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NPD: Mangal Das Maharjan

NPM: Kiran Man Singh

Editor: Sunjita Pradhan

THE PROVISION OF ENERGY SERVICES IS CRITICAL TO DEVELOPMENT- AND FOR ACHIEVING THE MDG's

NEW NPD FOR REDP

MoEST/ GoN has appointed Mr. Mangal Das Maharjan as the Officiating Executive Director of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) effective from 6th January, 2009. Mr. Maharjan is the seniormost staff of AEPC and presently working as a Programme Director of the EU funded Renewable Energy Project (REP). As the Chief of AEPC, he also performs as the National Programme Director (NPD) of REDP. We wish him every success in his endeavor.

HIGH PRIORITY - RENEWABLE (RURAL) ENERGY

The new Government of Nepal (GoN) has accorded high priority Number One for the wide-scale promotion of rural energy systems for rural development and accordingly designated the current FY 2065/66 (2008/09) as the "RENEWABLE (RURAL) ENERGY YEAR". Similarly, a RUKUM UJYALO (Illuminating Rukum Distric) has been announced as a special innovative programme of FY 2065/66 budget. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) has directed and assisted 72 District Development Committees (DDCs) through AEPC to create and operate District Rural Energy and Environment Sections/ Units (DEESs/DEEU's) for the planning and management of energy and environment initiatives as integral components of district development plans and programmes/projects. Under the circumstances, the demand of REDP's roles and supports (both technical and financial) has increased immensely for helping to achieve the stated national goals and targets on rural energy sector. The principal funding agencies of REDP are UNDP and the World Bank.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 2008

- ✚ UNDP Country Director Ms. Anne Issabelle Degryse-Blateau visited to Dhudhilabhati VDC, the first Urja Gaon in Baglung .
- ✚ The World Bank Environment Specialist Ms. Awa Sec inaugurated 25 kW Narsingh Kut Khola MHVEP at Baglung district.
- ✚ The first ever largest Bom Khola MHS (100 kW) at Lukla, Chrikharka VDC, Solukhumbu was successfully commissioned.
- ✚ The Government of Nepal has designated current Fiscal Year 2065/66 (2008/09) as the "RENEWABLE (Rural) Energy Year".
- ✚ The GoN has implemented "Rukum Ujyalo" as a special innovate programme to illuminate whole district in two years period.
- ✚ The Programme Support Officer Ms. Veronica Levi of UNDP Samoa visited to Pinthali, Kavre.
- ✚ The ESMAP/ the World Bank initiated the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of REDP/AEPC's Rural Energy Services.
- ✚ The development of a pilot Mini Grid of a cluster of micro hydro systems is initiated in "Uraj Upatyaka" of Baglung.
- ✚ Honorable Former Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel inaugurated Wanza Khola MHS at Tanahun district.
- ✚ Established and operated 32 District Energy and Environment Unit (DEEU) under AEPC with REDP/UNDP supports

ENERGY USE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION

Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) contributes to the generation of a rural economic growth process. A central tenet will be the linkage of the energy services to livelihoods promotion, income generation, and social services - both in order to pay for the new services and their maintenance, and to impact on achievement on MDGs, in particular poverty alleviation. Community grants for a livelihoods promotion and energy appliance and conservation fund, as well as linkages with PAF, line agencies, I/NGOs, and UNDP projects, will be used to channel livelihoods programmes to the communities based on participatory assessment of local needs, resources, skills and markets. Linkages for targeting include e.g. integrated water resource management linking irrigation, drinking water & micro-hydro; non-timber forest products (NTFP), agro-forestry and community forestry; diversified crops such as pineapple, ginger, tamarind, garlic with associated agro-processing facilities, non-farm income-generating activities, trekking and tourism energy needs, ICT for community education/business literacy classes, school education, sanitation, health, and social & institutional uses. In addition, an innovation fund will be available to pilot adaptive technology research for end-use promotion. In this connection, linkages will be established with UNDP supported project like Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) and government's PAF which have strong livelihoods focus. *(Source: REDP III Programme Document)*

REDP IN BHOJPUR DISTRICT

The District Energy and Environment Section (DEES) of DDC Bhojpur has selected four remote VDCs, namely, Dovane, Kharambha, Baikunthe and Chidikha for the implementation of REDP activities. The programme aims to help access electricity services through the installation of micro hydro as an entry point for enhancement of rural livelihoods. Other rural energy technologies such as solar, biogas and improved cook stove will also be promoted to fulfill the diverse energy needs of rural people.