



CHARGED!

The electronic newsletter of the Himalayan Light Foundation

Issue IV

June 2004

Welcome to Issue 4!

This is the fourth long awaited issue of the "CHARGED" newsletter of the Himalayan Light Foundation. In this issue you will find fresh and updated information on HLF activities and recent accomplishments. For suggestions and inclusions for our next issue, please write to HLF at; info@hlf.org.np

Establishment of the Himalayan Light Foundation's South Asia Regional NGO Consortium for RETs and Poverty Alleviation.

This new consortium has been established to assist various NGOs in the South Asia region to link together to:

- 1) Share Regional NGO Experiences in operation of programs that use RETs to reduce poverty
- 2) Adopt and replicate successful RET programs across borders
- 3) Help the NGOs voice their concerns and increase collaboration with other stakeholders in government, private sector and donors

The HLF's South Asia regional NGO Consortium is currently supported by USAID, South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI)/ Energy, Small Grants Program and additional Assistance from the Threshold Foundation, USA.

The first stakeholders meeting of the Consortium was launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka with a key stakeholders ranging from the Sri Lankan government, donors, the private sector and NGOs. The Stakeholders meeting was hosted by the local consortium member NGO, Sewalanka Foundation.

Several presentations were made in the workshop by Mr. Lal Fernando, Director Sewalanka Sustainable Technology of Sewalanka Foundation, Ms. Sapana Shakya the president of Himalayan Light Foundation and Mr. Adam Friedensohn, Founder/ Chief Advisor of Himalayan Light Foundation and the Consultant for the consortium.

Glimpses of the first HLF's South Asia Regional NGO Consortium workshop in Sri Lanka



Workshop inaugural session



HLF President/Director addressing the workshop

The Stakeholders meeting was followed up by individual follow up meetings with Possible donors such as with Ms. Shireen Samarasuriya, National Coordinator GEF/SGP and Dr. Jayantha Nagendran, Senior Vice President (Project Management), DFCC Bank.

Project proposal submissions to these two likely supporters will be made this year jointly by Sewalanka and Himalayan Light Foundation for a collaborative replication of the Home Employment and Lighting Package (HELP) and the Solar Sisters program in Sri Lanka. Please visit our site; www.hlf.org.np/help.htm to know more about HELP program and www.hlf.org.np/solsis.htm for Solar Sisters.

Three sites have been already chosen for the Solar Sisters program and can be reviewed by interested volunteers at the following page of our web site: <http://www.hlf.org.np/srilanka1.htm>

We encourage potential volunteers to take advantage of this ground-breaking opportunity to be the first SSP volunteers in Sri Lanka.



First SSP village named Upatissagama in Anuradhapura district

"Himalayan Light Foundation's Traveling Education Center or "The TEC" Launches in Baglung DDC

TEC starts walking!

October 2003 the Traveling Education Center supported by the British Embassy to Nepal has commenced its roving rounds teaching on various vital topics such as Childs Rights, Environmental issues and Information and use of RETs. The TEC is a custom built Solar Powered Multi-Media Unit based on a unit originally designed by Lotus Energy (P) Ltd. For educating villagers about solar PV energy.



TEC carries multiple educational objectives, health awareness issues such as; immunizations, AIDS, sanitation, family planning, diarrhea etc.

- To disseminate information on use of Renewal Energy Technologies which can be easily adapted in the rural areas and the resources available for such technology both in private, non governmental and government agencies
- To empower rural communities with necessary information on preventive measures on viral and other diseases like immunization, AIDS etc.
- To avail information on the importance and significance of gender and child rights
- To educate local communities on safe drinking water
- To disseminate educative information through audio-visuals along with the distribution of educational materials



TEC in action in Baglung District

The TEC program was initiated by HLF in order to help villagers gain important information and education during times of strife since many schools have either closed down or have been abandoned by the teachers who fear for their lives. The TEC is able to go to specific pre-arranged areas for limited engagements without establishing an entire school or remote area NGO office.

NGOs are encouraged to apply for use of the TEC to present their own special materials on topics such as AIDS prevention, family planning, RETs, water and sanitation etc. Please contact Himalayan Light Foundation either by telephone + 977 1 4425 393 / 4437 189 or by Email info@hlf.org.np for further details on participating and supporting the TEC with your materials.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), Small Grants Program supports continuation of the Electro-Bus Demonstration Program ...

The second phase of the Electro-Bus Demonstration Program has been launched with GEF/ SGP support and will assure that the experiences of phase I are built upon for an Electro-Bus with incredible prowess! The second prototype is expected to be on the streets by fall of 2004.

The Electro Bus Prototype II is putting on its clothes!

We are now close to finishing the second AC prototype model with technical assistance from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Mr. Markus Eisenring, Technical consultant. The phase I has helped us to learn so much about potential and limits of the DC technology that we have made during the first Milk-Float-based version on the photo on the right. The British Climate Change Challenge Fund phase of the project has now come to an end and we usher in our next phase.

Solar Sisters Program reopens despite trouble in many Nepal districts.

Within this newsletter period of June 2004, another 17 SSP volunteers from USA, UK and Australia participated in Solar Sisters Program where they have donated Solar PV systems for the community buildings of the remote areas. The possibility of connecting those villages with the main grid is quite far.

The total of 12 Solar Home Systems were installed in Sankhe Health post of Tanahu, Borlang High School of Gorkha, Tri-Ratna Thangka Painting School of Kanpur, Kavre, Solar Development Committee office of Lekhani, Baglung etc.



Solar Sisters volunteers installing Solar Home Systems

HLF partners with The Organic Village for the HELP products outreach!

HLF and The Organic Village have signed an MOU for HELP® products outreach nationally and internationally. The Organic Village™ (TOV) is a private company based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Organic Village™ is established in order to create a International Market Access Portal that will avail villagers access to market for handicrafts or organic products they make in the presence of RETs such as solar, micro-hydro etc.

Contact us

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