

## Project Progress

During the quarter, CUTS organised a mid term review meeting in order to discuss the results of Phase I and develop a plan of activities for the second year with the aim to reinforce advocacy (Phase II). The meeting was held in Jaipur from April 01-02, 2009. CUTS invited the nodal persons from the respective partner organisations to attend the meeting.

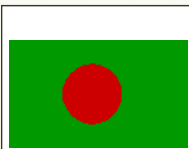


Dag Larsson, Senior Adviser, NORAD participated in the meeting. On behalf of CUTS, Anita Gupta, Amarjeet Singh, Deepak Saxena, George Cheriyan, Keya Ghosh, Pradeep S Mehta, Prithviraj Nath, Rajesh Kumar, Rijit Sengupta, Udai S Mehta attended. On behalf of the partner's organisations, Dhruvsh Regmi and Asish Subedi of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; and Taifur Rahman and Monowar Hossein of Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh participated.

Following the review meeting, the second round of the Reference Group (RG) meetings were also organised to share the experience of the implementation of the project so far with the members of RG. Further, the implementation strategy of the II<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project was discussed and views of the RG members were taken into consideration.

On the basis of the guidance received from the RG members, the project partners finalised the plan for implementation of the II<sup>nd</sup> round of the Grassroots Interface Meetings.

### BANGLADESH



#### Nuclear Power Talks With Moscow

Bangladesh and Russia have begun talks on an agreement for constructing nuclear power plants and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Bangladesh will be submitting a proposal to Russia for setting up two 1,000MW power plants in the country. Through these nuclear power plants, the power crisis scenario is expected to improve. Other than Russia, France, China and South Korea are also keen to help Bangladesh with the nuclear power technology. Bangladesh has long been nursing a nuclear power plant site at Rooppur. [More...](#)

#### Bibiyana Power Project Draws Six Bidders

The concept behind Bibiyana power project is to utilise gas from the Bibiyana field operated by Chevron, which controls almost half of the country's gas supply currently. Second round has taken place for this pre-qualification bid for the 450 megawatt Bibiyana Power Project under the Power Cell of the Ministry of Power. Six international and local consortium and companies have submitted their papers for the bid. [More...](#)

#### Power Scenario Improves in Ctg

Power supply in Chittagong has been unintermittent for three days. The situation improved since both the 210MW thermal power plants in Raozan went into generation and produced up to 250MW. Another 24MW-capacity rental power plant is soon to be set up and if the government approves, its capacity can be increased several times in no time. [More...](#)

#### Tk 200cr BB Fund for Solar Power, Biogas, Effluent Treatment

Bangladesh Bank has set up a Tk 200crore revolving fund for banks and financial institutions to give loans at low interest in solar energy, biogas and effluent treatment sectors. The bank would refinance different financial institutions and banks from this fund. This would help face power and gas deficiency by using environment-friendly technology, and would also help maintain public health. [More...](#)

#### Govt Guns for Long-term Power Goal

The country's gas reserve is depleting, therefore there is a need to find new gas fields or face diminishing gas supply from 2011. In order to improve the power situation, the government is adopting measures such as, environment friendly energy technology; greater use of renewable energy like solar power; tapping coal in an environment friendly way; conservation of energy; and greater emphasis on partnership between private and public sectors. Efforts are on for importing power from neighbouring countries to fight the shortage. [More...](#)

#### NEPAL



#### Power Outage Takes Toll on Industries

Industries in Nepal are facing problems due to power outage. The National Electricity Authority (NEA) failed to provide 24-hour electricity for several days. Its direct impact is evident on the industries, since the raw materials are going waste due to lack of production. If power supply from generators is used to run the industry then the costs soar, again causing difficulty in terms of production, raising of prices of products and ultimately the lack of demand of such products. [More...](#)

#### Power producers demand price revision

A suggestion has been made to the government for revision of purchase power agreement (PPA) rate. The Independent Power Producers' Association Nepal (IPPAN) and Nepal Small Hydropower Developers' Association Nepal (SHDAN) have put forth this suggestion. These revisions should be done as per the change in the climate which has impacted the cycle of seasons. The hydropower producers have also demanded that the government scrap the provision of penalising the producers who fail to generate the said volume of electricity in a year as mentioned in the power purchase agreement. [More...](#)

#### Local Demands Imperil Power Projects

In order to improve the power scenario in the country, several hydropower projects are underway. But these projects are already behind schedule due to lack of adequate funds. There are dozens of companies which have acquired licences for power projects but do not have sound finances. Moreover, local expectations and the political instability have also impeded the development of these hydropower plants. [More...](#)

#### Licence issuance shoddy

Government has issued licenses to developers without conducting any techno-economic study of the project. Techno-economic study helps the government evaluate and identify potential developers for a particular project and can weed out developers who apply for survey license with only their vested interest and capacity in mind. Issuing licenses after this study will bring potential bidders needed for successful implementation of big hydropower projects in the country. [More...](#)

#### INDIA



Rajasthan

#### 1-crore units power shortage in Rajasthan

A major power shortage has resulted in the state due to increased consumption and reduction in supply of power due to closure of some units of the central powerhouses. The demand for electricity touched this season's highest level of 10.34 crore units, while the present availability is slightly more than 9 crore units a day. [More...](#)

#### Private Firm to Design Power Units in Rajasthan

The Government in the State has approved the establishment of three super critical thermal power stations at Chhabra, Suratgarh and Banswara. Tata Consulting Engineers have been hired as the consultant for designing and engineering of the four units to be established at these new power stations. Tata Consulting would monitor the project progress till the units start producing electricity. [More...](#)

#### Rajasthan to produce 830 MW of power in 100 days

Rajasthan will contribute 830 MW to the overall production of power in the country under a 100-day project of generating a total of 5,700MW power. This power will be generated from four new units that are soon going to be operational. Rajasthan will start getting an additional 1.75 crore units of electricity a day after the full-capacity production by all these four power project units. [More...](#)

## INDIA



West Bengal

### Three Green Buildings to come up in City

West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation (WBGEDC) is urging the government to make green energy norms mandatory for all commercial and IT buildings. The state government also wants all residential and commercial buildings to use solar energy. Eco-friendly materials and renewable energy sources will be used to minimise electric consumption and keep the interiors cooler than any normal building complex. [More...](#)

### WBSEDCL Restricts Power Supply to Industrial Power Consumers

As a step to overcome the power outage, the state electricity distribution company has decided to cut off power supply to those industries where work is carried out in shifts and the production process is not continuous. The government is apprehensive about the power shortage deepening further due to scarcity of water in the power generation stations. [More...](#)

### RGVY to cover 244 mouzas this year

The rural electrification programme has come into its second phase of implementation. Under the second phase, 99.36 percent of mouzas will be provided access to electricity. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGVY) project, around 45 lakh rural households become metered consumers of WBSEDCL. [More...](#)

### Bengal Governor sets example by cutting energy use

The West Bengal governor is committed to saving energy. He has reduced his convoy size from five to three. He has also been observing voluntary power cut for two hours daily. He has asked his staff to transform *Raj Bhavan* into a carbon-neutral estate. The *Raj Bhavan* staff will try to limit energy usage and emissions from vehicles and attempt to obtain electricity from renewable energy source by installing solar panel on the roof. [More...](#)

### Harvest Solar Power and Earn: Green Body

The West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation (WBGEDC) has come up with a two pronged approach under which both the state and its residents will benefit. The state will contribute more to a better and healthy environment and save energy, while its residents will generate solar energy on their rooftops and supply it to the power utility. That power will be channelised to the grid and the sum owed to the resident would be adjusted against his electricity bill. [More...](#)