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MEDIA RELEASE
VISITING EXPERT TO SPEAK AT NACRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 11th – 13th 2009

Tuesday 8th September 2009: The National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations (NACRO) is proud to announce that Professor Mohammad Taherzadeh from School of Engineering at the University of Borås in Sweden will be speaking on the first day of the NACRO annual conference.

Upon invitation from the NACRO Executive Manager, Kerryn Caulfield, Professor Taherzadeh is traveling from Europe to present his research on making ethanol and biogas from old clothes. His trip will be paid for by the Victorian based International Fibre Centre.

In 2007, Professor Taherzadeh and a number of PhD students began to look at the possibilities of producing ethanol and biogas from textile waste. First pure cotton was used and ethanol was the end product. The results were so successful that they continued with the same concept and started breaking down other textiles, like polyester and cotton mixes. "Most textile materials are mixed, that's why we are very pleased with finding out how to do that. In Borås alone, 17,000 tonnes of textiles are disposed of every year."

"It is up to the company that catches on to our research to choose what they want from their textile waste, ethanol, biogas or recycling to new material. We hope that the results will be used on a grander scale and in Swedish technology, and thereby create jobs," says Mohammed Taherzadeh, who is interested in making connections with the business sphere.

"Everything is recyclable and we can adjust the process to what end product we want. It is clear that we are better off using old garments than grains. For one thing, we can extract 50% more ethanol," says Professor Taherzadeh.

"Professor Taherzadeh's research is being considered by waste management authorities all over the world. This presentation could outline the future for donated garments that would otherwise be sent to landfill but could now become another income source for charitable recyclers," says Kerryn Caulfield.

NACRO Chairman, Ken Richardson: "I urge all Australian Charitable Recycling practitioners to make the effort to attend this important forum. I look forward to seeing you in Victoria in October".

The NACRO annual conference will be held at the dedicated conference venue "The Country Place" which is located right in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges. Visitors flock to the romantic hilltop villages for luxury hideaways, beautiful gardens, and magnificent tall forests and views. Bookings can be made via the NACRO website www.nacro.org.au . ENDS

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