

ABILITY CAN TAKE YOU TO THE TOP, BUT IT TAKES CHARACTER TO KEEP YOU THREE – Zig Ziglar

COMPLETION OF MOLUNG KHOLA MICRO HYDRO PLANT



Establishment of 26 kW Molung Khola I Micro Hydro System (MHS) at Chyanam VDC of Okhaldhung district has been completed. The test operation was done on 28 September, 2008. Altogether 394 households of Chyaam VDC have been benefited by the scheme. The supply of E/M equipment and installation was done by the GoN pre-qualified private company the Rural and Alternative Energy Pvt. Ltd., Tanahun. At present, Molung Khola Micro Hydro Functional Group is engaged in the establishment of various end uses and power management activities for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the system.

OPERATION OF KHEWATHAM KHOLA MHS

The Khewatham Khola MHS built at the most intricate site of Panchthar district has been commissioned on 6 October 2008. Started from March 2008, the MHS is situated at about 30 Km from the nearest road Jhor Pokhari along the Mechi High way. In the face of frequent road blockade and flooding in the eastern region, the system has been completed in the record time of seven (7) months because of the hard works of community people backed by the intensive follow-up and supervision of both District Energy and Environment Section (DEES) and Support Organization (SO). Besides, community people have contributed substantial portion of the project cost. The supply of E/M equipment and installation was undertaken by Kirsna Grill Engineering of Biratnagar. Altogether 465 HHs of ward no 2, 5, 6, 7,8 and 9 of Memeng VDC have been electrified. People in the village are quite impressed with the electric light in their villages for the first time. Now they feel pride to be able to compare their village with the nearby village of Indian State Sikkim which was electrified two (2) decades ago.

RELEVANCE OF REDP IN THE EMERGING POLICY CONTEXT

The government of Nepal is currently in the process of drafting the three (3) year Interim Plan, through a consultative process led by the National Planning Commission (NPC). Among the various thematic areas, high priority is being accorded to rural infrastructure, of which energy has been identified as a critical component. REDP is well synchronized with the priorities of the Nepalese government, addressing three critical issues: poverty, increasing access to energy and decentralization.

Poverty: The overarching goal of the 10th plan of GoN is poverty alleviation. The 10th plan identified energy as "Priority Category I" sector in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The plan intends to promote renewable energy to reduce consumption of fossil fuels and firewood on the one hand and to provide improved forms of energy to rural population for poverty alleviation.

Increasing access to energy: The 10th Plan (2002-07) aims to increase access to electricity from 40% (39.3%) of the population to 55% during the plan period. Out of this 12% (existing 7%) will be met through alternative energy. This translates into about 1,000,000 households (including backlogs from 2000/01- 2001/02), out of which 1/3 is expected to be electrified by off-grid electrification and 2/3 through grid electrification. Considering the fact that most urban areas are already electrified, the implications of this target are that : a) a major part of the expansion of electricity provisions should take place in the rural areas and practically all off-grid electrification will be rural; and b) there remains considerable scope for improvement of other energy provisions. REDP complements the 10th plan goal of increasing hydroelectricity generation capacity to 800 MW by 2008 and increasing access to rural electrification.

Decentralized governance: REDP's emphasis on recentralized governance is well in line with the government's focus. The 10th Plan has adopted a number of strategies with regard to decentralization, which are key principles of REDP as well. These are: autonomy to the local bodies for performing duties of the Local Self Governance Act, 1999; enhancing the institutional capacity of local bodies for enabling them to deliver services to the people, and enabling them to function responsibly; enhancing the people's participation in the local development process extensively, and making local bodies capable of mobilizing internal and external resources. *(Source: Review of Rural Energy Development Programme)*