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Distr. LIMITED ID/WG.468/10(SPEC.) 11 May 1987

ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Expert Group Meeting and Study Tour on Standardized Small Hydropower Plants

Hangzhou, China 18-29 May 1987

THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL
NETWORK FOR SMALL HYDROPOWER**

Prepared by Zenaida A. Santos**

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BACKGROUND

of electric power in remote and isolated rural areas not covered by logy and exchange of experiences in the development and application by different organizations in the development and transfer of technostudy tours have been held and various documents have been published ping and developed countries. A series of seminars, workshops and the national grid network, is being increasingly recognized by develoenergy in developing countries, particularly in respect to the supply A SE The significance of small hydropower (SHP) as a source of renewable

hodology for fessibility and other studies appropriate for SHP, China and Manila, Philippines in October - November 1980 provided an neries and ancillaries. promotion of local design and manufacture of SHP equipment, machitralized anddecentralized menegement of SEP development, simple me in Merch 1983. The workshop discussed, among other thirgs, the cenof SHP for industrial promotion and development, and cost reduction opportunity of looking into a system's approach to the establishment logy transfer. The second seminar-workshop/study tour held in Hangzhou, project implementation through the exchange of experience and technocal, economical, policy and institutional aspects of SHP planning and held in Kathmandu, Nepal in September 1979, Yocused on the technologiand UN agencies, have organized three workshops on SRP. Since 1979, UNIDO and ESCAP, in co-operation with other countries The third SIP workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia The first one,

This was to be an extension of their national centre. Development and Training on Small/Mini Hydro Power in Hangzhou, China. co-operation of UNDP, UNIDO and ESCAP, a Regional Centre for he workshops on SHP, took a decision to establish, with the support and China, in response to the recom enthations of the first and second ğ

Regional Network System and the Assess region, the Senior Experts Group Meeting (SEGM) on the Creation of a In recognition of the important role being played by SHP in the ment of Friarity Heads on Research,

Development and Training in the Field of Small/Mini Hydro Power Generation was organized jointly by UNDP, UNIDO, ESCAP and China in July 1982 in Hangzhou, China. The Meeting recommended the establishment of an ESCAP Regional Network System for Small Hydro Power and defined its main objectives, composition and institutional structure, as well as interim arrangements for putting the Network and the Centre into operation. These recommendations were formally endorsed by the First Session of the REDP Steering Committee held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 1983. It was stated that the Regional Network for Small Hydropower (RN-SHP) was not to be viewed as an institution, but as representing a co-operative arrangement among member institutions for carrying out specific activities. The Steering Committee agreed that REDP support should be provided for well-defined activities carried out within the RN-SHP framewc_k, taking into account the work programme proposed by the third SHP workshop in 1983. It further confirmed that the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which would assist the Steering .Committee to provide overali guidance for the RN-SHP would be formed by requesting the REDP national focal points to nominate national subfocal points for SHP.

THE REGIONAL NETWORK FOR SMALL HYDRO POWER

The RN-SHP was formally established in May 1983. The TAG, consisting of the nominated focal points for SHP, was likewise established. It was planned to meet annually, and would provide guidance to the RN-SHP Co-ordinator in the formulation of the work programme, project activities and their implementation, and would give advice to the Senior Co-ordinator of the REDP.

Upon the recommendation of the SEGM in 1982, HRC assumed the role of the Interim Secretariat of the Network, with its Director acting as Co-ordinator. This arrangement was initially set for two years, but was extended until 1986 to coincide with the end of the first cycle programme of REDP. The second meeting of the TAG in October 1986 supported the principle of rotating the Co-ordinator. It was agreed that the term of Co-ordinator should be two years, with extensions of one year subject to evaluation of the TAG, for a maximum of five years. It was also agreed that the Secretariat will be located with the Co-ordinator. The National Focal Point (NFP) for SHP was elected as the new Co-ordinator starting 1 January 1987.

Functions/Objectives

The Network has, as its main objectives, a scope of work consisting of the following functions:

- a. organize an information service (technical and general)
- b. Make available short term advisory services
- c. undertake R&D projects depending on the facilities available to the focal points
- d. organize meetings for the benefit of the Network
- e. establish links with institutions outside the Network.

Membership

Invitations for membership to the Network were made through the REDP NFPs. Nominations for SHP NFP were then submitted to the RN-SHP Co-ordinator. At present, the Network has 18 member countries, 11 from Asia and 7 from the Pacific Region. Donor agencies from developed countries are also encouraged to participate in the Network as Co-operate members.

Funding

Since the establishment of the Network. initiation of the project activities had been limited due to financial constraints. It was recommended by the SECM in 1982 that specific activities be implemented on the resources made available by the UNDP, UNIDO, ESCAP, REDP, RCTT, UNDTCD, etc., as well as contributions from donor countries and bilateral and multilateral agencies and organization of developed and developing countries.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/STATUS OF ACTIVITIES

In spite of the limited funds available to the Network, several activities were completed which were participated in by its member countries. Implementation of these activities had been increasingly decentralized through the past four years. This approach was felt appropriate because the implementation of the work programme components could be better shared among participating member countries towards achieving a reasonable level of activity-implementation under the RN-SHP.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The TAG has met three times, primarily to review the past activities of the Network and provide advise to the REDP Steering Committee on matters related specifically to SHP and to the general orientation of activities of the RN-SHP. Since the TAG is composed of the SHP NFPs of member countries, its growth can be seen in the increasing number of participants in the past three meetings (from 5 countries in 1984 to 10 in 1986). The meetings were also participated by representatives from HRC, ESCAP-REDP and UNIDO.

The First Meeting of the TAG was held in Hangzhou, China on 11-13 December 1984. Among the issues discussed were the decentralization of RN-SHP activities, priority subject areas and projects, guidelines for future activities, financial resources for priority projects, and suggestions for strengthening Network activities. Representatives of participating countries signified their interest in taking the lead in some activities, such as hosting of apprentice-ship/fellowship programme and the preparation of training materials and conduct of the training programme.

A special session of the TAG was held in Manila, Philippines on 22 - 24 July 1985 to discuss — the Network activities and to formulate new ones for the remainder of the present cycle and the forthcoming 1987-91 cycle. The Meeting agreed to recommend to the next session of the Steering Committee that the tenure of the Interim Co-ordinator of RN-SHP be extended until the end of 1986. The Meeting also noted the readiness of HRC to accommodate, if necessary, short term experts from member-countries or international institutions to join the RN-SHP Interim Secretariat in Hangzhou.

The Second TAG Meeting was held on 21-25 October 1986 in Penang, Malaysia. The Meeting prepared a list of activities under the 1987-1981 Work Programme together with a time schedule for their implementation. (Annex 2). New administrative arrangements were also agreed upon, and the Secretariat was transferred to the Philippines, with its NFP acting as Co-ordinator. The shortfall in total financial resources for the implementation of the Network's programme for 1987-1991 was noted by the participants, and an appeal was made to UNDP to consider the provision of continued funding for Secretariat/Administrative support for the Network and additional funding

for Pacific member countries through the PEDP or other channels as appropriate. The Meeting also agreed that every effort should be made to arrive at self-sustaining co-operative arrangement of the Network by 1991.

Training

Nine training/workshops have been conducted by the Network as of this date. While most of these were held in China, other countries actively participated in the preparation of the training materials, presentation of cases/lectures, and other activities. Philippines and Malaysia took the lead in the workshop (1985) and training (1986) on feasibility study preparation and civil works design, respectively. Norwegian, Canadian, Filipino and Indian experts were also invited as lecturers. Details of the training courses are shown in Annex 3.

Information

Several materials on SHP have been published by the Network, including those used in the training courses. HRC also started collecting data for the roster of SHP experts, research organizations and equipment manufacturers. These will eventually be published and distributed to participating countries.

HRC produced video films on the different activities conducted at the Centre. "SHP News", the RN-SHP newsletter, is published quarterly. Since 1986, each issue features the SHP programme of a member country. Papers and articles from other countries/organizations on new developments in the field of SHP are also published in the newsletter for information of members.

Research and Development (R&D)

Two projects have been initiated in China - the electronic load controller (ETC) and the SHP Automatica and Remote Control. ETC was implemented by HRC in collaboration with the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) of UK. Locally assembled controllers have been field tested in China and will be tested in two countries in the Region. Its first co-operative research group meeting, held on 15-21 March 1986 in Hangzhou, China was attended by representatives from ITDG, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The second project is being implemented in co-operation with various institutes in China. The project aims to develop a system to give an intermediate level of automation appropriate to needs of developing countries. Design of system hardware and the software is almost complete.

In line with the plan to decentralize the Network activities, the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Feasibility Studies for SHP and Guidelines for Simplified Low Cost Civil Works Design and Construction of SHP Stations" were prepared by Philippines and Malaysia, respectively. These were the basis of the workshops held in Manila, Philippines in 1985 and training workshop in Hangzhou, China in 1986. During the TAG Special Session in July 1985, it was agreed that the Guidelines on both topics would be suitably amended, and submitted to the Secretariat whowould decide on an appropriate review procedure before publication.

Consultation Mission

The first RN-SHP Consultation Mission was composed of three members from HRC. Three countries were visited (Thailand, Nepal and the Philippines) for the period 26 October to 20 November 1984. The Mission reviewed the Phase I (1982 - 1983) of the work programme, presented and exchanged views on the work programme for Phase II (1984 - 1986), and discussed actual needs and priorities of members to increase the involvement of SHP NFPs.

The second Consultation Mission, held on 12 November to 4 December 1985, was composed of representatives from HRC, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Mission visited India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Mission observed the operation and maintenance of SHP plants in countries visited, and discussed the proposed R&D project on computer-aided approach for optimum design of SHP stations.

PLANS

Under the HRC, the smooth flow of the RN-SHP activities has been initiated. It is hoped that this would continue through the next cycle programme, 1987 - 1991. The implementation of the components of the work programme would be decentralized as much as possible. This would be done to have greater participation of member-countries and expedite the implementation of the programme.

One of the projects of the Network, the roster of SHF experts, research organizations and equipment manufacturers, will provide a better idea on the existing facilities and capabilities of the Network member countries. Research and development and training activities can be conducted by countries which meet the required facilities. There is also a plan to organize a core of experts

within the members which can provide advisory services to other countries in the establishment of their SHP programme.

The HRC would continue to be the lead institution for the preparation of the quarterly SHP newsletter, with substantial inputs from the Co-ordinator and contributions from other Network members. To enhance the effectiveness of the newsletter as a medium for the exchange of news among members, its format and contents would be reviewed periodically. There is also a proposal for the publication of a book on the SHP experience of Asian countries. For the membercountries, in the Pacific Region, the book can include their SHP potential and existing/proposed programme. Video films showing the above information, as well as the activities of the Network are currently being prepared.

The RN-SHP also plans to establish linkages with other networks/ organizations that are engaged in activities related to SHP. Through this, sharing of experiences, materials and facilities may be fostered not only within the RN-SHP member-countries, but with the other developed and developing countries as well.

Finally, it is hoped that by 1991, the UN system will have given enough support to the Network, so that self-sustaining co-operation among countries had been fostered. For the 1987 - 1991 programme, the Network welcomes support from members as well as concerned organizations.

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INFORMATION EXCHANGE 1987					
BG. SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES HIMI TAG (SWEDISK/UNIDO) D2. PLANNING AND DESIGN GUIDELI'S CONSULTATION HISSION 3 TRAINING PROGRAMME A1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SHP DEVELOPMENT			•		
INFORMATION EXCHANGE 1988 TAG 3 (AT FIJI) B1. STAMBARDIZATION OF CIVIL MORKS AND ELECTRO-HECHANICAL EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME A2. CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOR SMP STATIONS			•		
TAG 4 (COLUMBO) CGMSULTATION HISSION 4 EGN ON B2. PLANMING AND DESIGN GUIDELINES B3. LOCAL NAMUFACTURE OF SNP EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMM A3. MATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT B4. UNMANNED AND REMOTE OPERATION OF NINI-HYDRO STATIONS AND GRID SYSTEMS					
INFORMATION EXCHANGE 1990 TAG 5 (ISLAMABAB) EGN CN B1. STANDARBIZATION OF CIVIL WORKS AND ELECTRO-MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME A4.					
INFORMATION EXCHANGE 1991					
TAG & (BALT) TAGINING PROSPANNE AS. ESH ON 83 & 84 (AS ABOVE)					

[.] EGN - SPECIAL ASSESSMENT MEETING

^{4 -} TRAINING PROGRAMME

B - RESEAPON AND DEVELOPMENT

Regional Network for Small Hydro Power TRAINING/WORKSHOP CONDUCTED As of April 1987

Course/Workshop	Date	Venue	Participants
First Training Workshop on SHP for Asia—Pacific Region	22 May to 23 June 1983	Hangzhou, China	14
Second Training Workshop on SHP for Asia-Pacific Region (Hydrology)	3-14 September 1984	Hangzhou, China	12
Workshop on Guidelines for Simplified Low Cost Civil Works Design and Construction of Small Hydropower Station	18-20 July 1985	Manila, Philippines	16
Workshop on Preparation of Simplified Feasibility Studies for SHP	15-17 July 1985	Manila, Philippines	11
Training Course on Co-operative Approach in the Management of Construction and Operation of Micro Hydropower for Rural Areas	18-22, November 1985	Chiangmai, Thailand	16
Training Workshop on Simplified SHP Feasibility Studies	9-16 June 1986	Hangzhou, China	20
Workshop on Simplified Low Cost Civil Works Design and Cons- truction of SHP Installation	19-27 August 1986	Hangzhou, China	17
Training/Workshop on Operation, Maintenance and Management of SHP Stations	5-14 November 1986	Hangzhou, China	24
Training/Workshop on Electro- Mechanical Equipment	7-15 January 1987	Hangzhou, China	21