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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
MARKET FACILITATION PLATFORM FOR IMPROVED COOK
STOVES**

**THE LAUNCH
BANGABANDHU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, DHAKA
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Tapos Kumar Roy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Michael Ellis, Chief of Party, USAID's Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh program

Richard Greene, USAID Mission Director, Bangladesh

... and all of you who believe that clean, fuel-efficient cook stoves can contribute importantly to protecting Bangladesh's people and to protecting Bangladesh's environment

Asalaam 'm laikum and good morning ...

A killer was on the loose ...

... somewhere inside the house ...

... the mother instinctively knew that in the house there was a vicious, murderous killer ...

... she could not identify the killer ...

... she knew only that something was making her sick, very sick, and her children, too.

As she pondered, she began coughing and the coughing would not stop as it dug deeper and deeper into her pain-wracked lungs ... her coughs woke her sleeping children, whose own coughs joined their mother's, and soon the small house resonated with a chorus of uncontrolled coughing. As the mother held her aching sides, she knew something was wrong ... something was dreadfully wrong ... but what could it be?

The mother's instincts were perfect. Something was wrong, dreadfully wrong in her home; a killer was, indeed, on the loose inside her house. Although she did not know it, the killer was everywhere present in the house ... the killer was ... smoke, smoke from the cook stove that she used every day to cook food for her family, smoke from the cook stove that was the lifeline of

her family. The very stove that helped her nourish her family was, unknown to the mother, also robbing her family of good health and life.

The mother did not know that indoor smoke, indoor air pollution is the fourth largest health risk in the world.

The mother did not know that around the world about 3.5 million people, mainly women and children, will die prematurely from illnesses related mainly to indoor air pollution caused by cook stoves.

The mother did not know that globally cook stove smoke claims a life every 8 seconds, including nearly 50,000 in Bangladesh.

Truly, the mother did not know that her cook stove was slowly, inexorably sickening her and her children.

I believe the days of indoor smoke making our mothers and children deathly sick are coming to an end ... thanks to the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves. We heard just a few minutes ago that the Global Alliance, a public-private partnership, seeks to have 100 million clean cook stoves in service worldwide by 2020 ... and Bangladesh ... naturally ... is a critical part of this global campaign. The world's seventh largest country, Bangladesh has more than 30 million households of which only about 3% use improved cook stoves. So, the potential for introducing improved cook stoves in Bangladesh is huge. The government has set a target of installing an additional one million improved cook stoves by 2018.

An improved cook stove sounds like a simple thing ... it is not ... but properly designed, properly manufactured, properly installed, improved cook stoves are life changers, life savers. These stoves can slash indoor air pollution, so mothers and children inhale far fewer small particulate matter and other pollutants, thus sparing themselves from debilitating respiratory diseases. Well-designed cook stoves can also slash the amount of fuel, usually precious firewood that is consumed to feed the family. The environmental impact of this is obvious in terms of both reducing firewood demand from the country's sparse forests and reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

These improved cook stoves are truly a win-win for Bangladesh as families stay healthier and the environment is spared.

I am pleased that America is partnering with Bangladesh in a five-year, \$15 million program that will have as one of its major goals the promotion of improved cook-stoves. In particular, the

program will develop markets, reinforce distribution networks, and promote financing mechanisms for fuel-efficient cook-stoves that will lead to their rapid adoption in Bangladesh. We seek to facilitate the installation of at least 300,000 improved cook stoves by 2017.

I am pleased, too, that America is co-hosting this exciting conference with the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. I thank the ministry for being our partner in hosting this conference.

Introducing improved cook stoves to homes across the nation is a great challenge. And that is what this conference is all about. You ... all of you ... manufacturers, international and local NGOs, donors, local entrepreneurs, and, most importantly, Government of Bangladesh ... all of you are here to share ideas, to exchange insights, to learn new best practices ... all to figure out how best to bring improved cook stoves to the greatest number of households in Bangladesh.

Yours is a big task ... I wish you every success ... for the sake of the women and children of Bangladesh.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery.*