Resources and Environment in HCMC has no students in the area of energy it would be desirable that a Swedish student could collaborate with a Vietnamese student in this area.

- *Background data regarding An Giang province/Phu Tan*

There is a need to extend the work with the database in order to cover the whole of An Giang, which is a desirable outcome for further development. Collection of data, review and development of GIS data will be done. The GIS system used in An Giang is similar to the one used in Sweden. The Swedish group should provide a basic list of information needed.

*Training strategic planning.*

Lars-Olof will find out the cost of renting a video communication system if there will be a need for bigger meetings or training sessions.



*From the fieldtrip to Phu Tanh. where Dr Thi Mai Thao participated*

*University collaboration*

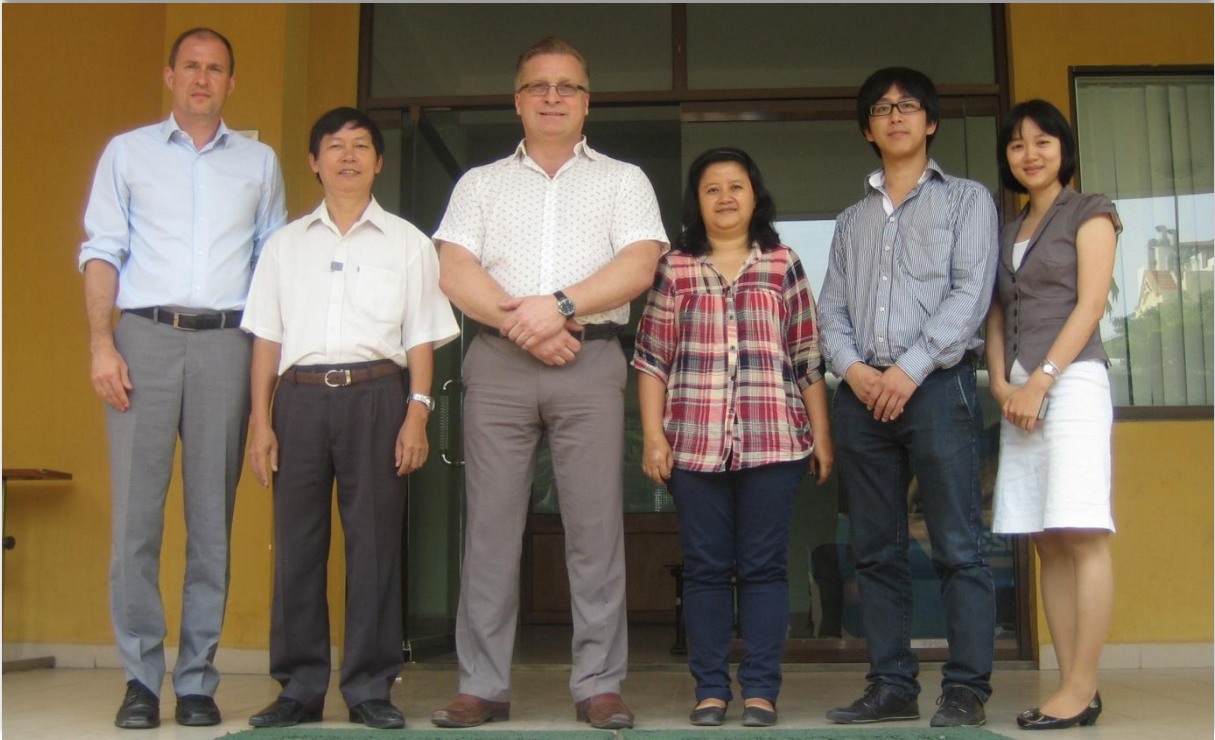


*Associative professor Dean of faculty in HCMC and assistant professor Kentaro Umeki LTU who plan for further cooperation*

LTU, will collaborate closely with the Municipality of Piteå and with Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Resources and Environment to explore the availability and optimum usage of rice husk in the region in this project. In An Giang 700,000 tonnes rice husk is produced yearly.

In addition, Dr. Kentaro Umeki visited Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Resources and Environment (HCMUNRE), which is acting university in this project, to discuss the collaboration further with the chancellor. During the discussion, HCMUNRE introduced their plan to build faculty of energy engineering, which is not a common subject in Vietnam yet. HCMUNRE is willing to have further collaboration with LTU in addition to the enrollment to the current project between Piteå Municipality and An Giang Province, and ask for help to build a faculty of energy engineering from their experience of running both research and education in energy engineering subject. LTU and HCMUNRE agreed to keep in close contact and to seek the possibility to have continuous cooperation.

A Memorandum of understanding will be signed by the two Universities. It means that when there are concrete ideas they will be further explored. There are already ideas to be looked into, as to find a student who can be deeply involved in the flow chart process.



### *Meva Innovation AB*

MEVA Innovation AB has a technology of a cyclone gasifier (VIPP Vortex gasifier) that was previously developed in Division of Energy Engineering (currently Energy Science) through the 1990's and 2000's. The pilot plant in Phu Tan district in An Giang province is being planned, and they consider to apply the gasifier from MEVA Innovation due to its technological value.

Meva Innovation has an interest to make business in Asia but there are a lot of obstacles. One way is to make a joint venture with an already existing local company. In this case the contacts with Hoang Ha Company can lead to a joint venture where the knowledge and management should be Swedish but the manufacturing should be done in Vietnam.

Reflections;

### *Inception phase*

The inception phase has been of great value. During this period we both established good and open relationships and produced the application to ICLD in close collaboration. One effect was that we could start to work immediately; less courtesy time and more working time.

### *Different stakeholders together*

We were nine participants in the group and even if we had met we didn't know each other that well. In order to adjust to the time difference, to get to know each other a bit and have a nice time together we spend two days at a resort before we started the formal work. These days were excluded from the project. We all benefitted from these days. We talked and we had fun which lay a good foundation for communication between us. Another spin off effect was an embryo to closer

links between the University and MEVA Innovation AB which can lead to further development of the Technology.

#### *Risks and possibilities*

In the project proposal we mentioned that key people, both in Piteå and An Giang could be replaced which could slow down the process.

Since the project proposal was submitted the chairman of the People's Committee has retired and been replaced. The new chairman fully supports this project which is important. New people have also become engaged in the project which I see as strength.

In Piteå a position to head international issues has been established. Part of that mission is to coordinate and lead the project.

In the project proposal we also mentioned that our ambitions may be unrealistic, due to time and budget even if we have tried to narrow it down. The schedule for this year is tight and in order to reach our objectives each one has to fulfill the obligations. Hopefully the regular monthly meetings between Vietnam and Piteå will help us to do what we have said we would do.

#### *Visit to Piteå*

Peter Roslund and Gerd Sävenstedt participated in interviews with 19 candidates who want to come to Piteå in order to increase their capacity. The task was to evaluate their knowledge of English. It is important that those who are participating have a certain level of knowledge in English, otherwise it will be waste of time. There were many candidates who can contribute to the project but in some cases English might be an obstacle.

It would be great if the People's Committee can provide a teacher in English, preferable with a British or American pronunciation as it was obvious that many had difficulties to understand our American/English/Swedish way of speaking.

The MC group will come here in November as there is a relevant energy conference here during week. 46. The others might come at another time in order to get the best possible internship.

#### *Costs and budget*

It was budgeted for 7+5 people but we were in total 8 people paid by the project. We also were able to find cheaper tickets than expected. This gives us an opportunity, if needed, for some to make another visit to Vietnam during this year.

Piteå 2012-04-18

Gerd Sävenstedt