

**REDP - EXPANDING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ENERGY SERVICES TO REMOTE AREAS**

**BBC NEWS HIGHLIGHTED THE REDP**

It is heartening to hear the BBC news on the REDP's initiatives in promoting micro hydro systems in Taplejung district. The news highlighted that even if whole Nepal is facing the severe load shedding of electricity in the recent days, the people in the rural villages are enjoying the light that has been a collective effort of community people with support from REDP. It is joint programme of Government of Nepal (GoN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank (WB). This news broadcasted at the international level from a well respected/ acknowledged media is certainly a matter of pride for all of us who are involved directly and indirectly in the planning, execution, funding and technical assistance provision to REDP at its all stages implementation.

The link for the news for your reference is:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/ondemand/nepali/meta/tx/nepali\\_1500?bgc=003399&lang=ne&nbram=1&nbwm=1&ms3=6&ms\\_javascript=true&bbws=1&size=au](http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaselector/ondemand/nepali/meta/tx/nepali_1500?bgc=003399&lang=ne&nbram=1&nbwm=1&ms3=6&ms_javascript=true&bbws=1&size=au)

We would like to take this opportunity express our sincere thanks to all that have helped us the REDP Team to continue to operate and make the changes possible not only in the lives of rural people of Taplejung district but in all 243 committees (more than 300,000 people) of 25 programme districts.

**RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**



A two days long conference on the Rural Energy Development in Nepal was held from 22 January to 23 January, 2009 at staff collage, Jawalakhel. The event was organized by ADDCN in collaboration with MoEST, MoLD, MoWR, AEPC and FNCC with the sponsorships of REDP, SNV, ESAP and IPPAN. Rural Energy Development (REDP) was the key initiator as well as sponsor of the event. During the event Minister of Water Resources Mr. Bishnu Poudel highlighted the positive aspect of local level. It is also expressed commitment to promote environment friendly energy like ethanol, biogas, solar, briquette, wind as well as community forest and water shed areas to reduce energy dependency. Representatives of local bodies, government officials from line ministries, energy experts, stakeholders and donors have presented and discussed on papers highlighting key topics such as plan, policies and existing energy crisis in the country.

The conference concluded with the endorsement of 13-point declaration to address the existing energy crisis in the country. The agreement was focused on the equitable distribution of resources by prioritizing locals, followed by stakeholders, local authorities and central government while sharing the benefits and rights. The declaration also expressed commitment to priorities policies that would mobilize national capital, technology and market so that energy could be supplied within the country. It also considered joint effort of private sector, local community, cooperatives, local governments and central government under the private public partnership policy to make investment in energy sector.

The declaration also appealed to the government to allocate d funds that n matches with the District Energy Fund (DEF) allocated by the local authorities and expressed commitment to formulate strategies to make equitable distribution of responsibilities and resources for energy development. It also expressed commitment to promote environment friendly energy like ethanol, bio-diesel, bio-gas, briquette, solar wind as well as community forest and watershed areas to reduce energy dependency. It also suggested encouraging the use of electric vehicles by relaxing import taxes and customs duties. Addressing the conference, Minister for Water Resources Bishnu Poudel Said the government supported the local authorities joint effort and would implement the positive aspects of the declaration.

*(Source: Himalayan Times, 23 January, 2009)*

**COMPLETION OF TWO MICRO HYDRO PLANTS**

The 30 kW Lukerban Khola Micro Hydro Village Electrification Project (MHVEP) of Khunga VDC of Baglung district was commissioned on 18 January, 2009. The scheme has directly benefited 300 households of ward nos. 6, 7 and 9. The important features of the schemes are 126 lps discharge, 450 m long headrace canal dropped through the net head of 48 m with overall efficiency of 50%. Appropriate Engineering of Butwal was the supplier and installer.

Similarly, the REDP supported Mangpang Khola MHVEP has been completed on 9 February 2009 in Mangpang VDC of Dhading district. The plant produces 9kW benefiting 105 households of the remote village of the district.