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KARI GRADY GROSSMAN, AUTHOR OF *BONES THAT FLOAT, A STORY OF ADOPTING CAMBODIA* AND FOUNDER OF THE GRADY GROSSMAN SCHOOL IN CAMBODIA, TEAMS UP WITH NEPALESE ACTIVIST SANU KAJI SHRESTHA, A RECENT WORLD CHALLENGE 2007 AWARD RECIPIENT, TO INTRODUCE A NEW ALTERNATIVE COOKING-FUEL TECHNOLOGY TO CAMBODIA

Month-Long Training is the First Introduction of Biomass Briquettes to Cambodia and the First Time the Award Winner is taking his expertise outside Nepal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FORT COLLINS, CO – DECEMBER 21, 2007 – Kari Grady Grossman, author of newly-released book, *Bones That Float, A Story of Adopting Cambodia* and founder of the Grady Grossman School in Chrauk Tiek, Cambodia has partnered with Sanu Kaji Shrestha, founder of the Foundation for Sustainable Technology (FoST), a recent World Challenge 2007 Award recipient, to introduce award-winning, biomass cooking fuel innovations to a remote community in Cambodia.

On Monday, December 24, 2007 (Christmas Eve), Grossman and her family will travel to Cambodia to partner with FoST team members for the month-long training at the Grady Grossman School where students and parents will learn how to make and sell the wood-free cooking briquettes. Like Shrestha in Nepal, Grossman is bringing this low-cost, high-efficiency energy technology to Cambodia's rural poor as part of a larger sustainable development plan that she is working on with the students and parents at the school.

FoST's training at the Grady Grossman School in Cambodia marks the first time Shrestha's program is being offered to communities outside Nepal. This training also marks the first introduction of biomass briquette cooking fuels to Cambodia, a country suffering from some of the highest rates of poverty and deforestation in the world.

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Shrestha's organization was selected as one of the top three finalists out of nearly 1,000 submissions from all over the world. On December 8, 2007, FoST team members attended the World Challenge 2007 Award ceremony in The Hague, Netherlands where they collected a \$10,000 runner-up prize to benefit their project. All winning projects have been featured in a BBC World documentary and are being featured in the December 17, 2007 issue of *Newsweek* magazine.

"We are honored to be the first community to benefit from Sanu's award-winning innovations," said Grossman. "Biomass briquettes are both a tool to combat deforestation as well as an income-generator for families who sell cooking fuel to Phnom Penh. Our goal is to promote sustainable livelihoods so that more children can afford to stay in school."

Grossman's connection to Cambodia began in 2001, when she and her husband George Grady Grossman traveled to Cambodia to adopt their son. Shaken by the cultural destruction caused by decades of war and the severe poverty that continues in the country where their son was born, the couple created The Grady Grossman School that same year. Since then, the Grossmans have returned each year working to build the infrastructure and improve the education offered at the school.

During this year's trip, the Grossmans are delivering on a promise made to the community one year ago; to identify ways to help the community combat illegal logging and deforestation.

"When we arrived last year, we were met by the entire community's desperate plea for help to stop the deforestation, a problem threatening their water resources and livelihoods," said Grossman. "At the time, we launched a letter-writing campaign to the Cambodian government demanding a stop to illegal logging; hundreds of letters and pictures drawn by children were sent; no action was taken."

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Dismayed, but not defeated, the Grossman's vowed to return the following year to combat deforestation with sustainable development initiatives. With the help of FoST trainers, the Grossman's will spend their entire holiday working to introduce the alternative fuel technology into the community, one of many initiatives they are working on to move the community toward sustainability.

In addition to starting the school, Grossman, previously a writer for Discovery Online, wrote *Bones That Float, A Story of Adopting Cambodia*, a compelling account of how the adoption of her Cambodian son awakened a personal connection to the country and the tragic events of the Khmer Rouge regime, inspiring her to make a difference. Grossman released her book in the spring of 2007, to coincide with the beginning of the long-anticipated war crimes trial for remaining Khmer Rouge leaders. Today, with support from book sales, speaking engagements and donations to the Friends of the Grady Grossman School, a US-based non-profit, charitable organization started by the Grossmans, the school educates nearly 500 students up to sixth grade.

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For more information visit the following links:

Grady Grossman School: <http://www.GradyGrossmanSchool.org>

Bones That Float: A Story of Adopting Cambodia: <http://www.BonesThatFloat.com/>

Foundation for Sustainable Technologies: <http://www.fost-nepal.org/>

BBC Documentary on FoST: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-8265929164207306024>

World Challenge 2007: <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/cooking.php>

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