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Dear US EPA SBIR Committee,

I am the Director of Research at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) and have been collaborating with international organizations from across Asia, Europe, and North America over the past decade to treat water contaminated with arsenic. Many different solutions have been tested at lab and field scale. But, when groups outside Cambodia try to "solve the problem" most efforts aren't long-lasting: the work from Mr. Michael German, Dr. Arup K. SenGupta and Lehigh University funded by the EPA P3 Competition is an exception.

Mr. German and Dr. SenGupta have been crucial in establishing the long-term infrastructure for sustainable arsenic removal systems for affected communities (SARSACs). Working with myself and the students at ITC they have designed the new water treatment maintenance systems that will support long-term use of arsenic removal materials throughout Cambodia. The system was created through an award made possible by leveraging the past work completed under EPA P3 funding. Such capacity building efforts are enabling ITC to be at the forefront of arsenic mitigation efforts throughout Cambodia. Their efforts for safe water are also in collaboration with our long-term NGO field partners, Resource Development International-Cambodia (RDIC).

For this effort to be a long-term success, it would be hugely beneficial to have the advanced arsenic adsorbents be produced in Southeast Asia. Dr. SenGupta's new hybrid anion exchange resin using zirconium oxide (HAIX-Zr) has been synthesized in lab with materials indigenous to India, which gives me great hope that it will be produced in South Asia with easy import or local production for people in Cambodia. I fully support any efforts that lead to local production of or access to reusable, high quality adsorbents to improve the local public health and to create new economic opportunities.

Sincerely,

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