



Vietnam in Piteå May 2014

Gerd Sävenstedt

The last visit from Vietnam in this project. We had planned for having a working group meeting to prepare a new application here in May, but due to changes on the Vietnamese side the plans were changed. Half of the core group has changed. Mr Thu has become the town chief in Long Xuyen and Mr. Nang has been appointed to lead a big company which is a superstructure for a number of companies in the food business.

So late Tuesday night Åsa Wikman and I were at the airport to pick them up; Mrs Ha, Mrs Xuan, Mrs Dinh Thi Viet Huynh, Mr Hiep, and Mrs Xuan from the People's Committee. For the last two it was the first time in Piteå and for the rest it was like coming home but to an ice cold late spring.



Professor Ha

Peter Roslund and Carina Ingesson

7/5 – Wednesday

We started the day by having a welcome at the town hall, and a meeting with Peter, mayor and the chairman of the monitoring committee.

The Swedish evaluator, Mrs. Carina Ingesson also participated and she and Dr. Binh has started to prepare for the evaluation. Carina was going to go later in August to Long Xuyen to work with Dr. Binh for a few days.

There was time for an update of the project. Things were delayed but they were hopeful to be able to carry out all the tasks in time.

For me I am a bit concerned how long professor Ha will last, as she is an extremely busy women and she is doing the entire job for An Giang on a voluntary bases – and not paid at all.

After lunch

Professor Ha, Mrs Xuan and I spent together with our GIS engineer, Krister in order to solve remaining issues regarding the GIS data base. Krister has been the Swedish partner and has had concerns regarding the use of it and the level of it.

A server has been bought for the purpose and installed at the information department.

The conclusion was that it should remain on the level it was today and it fulfill its purposes when it comes to one district but if they are going to extend it, they need to do it web based instead of storing the information on excel sheets. The purpose of the GIS data base is to have a base for describing the situation of today, for the rice waste to energy plan, as a planning tool and to get an understanding of the district.

During the time we had this meeting Mr. Jonas Lundmark from the wind park center guided the first timers, Mr. Hiep and Mrs Xuan. As they did not speak English Mrs. Huyen had to go with them to translate. During a couple of hours they got a brief understanding about the Municipality they were in.

Strömbackaskolan

Before we ended the day there was time for a visit at Strömbackaskolan where Mrs. Britta Dahlén gave us a guided tour. The project officer for the educational department, Mr. Fredrik Marklund, responsible for sustainable issues at the department also joined us.

There was a great interest from the Vietnamese side to establish cooperation between Strömbackaskolan and a similar School in Vietnam and Fredrik shared what possibilities there are, especially when it concerns vocational training classes.

Britta was going to talk to her teachers and explore if there was some interest.

A free evening for the group in order to rest....

Thursday May 8

Work group meeting

Participants; Åsa, Gerd, Ha, Xuan, Bosse, Mrs Huyen, LO- afternoon Furunäset

- *Future plans to be presented at the MC meeting. Plans for new project proposal?*
- *The ongoing project....plan for the last 6 months to fulfill the objectives.*
- *Remains to be done?*
- *Obstacles?*

When we meet there are always a lot of things to talk about and to update each other about, what has happened in the project and in private life. This time it was a lot regarding the change in the group with Mr. Thu as the new head of the City and Mr. Nang in Ho Chi Minh City. Both of them have got new challenges to face.

We talked a lot about the cooperation we were in and future plans. We realized that there were many challenges to face in a new project.

Mr. Bo has been in the project as a consultant and an important project member, valuable for the project, but in a new project it was important to get Norrbottens Läns Landsting as a partner. Åsa had during the project time become head of the community development office

and she realized she could not participate in a new project, Lars-Olof was going to leave his job at the Municipality and I was going to retire in 2015, when the project had finished.

In An Giang there was now a structure for the cooperation but everything was also in a way on an unstable base as all the An Giang –Swedish project were based on SIDA funding. But even if there would be no more Swedish funds the work would continue as An Giang wants to become a green province as it is a necessity for facing the future.

The project

Many things had gone very well but there was also a concern of not being able to reach the targets.

In the pipelines was the formation of a bio-energy association, with public, academic and business actors involved. In the beginning it was a bio-gas association but due to our cooperation they had enlarged the focus to a bio energy association.

The work with the plan was ongoing. There had been a lot of discussion WHO was going to write it, if they should use a consultant but most probably Mrs. Xuan and professor Ha would be the ones having the responsibility for it and also produce it.

At the same time Mr. Jonas Lundmark continued to host the group from yesterday which included at study visit at ETC and one at PIREVA, the waste management municipal company.

We all met for lunch

At Sjöbodan which had opened a couple of days earlier than planned so we could have lunch there.



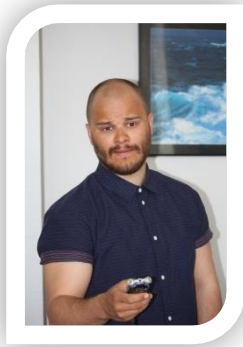
Piteå Science Park

In the afternoon we visited Piteå Science Park, an arena and meeting place where clean tech and creative businesses can meet. The ambition is to be a partner and a development node for innovations and business development. We met the project leader Anna Mård and Jan Lidström.

In the evening there was a shopping evening for the girls as it was a Women's night in town and Peter took care of Mr. Hiep.

9/5 -Friday

8 a.m – 10 a.m continuation Åsa, Mrs Ha, Mrs Xuan, Mrs Huyen met to continue our discussion and to prepare for the MC meeting. A journalist from the local newspaper came and reported about the cooperation.



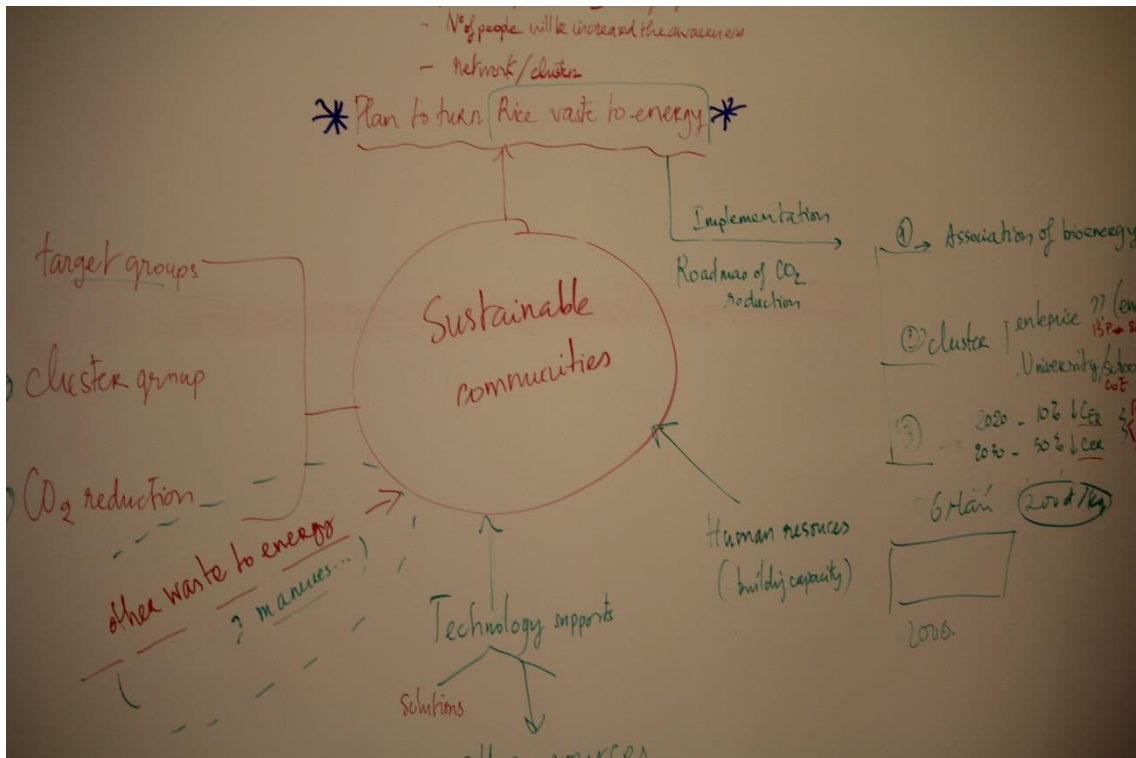
10 -12 Monitoring Committee meeting at Furunäset

Highlights;

- Changes in the MC. Mr. Hiep is a new member.
- Mr Thu has a new position and the MC proposed that the project leader Mrs. Xuan would fill his chair. There was also a recommendation that Mrs. Xuan would replace Mr. Thu as the head for PMU
- At the Swedish side Mr. Tore Persson has left and the project leader replaces him in the MC..
- A qualitative control has been made of the questionnaires by professor Ha and by Mr. Bo Wiberg and
- Mrs. Xuan and professor Ha should analyze the material. The plan is that a final draft of the rice waste to energy plan should be done in August, when they should have a meeting with the target groups. It should be submitted to People's committee in September which should approve it in October... They say tight but possible..
- The SG decided that a new proposal would be submitted to ICLD and it would be good if a few members from the core group could meet to prepare it so it would be submitted in October.
- A master student from Umeå University, will come to An Giang for his master thesis. The group will meet him before they leave from here.
- It was also a reminder regarding the common web site that did not work too well.

After lunch at Furuborg, there was a visit at MEVA before Ulf Isaksson from the Environmental and building department went with Mr Hiep, Mrs Xuan and Mrs Nuyen to Mr. Herbert Nyströms bio gas farm for a study visit.

Mr. Bo, Mrs. Xuan, Mrs. Ha and I continued the work related to the questionnaires and rice waste plan.



10/5- Saturday

The morning started with a meeting with assistant professor Kentaro Umeki from LTU who came to the hotel where they were lodging.

They also met with *Gustav Roslund* at the hotel. Gustav has got a MSF scholarship and will go to An Giang early next year to collect data for his master thesis. Mrs. Xuan has opened her home to lodge him, and Mr. Binh will be his tutor during the 2 months he will be there.

During the day they were hosted by Lars-Olof Persson and his wife and went to different activities before they came to my house for something to eat. I had prepared Swedish specialties but after a week with Swedish food they wanted real food too. They made my kitchen to theirs and we were all happy with their cooking.



Sunday there was a tour up to the Artic Circle and to Storforsen, the rapids in the neighboring municipality. Lars-Olof came along as a host and driver. It was May and a need of warm clothes.



Professor Björn Kjellström, the father of the MEWA technology met with professor Ha had and later on we all had a relaxing and nice dinner at Åsas' house.



The following morning it was time to leave Piteå after an intense week.

