
The primary purposes of the workshop were to discuss the global problem of indoor air pollution from inefficient cookstoves and write model laws to address this challenge. The air pollution that results from inefficiently burning biomass as fuel for cooking has serious health and climatic consequences. A practical solution is to install more efficient and less polluting cookstoves in homes. A number of national and international initiatives are pursuing this strategy. These efforts, however, are largely unsupported by any legal scheme that establishes workable programs to install cookstoves, provide funding, and invest in necessary research and development.

The materials that follow address the challenges we face implementing clean burning cookstoves throughout the developing world and provide two sets of model laws that we hope will be part of the solution. Cynthia Barr’s article discusses the role that law can play in addressing this pressing global problem and outlines a process for developing an effective law. In an effort to aid the process for both developing and developed nations, the workshop produced a model law for developing nations and a model law for developed nations, which were substantially edited by Lakshman Guruswamy and Scott Miller, respectively, after the workshop. Both of these model laws are published herein.

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