

**BEING POSITIVE: NOT EASY BUT POSSIBLE**

**PROJECT EXECUTIVE BOARD (PEB) MEETING**

The PEB Meeting of REDP took place at AEPC/REDP meeting hall at Khumaltar on Monday 6 July, 2009. The meeting was attended by ED of AEPC and NPD of REDP Dr. Narayan Prasad Chulagain, Under Secretary of MoF Mr. Bhuban Karki, DCD of UNDP Mr. Jorn Sorensen, ARR of UNDP Mr. Vijaya Singh, General Secretary of ADDCN Mr. Hem Raj Lamichhane and PO of NAVIN Mr. Pradip Poudel. Also attended the meeting were PO of UNDP Ms. Anupa Lamichhane, NPM Mr. Kiran Man Singh, Spoke person of ADDCN Mr. Krishna Prasad Jaissi, ED of NAVIN Mr. Laxman Pandey and REDP staffs..

The NPM Mr. Singh made a brief presentation focusing to the status of decisions of last PEB meeting, second quarter progress, 2009 budget revision, third quarter work plan and indicative workplan and budget for 2010. The presentation was followed by lively discussion with questions and answers. Among others, the meeting endorsed the second quarter progress report, budget revision and third quarter workplan.

**ELECTRIFICATION: A REMOTE VDC HIKILA**

The test operation of Kala Gad Micro Hydro Village Electrification Project (MHVEP) has been successfully undertaken on 1 July, 2009. The 34 kW scheme has directly benefited 315 households of the Hikila VDC of Darchula district. The household composition of the community consists of 36 dalit and 279 others that are organized into 192 COs, of which 99 are male 93 female COs. The project with gross head of 65m and design discharge of 105lps was completed with the total cost of Rs.7, 297,806.

**TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD LEVEL ELECTRICITY SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**

The energy target for rural areas has primarily addressed access to mechanical power and electricity at the community level. If one imagines a 10 year time horizon for energy and other development planning, it is prudent to anticipate a transition in which individual households shift from a low level of illumination and communication to electricity based illumination and use of such appliances as television and eventually to power demand levels that require grid electricity. With this transition in mind, it is important to recognize approaches that permit energy service such as electricity based household illumination and basic communication services without a grid. These services could be provided with a single, central node for community details of some of the economic and technical factors that favor adoption of electricity as an energy carrier for key lighting and communication services. If households are tightly clustered in nucleated settlements, a local mini grid may also be viable for household level electricity supply. This mini grid could be powered from a centralized system or a decentralized system such as micro hydro, wind or diesel genset.

Although this system currently serves only about 10 percent of the village, the possibility for extending service to the poorest in the community might include a lifeline rate with limited consumption or low-cost, battery charging services. In high density rural areas, a geographically well distributed grid network that forms the backbone for community services can allow one to leverage household level services through reduced cost electricity connections. A medium voltage electric line to a community center would facilitate dramatically reduced cost for a household connection within a radius of approximately 500 meters of each transformer spaced, for example, every 1 kilometer along the MV line. While few people would be able to immediately afford such a connection, it allows a utility to combine the reduced costs of connecting to existing nodes with possible micro electrification has occurred, the financial health of the utility and attention to institutional structure are critical. A lack of transparent mechanisms to meet generation cost can lead to unreliable and erratic supply, which in turn jeopardizes service to the truly needy.

Stand alone solar home systems also allow household level basic electricity access. They are far more convenient than a portable battery and have the added advantage of being independent of the local grid of service provider. Emerging technologies could reduce the cost of such decentralized systems. Supporting policies such as tax incentives, technical standardization and possible CDM funding would encourage such market development which in turn would eventually reduce the costs of these options for poor as well. *(Source: Energy Services for the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP, the World Bank and ESMAP, 2005)*