

**WHEN YOU THINK THE WORLD HAS TURNED IT'S BACK YOU TAKE ANOTHER LOOK**

**ADDITIONAL US\$ 12.2 MILLION WB GRANT TO REDP/AEPC**

The Government of Nepal (GoN) and the World Bank has signed a memorandum upon the successful completion of the negotiation for additional financing to the Power Development Project (PDP). Of the total of SDR 60,100,000, SDR 10,500,000 (17.5%) is in the form of grant and the rest of SDR 49,600,000 as loan to GoN which will be relented to NEA. REDP/AEPC will receive the grant of SDR 8,150,000 (equivalent to US\$ 12.2 million) which equals to 77.6% of the grant amount. The fund will help expand and extend the REDP activities to benefit about 36,000 households of remote locations by accessing electricity services through the generation of 4.25 MW (4500 kW) in three years period starting from 2010 to 2012. REDP team believes that it has not only acknowledged the hard and best practice with impressive results highly relevant to the present post conflict situations but also motivated further to work hard and do more in the coming days to bring the equitable benefits to the poor and marginalized people of remote Nepal.

**PROJECT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

The Project Executive Board (PEB) meetings of both REDP and KiND were held separately on Friday, 15 May 2009 at REDP/AEPC Meeting hall at Khulamatar. In both meetings, NPM of both REDP and KiND made presentations on the First Quarter Progress and Second Quarter Workplan along with major issues, risks and topics for decisions. After discussion, the meetings endorsed the 1<sup>st</sup> QPRs and 2<sup>nd</sup> QWPs of both REDP and KiND. Valuable comments and suggestions were received from PEB members. It was suggested to modify the existing presentation styles practiced from the beginning in order to deal in details on each activity planned in the past quarter as well as activities that are proposed in the new quarter.

Presented REDP PEB members in the meeting were ED of AEPC and NPD of REDP Dr. Narayan Prasad Chaulagain, Under Secretary of MoF Mr. Bhuban Karki, DRR (Programme) of UNDP Mr. Jorn Sorensen, ARR of UNDP Mr. Vijaya Singh, General Secretary of ADDCN Mr. Hem Raj Lamichhane and PO of NAAVIN Mr. Pradeep Poudel. The meeting was also attended by PO of UNDP Ms. Anupa Lamichhane and staffs members of REDP.



Similarly, presented in the KiND PEB meeting were ED of AEPC and NPD of KiND Dr. Narayan Prasad Chaulagain, DRR of UNDP Mr. Jorn Sorensen, ARR of UNDP Mr. Vijaya Singh, Chairperson of KREC Mr. Narayan Khadka and PR Specialist of SN Power/HPL Mr. Suman Basnet. Others participants included PO of UNDP Ms. Anupa Lamichhane and staffs members of KiND.

**HISTORICAL AGREEMENT TO ELECTRIFY 300 VILLAGES**

On Wednesday, 13 May 2009, two apex bodies, namely the Association of District Development Committees of Nepal and the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries have signed a historic agreement to work together for the development of micro and small micro hydro plants to electrify 300 villages of 48 districts of the country. It was for the first time when two key stakeholders of development, one representing public sector and other one from the private sector, have come together to undertake public-prive partnership projects to generate 150 MW by establishing hydro power plants ranging from one to five megawatt each.

The event was a gratifying moment for the REDP as it was attributed to the National Workshop Seminar on Rural Energy Development organized by ADDCN from 21-22 January 2009 in collaboration with MoLD, MoEST, AEPC, MoWR, WECS and FNCCI. The REDP was the main funding agency for the workshop seminar. Furthermore, REDP had not only supported ADDCN to create a Natural Resources and Energy (NaRE) Unit under its organization but has also been supporting since more than five years to carry out different activities pertaining to advocacy, lobbying and providing services to members DDCs in the areas of policy, planning and implementation of rural energy technology in the decentralized manner.

**SOLAR HOME SYSTEM CAMPAIGN IN TANAHUN DISTRICT**

District Development Committee: District Energy and Environment Section (DDC: DEES) Tanahun has supported rural households to install 2,832 Solar Home Systems in different VDCs. The systems have directly benefited 80 households of Ward # 1 of Ghiringsundhara VDC, 119 households of Ward # 2 and 9 of Baidi VDC and 85 households of Ward # 5, 6 and 7 of Virkot VDC. Admin and Finance Assistant (AFA) of DEES Mr. Ishwor Shrestha said, "The systems will help to reduce various health hazards of women such as infection, pulmonary and eye diseases". These Solar Home Systems will be installed with the total cost of Rs. 20 lakh and 62 thousand. (Source: *Annapuranna Post*, 10<sup>th</sup> Baisakha, 2066)