

**THREE VERSIONS OF THE TRUTH ALWAYS EXIST: YOURS, THE OTHER PERSON'S AND WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.**

## REDP in UN Publication

The Nepal Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP), supported by UNDP, provides a workable example for extending sustainable energy services in remote areas by promoting micro-hydro schemes, solar power, and improved cooking stoves. REDP applied a holistic approach to rural development, emphasizing community mobilization and empowerment. As of 2004, REDP had helped develop over 130 micro-hydro schemes in Rural Nepal. *(Source: Energy in the United Nations: An Overview of UN-Energy Activities, UN-Energy Publication, April 2006)*

*(Note: As of March 2008, more than 200,000 people of rural households of over 200 remote settlements that are not likely to be connected by the national grid at least in the next five years in 25 districts have been benefited from the easy access to rural energy (primarily electricity) services developed with the construction and operation of 234(3610.2 kW) community managed micro hydro systems, 4,617 toilet attached biogas plants, 2,163 solar pv home systems and 10,827 improved cooking stoves, including the institutional improved cooking stoves.)*

## Energy Units to be Set-Up in DDCs

The government has decided to establish energy units in all 75 District Development Committees to adopt a decentralized approach in promoting alternative energy in rural parts of the country.

The decision regarding the formation of District Energy and Environment Unit (DEEU) in DDCs was taken a few months back. The Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) is in the process of signing Memoranda of Understanding with DDCs to set up the energy units. The AEPC will enhance the capacity of local bodies so that they could take leadership in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural energy projects. The first phase DEEU began on July 16 and it will last for three years.

Speaking at a workshop on Mainstreaming Alternative/ Rural Energy through Decentralized Approach, officiating secretary at the Ministry of Local Development Ganga Datta Awasthi today said decentralization of alternative energy related programme was the best way to address the energy need of the people. "Alternative energy can be the best option to meet the need of people who are fed up with heightening fuel crisis. But the programmees need to be taken to the grassroots levels", he added. He also said the DEEUs would help penetrate all the areas and meet the place specific alternative energy needs of the country. Citing the success of biogas projects in rural areas, Awasthi hoped that local bodies would play proactive role in promoting the alternative energy in rural areas.

The DEEU will assist the DDCs in planning rural energy projects, conducting promotional activities and preparing district energy situation report. It will also provide technical support to the DDCs on rural energy technologies related issues.

Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel, Executive Director of AEPC, said they would provide extra technical and administrative staffers to local bodies to execute the programmes of the DEEU. "Decentralized approach is the need of the time and it will help run programmes in a scientific way." he added.

*(Source: Himalayan Times)*

## Meeting on REDP Internalization, Sustainability and Exit Strategy

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) have jointly organized a half day in-house consultative meeting on Internalization of REDP as stipulated in the REDP-III document. Altogether 26 officials and professionals attended the meeting held on 31 July, 2008.

NPD Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel, NPM Kiran Man Singh and all other participants expressed their views and comments on the short presentation made on the discussion topic by REA Mr. Narendra K.C. Different suggestions were made to improve the strategy and process for the common understanding and agreement by all stakeholders including DDCs before the actual implementation of Internalization. The meeting was concluded with suggestions of revising the paper (presentation) for another round of discussion in the near future.

