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Launch of Regional Centre of Excellence in Micro Hydro

*A joint collaboration between the
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC),
Ministry of Environment, Nepal and
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

April 19, 2010

Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

Registration of Delegates

16:00 - 17:00	Exhibition of Micro Hydro Technologies by AEPC and Stakeholders, Nepal
17:00 - 17:05	Welcome Address by Mr. Bharat Poudel, Coordinator, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Nepal
17:05 - 17:15	Lighting of Lamp by Honorable Minister Mr. Surendra Pandey, Ministry of Finance, Nepal
17:15 - 17:30	Opening Remarks by Mr. S. Padmanaban, Regional Program Director, SARI/Energy, USAID
17:30 - 18:00	Keynote Address by Dr. Narayan Prasad Chaulagain, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Nepal
18:00 - 18:10	Inaugural Address by Dr. Kevin A Rushing, Mission Director, USAID/Nepal
18:10 - 18:20	General Remarks Dr. Rameshore Prasad Khanal, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nepal
18:20 - 18:30	Honorable Member Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, National Planning Commission, Nepal
18:30 - 18:40	Honorable Minister Mr. Thakur Sharma, Ministry of Environment, Nepal (Special Guest)
18:40 - 18:50	Honorable Minister Mr. Surendra Pandey, Ministry of Finance, Nepal (Chief Guest)
18:50 - 18:55	Vote of Thanks Mr. Michael Hajny, Chief of Party, SARI/Energy, PA Consulting Group
18:55 - 19:00	Closing Remarks Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Nepal
19:00 onwards	Dinner Reception



Regional Centre of Excellence in Micro Hydro (RCEMH)

Regionally micro hydro has proven itself as a commercially viable proposition for solving a particular class of energy access problem: providing energy and positive impact on remote, low income populations with few energy options. This technology has been proven in many countries and particularly in the SARI/Energy countries of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Despite hundreds of micro hydro projects installed and operational, the commercial and programmatic successes are less well known to a new class of policy makers, project developers, investors, financing institutions and other stakeholders. Also, the emerging policy and donor push towards off-grid renewable energy options provides additional opportunities for micro hydro projects.

Nepal's track record of nearly 1,800 hydro projects totalling some 13.5 MW of installed electrical power capacity (mechanical power supplied for agro-processes is additional) across 53 districts gives the region a robust base of experience and capability to draw from. The RCEMH is designed to make available this repository of information and experience regionally and internationally.

The objectives of RCEMH are:

- To be a resource to policy makers that are embarking on a new generation of renewable energy frameworks, of end-user communities, and of developers and investors interested in pursuing off-grid hydro projects.
- Be a knowledge centre for the micro hydro sector in the SARI/Energy region.
- Be a self sustaining centre for promoting micro hydro development that will catalyze high growth of micro hydro by addressing all-round capacity building needs for the sector.

Initially, the RCEMH will be developed under the guidance and support of AEPC with USAID technical assistance in developing a detailed first year work plan. Major functions will be overseen by a Steering Committee. RCEMH will act as a facilitator and will work with the stakeholders to channel the service deliverable for the centre. RCEMH will showcase emerging technologies, designs, and best practices for development, implementation and management of micro hydro systems; present case studies, shares techniques for maintaining quality and meeting performance standards; advises on methods for social and user committee mobilization; and serve the capacity building needs of the micro hydro sector. RCEMH will secure a set of clients that can serve as an anchor to get the business up and moving. These clients could be local as well as regional and international companies and organization that are pursuing micro hydro projects or designing the policy and institutional arrangements for the sector.

The key focus of the Centre will provide a number of service offerings to clients, which are broadly classified as:

- Knowledge management
- Project monitoring
- Training
- Technical assistance

AEPC will make this Centre self sustaining and offer clients a proven methodology, results oriented management approach which incorporates high staff training levels, quality outputs and knowledge sharing.

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) is a government organization to promote alternative sources of energy in the rural areas. AEPC's Vision is to be an institution recognised as a regional and an international example of promoting large-scale use of renewable energy sustainably and a national focal point for resource mobilisation.

Contact:

Dr. Narayan Prasad Chaulagain, Executive Director, AEPC
(narayan.chaulagain@aepec.gov.np)
Mr. Bharat Poudel, Coordinator AEPC, Nepal
(bharat.poudel@aepec.gov.np)

Address:

AEPC, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, G.P.O: 14237, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: +977-1-5539390/91 (www.aepec.gov.np)