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SUCCESS REPRESENTS A HOLISTIC AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO LIFE

RUKUM UJAYALO MELA

The Minister of Environment, Science and Technology Mr. Ganesh Shah and the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Janardan Sharma formally inaugurated the **Rukum Ujyalo** (*Illuminating Rukum District*) amidst a function attended by large gatherings from all walks of lives on 1 December 2008 at Mushikot Khalanga, Rukum. The Rukum Ujyalo is one of the priority number one projects of the Government of Nepal. This programme aims to provide electricity (energy) access to each and every household of the district in two years period through the promotion of different feasible rural energy technologies such as micro hydro, mini hydro, solar home system, biogas and improved cooking stoves. The Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) of the MoEST is the main responsible agency which is supported to achieve the targets by two donor funded projects, namely the Energy Sector Assistance Project (ESAP) and the Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP).



Speaking at the inauguration function, Minister Ganesh Shaha highlighted that alternative (rural) energy technologies are the best options to fulfill the energy need of the rural people who are not likely to be connected by the national grid in the foreseeable future. In the same manner, Minister Janardan Sharma noted the importance of this innovative initiative **RUKUM UJALO** for the livelihoods enhancement of people of Rukum district and thus urged all to cooperate and work for the attending the stated objective and targets. During the meeting, Executive Director of AEPC Dr. Govind Rj Pokharel, National Programme Manager of REDP Mr. Kiran Man Singh, ESAP Advisor Mr. Niels Juhl Thomsen and other officials as well as loyal political leaders also expressed their views and commitments on the Rukum Ujyalo.

On the auspicious, the **RUKUM UJALO MELA** was held from 1-2 December 2008. Various working models of different rural energy technologies, posters and materials were displayed and distributed in the mela visited by thousands of people including school children from Mushikot as well as adjoining and far villages.

REDP PARTICIPATED IN QUICK ASSESSMENT MISSION OF KOSHI FLOOD AFFECTED AREA



A Quick Assessment Mission of UNDP in collaboration with the government agencies and other UN agencies visited the Koshi Flood Affected Area from 26 November to 1 December 2008. The main objective of the mission was to conduct quick assessment of early recovery needs in the Koshi flood affected areas in Sunsari district and identify the areas of livelihood supports ranging from the immediate need to medium and long term needs. The Mission members included Dr. K. R. Regmi, FAO (for agriculture, livestock and irrigation components), Dr. Rabindra Shrestha, MEDEP (for livelihoods and micro enterprises), Mr. Bhishma Pandit, REDP (for energy, environment and infrastructures development), Mr. K. P. Kafle, DLGSP/LGCDP (for social services), Mr. R. K. Jha, MEDEP (for livelihoods and micro enterprises), and Mr. R. N. Shah, UNDP/QIPSI (for facilitation and field supports).

TWO STUDIES NEARING COMPLETION

The national consulting firm SAPPROS-NEPAL is carrying out a study on the pro-poor "smart" subsidy mechanism for the promotion of rural energy technologies in Nepal. The recommendations of the study will be highly useful for AEPC in streamlining the subsidy to make more pro-poor and equitable. The study is in line with the Rural Energy Policy 2006.

Similarly, Sustainable Energy and Technology Management Pvt. Ltd. is conducting another important study on the "Cooking Energy Technology". It is necessary to establish the base line of cooking energy and the study will help establish the baseline and make recommendations for cooking and efficiency improvement measures. The study is of high relevance as about 80% of people use biomass for cooking energy in Nepal. Most of the households use traditional tripod type inefficient cooking stove. Both of these studies are funded by REDP and at the final stages of completion. Once completed, the reports will be shared with relevant stakeholders for comments, suggestions and improvements.

