

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2009

LET THE WAVE OF MEMORY, THE STORM OF DESIRE, THE FIRE OF EMOTION PASS THROUGH WITHOUT AFFECTING YOUR EQUANIMITY-Shree Satya Baba

HALF DAY WORKSHOP ON ESTABLISHING BASE LINE OF RURAL COOKING TECHNOLOGIES

The Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) has organized a half day workshop on the study undertaken with the supports of Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) by the consulting firm Sustainable Energy and Technology Management Pvt. Ltd. (SETM) on 28 December, 2008 at the AEPCC meeting hall, Khumaltar. Altogether more than 30 experts and professionals from rural energy sector specifically on cooking energy and improved cooking stoves have participated and provided valuable comments and suggestions on the study finding presented by the Director of SETM Ms. Sharada Shrestha. The coordinator of the study Ms. Sunjita Pradhan welcomed the participants and highlighted about the main objective of the study as well as the workshop. The main propose of the study is to help establish the baseline of rural cooking technologies which will be used for formulating national strategy of promoting cooking energy technologies in rural areas. Deliberating the welcome remarks, both Director of Renewable Energy Project Mr. Mangal Maharjan and National



Programme Manager of REDP Mr. Kiran Man Singh requested the participants for their active participations and frank comments. The participants have expressed various views, comments and suggestions. The workshop was concluded with the agreement to finalize the report by incorporating the relevant comments and suggestions.

MICRO HYDRO MANUFACTURERS MEETING

The REDP recognizes the important role of the private sector in production and installation of micro hydro systems development in Nepal. The programme thus works closely with the MH manufacturers and installers and provides supports for their capacity building to the extent possible. In this regard, the REDP has been organizing consultative meeting with them regularly, at least on the annual basis. On 30 December, 2008, a consultative meeting between REDP and 20 representatives of the leading MH manufacturers and installers was held in the AEPCC meeting hall, Kathmandu. Various issues, concerns, problems and suggestions on technical (survey, design and cost estimates), financial (quotation, installment and final payment), and managerial (supervision, quality control, power output verification) were discussed, disputed and agreed on ways and means for amicable settlement and operational improvements in the future.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “DEVELOPMENT OF MH POWER PROJECTS: Challenges & Opportunities

A National Workshop on “Development of Micro-Hydro Power Projects: Role of Government, Opportunity and Challenges of Private Sector” was held at Kathmandu from 28-29 December 2008. Organized jointly by the AEPCC and NMHDA, the workshop was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology Mr. Umesh Mainali. REDP was a key sponsor of the event. During the inauguration session, the ED of AEPCC Dr Govind Raj Pokharel presented the theme paper. Among others, NPM of REDP Mr. Kiran Man Singh expressed the best wishes for the success of the event and emphasized for linking the rural energy promotion with the poverty reduction. In this two days long event, different experts and professionals have presented papers on the key topics such as GoN plan and policy on micro/mini hydro power development, policy, programme, modality and quality aspects of ESAP, REDP and NEA on MH, capacity, opportunities and challenges of private sector, gap bridging between micro and mega HP, grid connection of MH, roles, experiences and future planning of REF, ADBL and finance sector. Panel discussions were held on three key issues, namely Policy, Capacity and Finance. Deliberations and discussions were also held on the ways and means to cope with the present energy crisis in the country. The agreement was focused to the fact that MH is the most important resource that could bring the country out from the present crisis in the long term. Senior Rural Energy Advisor of REDP Mr. Thakur Devkota made a presentation on “Programme Modality and Quality Aspects of MHP” highlighting the holistic approach followed by REDP in the implementation and successes achieved in creating feeling of ownership by the community people essential to make the MH sustainable. The programme was accepted by many as a forum where many issues were raised and addressed. *(Based on information provided by NPM Kiran Man Singh and MCO Aruna Pant)*