

ENERGY IS THE ABILITY TO DO WORK

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN AEPC

On Wednesday, 11 February 2009, the Government of Nepal (GoN) cabinet meeting has appointed Dr. Narayan Chaulagain as the new ED of AEPC. We take it as our great pride and prestige to state that Dr. Chaulagain had worked and contributed greatly as REDP's District Energy Advisor (DEA) in Parbat and Tanahun districts for the successful results in these districts starting from 21st August 1998 to 16 July 2001 till he resigned from the post to go to Germany for pursuing Masters Degree with Scholarship in the Energy Management from the University of Flensburg. He continued to pursue Doctorate degree from the same University. Upon the completion, he came back to Nepal in 2007 and is providing professional services to PEEDA, a national NGO working in the Power Sector Development in the country as of today.

We would also like to take this opportunity acknowledge the fruitful collaboration signed between REDP/UNDP and University of Flensburg through a MOU for conducting international Classes in REDP VDCs (sites) for the students pursuing master's degree in the university. After completing two batches in two consecutive years, the collaboration, through appreciated and evaluated as successes by both parties, had to be discontinued due to the security (of international students) reasons in the country. One or more REDP staffs were selected and admitted based on the competitive selection process in the University of Flensburg for Masters Degree programme till last academic year. It can be safely predicted that this will continue in the coming years too. The REDP staffs have been providing the much needed case studies with practically proven modalities and experiences to the University for enhancing the course materials every year. Similarly, Nepal (also REDP/ UNDP) is also benefited with academic feedback on its best practice approaches and results in the form of students' thesis's and academic inputs and most importantly the qualified human resources equipped to contribute significantly for the improvement of and/or leading of the rural energy sector in Nepal. Example included, among others, present AEPC's ED Dr. Chaulagain and immediate past AEPC's ED Dr. Pokharel.

FIRST FAST TRACK SCHEME COMMISSIONED AT KAVRE DISTRICT

On 7 February 2009, the Durlung Khola MHS has been completed as the First Scheme of the Fast Track Schemes categorized for the completion in 2009. Located in Kavre district the scheme is completed within the record time of six months from its initiation. The 18 kW scheme has directly benefits 139 households ward no. 2, 3 and 4 of Milche VDC. The important features of the scheme are 220 lps discharge and 343 m. long headrace canal dropped through the net head of 14 m. The supply of E/M equipment and installation were undertaken by the Appropriate Engineering of Butwal.

After completion of this scheme, total electricity generated by micro hydro systems supported by REDP in Kavre district have totaled 415.5 kW benefiting 3784 households. We REDP would like to congratulate the people of the Milche VDC for the success. Also would like to express heartfelt thanks to DEES Staffs and all others who directly or indirectly have supported to fulfill the people's dream.

FUNDS CRUNCH PUTS PAID TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INITIATIVES

Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) was facing shortage of funds to accomplish its alternative energy related programmes. In a coordination meeting with external development partners, the government agency working for the promotion of alternative energy, said a fund gap of \$69 million was hindering the progress of alternative energy related programmes. AEPC is currently conducting alternative energy related programmes such as Energy Sector Assistant programme (ESAP), Biogas Support Programme (BSP), Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP). Renewable Energy Project (REP), Improved Water Mill Programme (IWMP) and wind technology.

Executive director of AEPC, said there was a fund gap of \$25 million for the ESAP, \$16 million each for BSP and REDP and five, four and three million, respectively, for REP, IWMP and wind energy technology related projects. Executive Director called for the support of international partner agencies to support the programmes. Some seven percent of country's population has access to rural energy technology, which has been generating 500 jobs a year and has been employing over 8,000 people. It has helped reduce the consumption of firewood by 51 percent and has reduced the consumption of kerosene by 50 to 100 liters per household. Biogas plants have helped earn millions of rupees through clean development mechanism (CDM). The AEPC hopes to reduce the use of fossil fuel by 40 percent by 2027.

"Energy is a fundamental necessity for the nation's development. The severe energy crisis in the country can be ended by promoting alternative energy," Science and Technology Minister Ganesh Shaha said, adding there is a need to focus on the development of solar, micro hydro, biogas and other alternative energy sources. Shah also called on international development partners to support alternative energy programme. *(Source: Himalayan Times, December, 2008)*