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IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE HAPPY NOBODY CAN STOP YOU – Sister Mary Tricky

INAUGURATION OF PARA AND MOLUNG KHOLA MHVEPS



The Chief of Nepal Army Mr. Rookmangud Katawal has inaugurated two Micro Hydro Village Electrification Projects (MHVEPs) in Okhaldhunga districts amidst a function on 28 March, 2009, namely Molung Khola (26 kW) and Para Khola (12 kW) at Chyanam VDC.. The schemes were established by respective Functional Groups with supports of the Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) and Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC). These two schemes have electrified all 528 households of them VDC.

During the event, Mr. Katuwal has appreciated the REDP as well as community for building sustainable electricity services despite of the current electricity crisis in the country. He also appreciated that it was hard work done by community people for the positive impacts in lives of the poor in rural area from the access to electricity.

Presented in the functions were men and women of the VDC and local leadress of all political parties. REA Mr. Bhisma Pandit and EDO Mr. Tara Chandra Chudhari along with community people have facilitated the event successfully. *(Based on information provided by REA, Mr. Bhisma Pandit and EDO Tara Chandra Pandit)*

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN REDP DISTRICT

In order to achieve its stated goal and objectives, the REDP has been focusing on the holistic rural development approach based on the REDP community mobilization packages consisting of six basic principles namely organization development, capital formation, skill enhancement, technology promotion, environment management and vulnerable community empowerment. The community managed micro hydro system is the entry point. The vulnerable community consists of women, Dalits and ethnic groups. The formation of separate male and female organizations from 100% households at the community ensures the creation and operation of institutional set up essential for the women empowerment.



The ETC Foundation, Neatherladnd and REDP have agreed recently to implement jointly an ENERGIA MFS Programme initiative "Gender Mainstreaming in Maleku Khola Micro-hydro Project in the Dhading District". The main objective of the project is to engender Maleku Khola Micro-hydro project through gender mainstreaming to make it responsive to the energy needs of men and women and the community to widen the energy services. Laeger objective is to mainstream gender concerns into the REDP, through the followings: i) Build the capacity of executing agencies, project developers, and the consumers to design or restructure their activities, to address gender specific energy needs, ii) Integrate gender specific goals, and targets into the REDP micro-hydro project as a whole and establish indicators that are agreeable to the project and the local people to measure their effectiveness, iii) Design development activities which enable the members of the community to use electricity as a mode to achieve goals of income generation, poverty reduction, economic advancement and gender equity, iv) Involve key stakeholders in this process; the project developers, communities, and others by providing an opportunity to learn about gender mainstreaming process, and v) Empower the local community by providing equal opportunities for women through their direct involvement in decision making to expand future activities and to be involved in project management. *(Source: Terms of Reference)*

TRAINING ON SOLAR WATER PUMP

Suryodaya Urja along with the Grundfos has organized a two days long training programme on the Solar PV pumping system with focus on high efficiency SQFlex SERIES of Grundfos pumps which are specifically designed for renewable energy application. The event took place from 24 - 25 March 2009 at Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kalimati.. The overall objective of the training was to orientt and train Nepali engineers and technicians of AEPCC, REDP, REP and ESAP on the technical aspects of solar pump such as sizing, installation and repair maintenance. REA Mr. Sanjay Sharma of REDP had participated in the training.