

NEW ENERGY

The quarterly newsletter from the Koru Foundation – Tackling poverty through Renewable Energy

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RES UK and KORU Foundation bring light to Peruvian communities

Thanks to funding from RES UK, one of the world's leading renewable energy developers, a village in northern Peru is about to experience the benefits of electricity for the first time.

Approximately 7.7 million people in Peru have no access to electricity, most of whom live in very remote areas of the country, and due to financial and logistical constraints are unlikely to ever be connected to the grid. The rural population of Chorro Blanco mainly relies on farming and small-scale cattle, and has limited access to basic services greatly reducing their ability to develop.

RES UK donated £10,000 to the Koru Foundation to fund the installation of a micro-hydro system with a 20KW Pelton turbine in the village of Chorro Blanco. This system will replace candles and paraffin lamps and supply domestic and public lighting, battery charging facilities and small businesses like carpentry workshops, which will benefit around 60 families by increasing evening activities and improving community services.

A pre-construction field study was carried out with the community to plan the civil works



CESAR HUAMAN BUILDING THE MICRO HYDRO PLANT IN PERU

including the water intake, forebay tank, conveyance ditch, penstock and powerhouse, which have now been completed. The final part of the project is the installation of the electromechanical equipment and distribution grid, which is currently being completed, and the first power should reach the community in the next couple of months.

The community held regular meetings to plan the project and organise the provision of labour

and donated materials from local residents. Each household contributed at least 15 workdays, and everyone is proud of their hard work.

A local resident, Cesar Huaman, said "we're really grateful because the light will allow us progress and improve our work....we'll be able to produce our own products here in Chorro Blanco. We're going to set up a carpentry shop and also make local delicacies such as sweets and cheese...all from our own efforts."



Director's comment



Welcome to New Energy

KEITH TYRELL
KORU FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Welcome to this first edition of New Energy – the new look Koru Newsletter. It's hard to believe that the Koru Foundation was established as a charity just two years ago this June.

We have come such a long way since then. We have grown from a couple of volunteers working out of a shared office to four staff in our own space (see p.3). We have been adopted as the charity of choice of both the British and European Wind Energy Associations and have secured funding from some of the biggest companies in the sector who have generously sponsored our projects and core costs.

But the relationship is not just about money. We were set up to link the renewable energy industry with energy poor communities in developing countries and this includes accessing the skills, expertise and tremendous enthusiasm for doing good that resides in the industry. Over the last two years we have managed to link

companies with projects in developing countries and allowed individuals to get involved by providing technical and business advice to our partners on the ground.

But most importantly, we have funded and successfully delivered projects that have made a tangible difference to poor communities in the developing world.

We now have five project partners installing community scale renewable energy systems in Latin America, Asia, the South Pacific and Africa. With their help we are developing a strong project pipeline and now have more than a dozen projects at different stages of development, ranging from wind-powered mini-grids that will bring electricity to 1,300 people to a project that provides disabled refugees in Africa with solar lanterns. Our first projects were completed in early 2008 and we are

receiving feedback on how they are benefitting the local communities. Thanks to our projects children are being educated for longer and a new generation has hope that they will be able to break out of grinding poverty. A reliable supply of electricity means that communities are no longer reliant on expensive imported fuels to light and power their homes and small businesses have been set up bringing much needed income into communities.

The strongest endorsement of our work comes from the communities we work with. So I'll leave you with a message from Alvaro Hernandez who lives in the village of Alumbre in Northern Peru where Koru funded some micro-wind turbines last year: "I used to complain about the wind because it took away the light because my candles would blow out. Now the wind gives me light."

Keith Tyrell

PROJECT UPDATE | continued from front page

"...the people are enthusiastic and anxious to have energy... many people are thinking about setting up carpentry workshops, charging batteries and purchasing appliances..."



CESAR HUAMAN, LOCAL CHORRO BLANCO RESIDENT, HELPING TO BUILD THE MICRO HYDRO POWER HOUSE



THE MOUNTAINOUS SITE IN NORTHERN PERU WHERE THE MICRO HYDRO POWER HOUSE HAS BEEN INSTALLED



THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FROM CHORRO BLANCO LEARNING HOW THE MICRO HYDRO SYSTEM WORKS

Photographs: Practical Action

The project has had to overcome numerous problems including the removal of a huge boulder in the area where the powerhouse was to be built, and a lack of availability of high quality materials such as gravel and sand which had to be sourced and transported to site.

The delay was a difficult time for the community, but once the rock had been removed and the

powerhouse built, everyone could see light at the end of the tunnel and became a lot more excited about completing the project.

Mr. Gumercindo Alva Terán, the vice president of the electrification committee explained that, "people are enthusiastic and anxious to have energy...many people are thinking about setting up carpentry workshops, charging batteries and purchasing

appliances...together we will make sure that light reaches Chorro Blanco and it will be an example to other areas that also need a power service in order to develop."

With your help we can support many more communities like this one in Peru. If you would like to find out more about sponsoring a Koru Foundation project please contact us.

Meet the team



Keith Tyrell

Keith joined the Koru Foundation as Development Director in August 2008. Formerly the Climate and Energy Editor of the ENDS Report, Keith has nearly 20 years' environmental experience – including three years managing the European arm of an international programme for WWF, and working with grassroots organisations in developing countries.



Ewan Bloomfield

Ewan joined the Koru Foundation as the Projects Officer in December 2007 after receiving a PhD in Environmental Engineering from KwaZulu-Natal University and working for many years on development projects throughout Southern Africa and more recently Haiti, where he managed a water and sanitation programme for an International Development Organisation.



Nicola Ward

Nicola joined the Koru Foundation as the Marketing and Communications Officer in February 2009. Before this, Nicola worked for Oxfam for more than four years, most recently as the Regional Communications and Information Officer for Oxfam's Southern Africa programme, working on communications projects in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.



Tahel Bar El

Tahel is the Koru Foundation Fundraising Officer and joined the charity in February 2009. She has been volunteering for Macmillan Cancer Support as an Events Co-ordinator since 2007 and prior to moving to the UK she worked for several years as a PR Manager and Events & Marketing Manager.

newsbriefs

International Power and WPD bring power to poor communities in Nicaragua

International Power and WPD, two of the world's leading wind energy generators are the latest energy companies to pledge their support to the Koru Foundation. International Power and WPD will help to improve the lives of people living in the community of Cajinquil in central Nicaragua, by funding a hybrid wind and solar electric system which will provide power for 67 residents, a water pumping system and local businesses such as a small mango jam factory. Work on the project will start in August this year and thanks to International Power and WPD's support, the community of Cajinquil will benefit from access to health, education and employment opportunities.

Koru supports The Age of Stupid film screening

Koru Foundation Trustee, Dr Jim Watson from the Tyndall Centre at University of Sussex recently took part in a lively panel discussion after the screening of The Age of Stupid, alongside European MEP Caroline Lucas and the film's producer Lizzie Gillett at Brighton's Duke of York cinema.

The new climate change blockbuster starring Pete Postlewaite, tackles many issues close to the heart of the Koru Foundation and our supporters from the Renewable Energy industry, such as the challenge of low carbon growth in developing countries and the hiatus between accepting the problem of climate change, and supporting possible solutions. This is reflected in stories of Indian low cost airline entrepreneur Jeh Wadia, and wind farm developer Piers Guy from Nuon who plays himself in the film, battling against a campaign group from Bedford who have no intention of letting wind turbines spoil their view.

Renewable Energy London Triathlon – where blood, sweat and gears meet wind, wave and tidal

Entries have now closed for the first ever Renewable Energy Triathlon Challenge, part of the annual London Triathlon event on 1st August. Teams from across the Renewable Energy sector including the likes of Falck Renewables, Natural Power, Parsons Brinckerhoff, PMSS, Quiet Revolution, Fred Olsen Renewables and BWEA will compete for the title of fastest renewable energy team and highest Koru Foundation fundraiser. All fundraising proceeds will enable the Koru Foundation to carry out its work in tackling poverty in developing countries through renewable energy.

Show your support for those teams and individuals brave enough to enter this challenge by searching for their team on the justgiving website (www.justgiving.com) or come and cheer them on at London Docklands Excel Centre on the 1st August.

Events

Tel: 01273 620738/606685
Email: info@korufoundation.org
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Want to find out more about the Koru Foundation...
Come and meet us at one of these upcoming events...

- BWEA Offshore | QEII Centre, Westminster London, 24–25 June
- London Triathlon | London Docklands Excel Centre, 1st August
- EWEA Offshore | Stockholm, Sweden, 14–16 September
- BWEA Regatta | Port Solent, 24 September

Get involved...

There are various ways in which you can support the Koru Foundation:

- ☉ Make a corporate or individual donation
- ☉ Sponsor a project
- ☉ Compensate for your carbon footprint
- ☉ Participate in a fundraising event

For more information please contact us at our new office:
The Koru Foundation, 44 Grand Parade, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9QA

KORU FOUNDATION and IMPERIAL COLLEGE

influence energy decision makers in Cuba



In April, the Koru Foundation hosted a seminar at the University of London to introduce the SURE-DSS research tool to a group of organisations that implement renewable energy projects to reduce poverty in developing countries, including DFID, WWF, Unicef and Plan-UK.

The seminar was an opportunity for the research team, including Dr Judith A. Cherni, from Imperial College and Professor Isaac Dyner from the National University of Colombia, to introduce the tool to a larger audience. They received valuable feedback about how to

The SURE-DSS tool is a PC based software system that matches a community's energy needs to its energy resources and helps identify the most appropriate energy technology for a particular location. It was developed by Imperial College London over six years to highlight the potential of affordable and sustainable small-scale energy solutions in rural communities to significantly improve people's livelihoods.

develop the tool further by including the carbon cost and hybrid systems, and gave an update on the Koru funded projects in Cuba, Colombia and Peru.

Imperial College and the Koru Foundation are currently disseminating and implementing the SURE-DSS Tool in Cuba, Colombia and Peru, ensuring that it is well adapted to the local community conditions and can be rolled out throughout these countries.

The project aims to introduce the tool to national and regional governments and practitioners in these three countries, ensuring that all local stakeholders involved become competent in the use of the software and use it to inform their decisions. Once adopted, the tool will ensure that future energy decision-making is more appropriate and lead to successful future investment in low-carbon and off-grid energy technologies.



identify the best renewable energy system for each situation. The aim is to get the Government of Cuba to adopt the SURE Tool and use it throughout rural Cuba.

In the village of Manantiales, in the Manicaragua region of Cuba, the SURE Tool was used for the first time by the local NGO Filorosso. The tool assessed the impact of all possible energy options on the communities, resources and recommended replacing the existing diesel generator which is expensive and polluting with the installation of a new micro hydro plant due to its long lifespan and the low cost of electricity for consumers.

Members of the SURE team – funded by Koru – not only helped assess the different options, but also in managing the construction and installation of the new micro-hydro power plant to supply a reliable source of electricity to more than 40 families. The energy also supplies a community centre that has become an important social hub in the community, providing a space for the community to hold educational activities and social meetings.

Smaller pilot trials have been undertaken in Colombia and will soon be carried out in Peru. In the future, the Koru Foundation hopes to introduce the SURE tool to poor communities in Tanzania, the Philippines and Mozambique.



Cuba

In Cuba the implementation of the SURE Tool is being coordinated by the Centre for Renewable and Biomass Energy Technologies Studies (CETA), at the University Marta Abreu Las Villas, Havana.

In co-operation with five other universities, the project is conducting pilot trials in a number of fully or partially un-electrified communities to help

Photographs: Resurl Imperial College London



Friends of the Koru Foundation

If your company is interested in finding out more about becoming a Friend of the Koru Foundation please email Keith Tyrell: keith@korufoundation.org or call: 01273 620738.

