

REDP - LIGHTING RURAL NEPAL FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY DIRECTOR VISITED GIRIND KHOLA MICRO HYDRO SITE

The World Bank's Country Director Ms. Susane Goldmark, Senior Education Specialist Dr. Rajendra Dhoj Joshi, REDP's Senior Rural Energy System Development Advisor Mr. Thakur Raj Devkota and other Bank officials visited to 75 kW Girindi Khola Micro Hydro Village Electrification Project (MHVEP) at Dagatundada VDC of Baglung District on 17th January, 2009. The main propose of visit was to observe micro hydro site as well as assess impact of electricity. The team visited the power house and various electricity based end –uses such as agro processing mill, health clinic, rural communication and information center, photo studio, grill workshop and radio repair workshop. They also interacted with community people. At the end, the Country Director said that Rural Energy Development Programme has shown a way of promoting entrepreneurs in Nepal by supporting for the rural energy systems development such as micro hydro, solar and biogas as entry points for the development to reduce income inequalities and improve rural livelihoods. *(Information provided by SRESDA Mr. Thakur Raj Devkota)*



TRAINING TO OFFICE ASSISTANTS

REDP has organized a three days long training to Office Assistants (OAs) of DEESs at AEPC/REDP meeting hall, Khumaltar from 18-21 January, 2009. Altogether 33 OAs attended the training programme. During the concluding session, two participants, Ms. San Maya Ramtel AFA of DEES, Panchthar and Mr. Shambhu Lohani of DEES, Dhading have expressed that the training was successful in imparting practical skills and knowledge on AFA office administration, monitoring, financial book keeping and reporting. NPD Mr. Mangal Das Maharjan and NPM Mr. Kiran Man Singh also highlighted on the important roles of OAs in DEES operation, gave advices to work efficiently and suggested to seek the instructions and guidance from AEPC and REDP staffs as and when necessary.

ENERGY PROGRAMME IN GULMI DISTRICT

The District Energy and Environment Section (DEES) of Gulmi district has lunched its activities in four remote VDCs, namely, Hwangdi, Arkhawang, Hadhade and Arlungkot. The DEES gulmi is one of the 40 DEESs supported by REDP, a national programme of GoN, UNDP and the World Bank.

NEED OF INCREASED LEVELS OF LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

REDP has been supporting community people and local organizations for holistic and sustainable rural development in 40 districts by promoting micro-hydro as entry point. In its twelve years of operation, the programme has been successful in generating about 4 MW power from 243 schemes in remote locations. Although the programme provides some enterprises promotion fund to each community for undertaking productive end-uses, the amount is not sufficient to fulfill the ever increasing needs of the entire households of the community. This has hindered and slowed down the promotion of livelihood activities at the desired levels. The time has thus come to increase the enterprise promotion fund or implement a follow-on programme focusing to enterprises promotion in communities served by community managed micro hydro systems. Linking with other programmes supporting for income generation and enterprises development are highly desirable but very difficult to materialize due to difference in many aspects such as objectives, focuses, target groups, geographic concentration, implementation modality and works schedules. *(Based on information shared by EDO Mr. Ram Prasad Tiwari, DEES Kavre)*

INTERACTION MEETING WITH UNDP BANGKOK

An interaction meeting with the Poverty Environment Initiatives (PEI) Mission composed of UNEP Regional Advisor Ms. Sanath Ranawana, UNDP, Senior Tech Advisor Ms. Nandita Mongia and UNDP, Environment Advisor Mr. Poul Steel was held on 21st, January, 2009 at REDP meeting hall. REDP's NPM Mr. Kiran Man Singh, UNDP PO Mr. Manoj Khadka and REDP professionals attended the meeting. Various aspects of PEI and REDP were discussed and also shared views on the potentials and possibilities of working PEI and REDP together in Nepal for the impressive results.