

Engineering Design for the Developing World Spring 2008

Assignment #3

Due: 13th June, 5.00 pm, 2008, via email.

This assignment involves researching and writing a developing world technology analysis. Select a technology that has been designed specifically for the developing world (or one that wasn't designed as such but has been introduced into the developing world). You may not select a technology closely related to the well head filtration system that was the subject of assignment 1.

Suitable examples include: the Bogo light, the Darfur (or Berkeley/LBL) stove, treadle pumps, the XO computer, and LUTW lighting. There are many others.

In your analysis:

1. Briefly describe the technology, including the problem that it is supposed to address. Describe the claims of the promoters of the technology.
2. Review the sustainability of the technology using the broad definition of sustainability presented in this course. In discussing cultural aspects note whether or not it is applicable to specific regions. Your economic arguments should be detailed enough to assess whether or not there is a means by which the technology can be adopted by a large percentage of its intended recipients.
3. Describe the features of the technology which will encourage its adoption.
4. Describe any features which will hinder its adoption.
5. Are there any wider benefits to the technology?
6. Critically assess the claims of the promoters. Are their goals likely to be achieved?

Your analysis should be supported by references to papers or articles on the technology. These must of course be appropriately referenced.

Please submit this analysis as a PDF document (4 pages maximum), emailed to me by the above date.