

# NEW ENERGY

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

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**Hammonds**

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INDUSTRY

inside

## Project update 1-2

Looking back at Hochtief and SeaRoc funded wind project in Nepal

## Message from the Trustees 2

Introducing Neil Jeffery, new Koru Foundation CEO

## Koru in action 4

DONG Energy and SKM become *Friends* of the Koru Foundation



## Nepalese village still powering ahead thanks to Hochtief and SeaRoc

**In December 2007 the Koru Foundation funded its first renewable energy project, a small scale wind energy programme in the village of Phakel in Nepal, thanks to £5000 in sponsorship from construction provider Hochtief and offshore renewables consultancy SeaRoc Group.**

Two years on and Nicola Ward from the Koru Foundation has been back to Nepal to find out if the winds of change are still blowing for the villagers of Phakel.

Perched high in the mountains overlooking the Kathmandu Valley lies the village of Phakel. The road to Phakel is steep and winding with a sheer drop into the valley below so it is not hard to see why the majority of villages in Nepal do not have access to the national power grid. The grids are too expensive to connect and the villages too scattered and remote.

The Nepalese government is carrying out a plan of grid extension but the supply is not only prohibitively expensive for most rural families, it is also unreliable as current demand exceeds installed capacity and organised power outages are a daily occurrence in Nepal as I experienced first-hand.

Without access to electricity, the majority of villages are left without proper lighting and poor quality basic services. They are forced to pay for kerosene which is expensive and often in short supply, or rely on traditional sources of energy such as firewood and animal dung that causes health problems for the users as well as a negative environmental impact.

Thanks to the generous donation from Hochtief and SeaRoc, and two other donors, the standard of living in one community has been dramatically improved by three small wind turbines, installed by Koru's project partner Practical Action, which are currently benefitting around 100 people.

The installation of a 200 watt turbine providing power for lighting at the local school has improved the quality of education services for the 50 children



SCHOOL IN NEPAL POWERED BY WIND TURBINES ▶

Friends of the Koru Foundation





## Message from the Trustees



**CHRIS TOMLINSON**  
KORU FOUNDATION TRUSTEE AND  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMME  
STRATEGY, BWEA

## Welcome to New Energy

**As a member of the Koru Foundation Board of Trustees I am very pleased to introduce you to this edition of *New Energy* which not only looks back at the impact of our first renewable energy project in Nepal, but also introduces an exciting new phase in the development of the Koru Foundation with new sponsors and leadership which will take us firmly into the future.**

It amazes me that it was only two years in December since Koru completed its first project in a small community in Nepal thanks to support from SeaRoc and Hochtief. During the last two years, I have watched the charity develop from strength to strength; receiving support from many new donors, including most recently DONG Energy and SKM, and establishing partnerships with BWEA and EWEA which have enabled us to reach many more communities and I am immensely proud to be involved in making a difference to so many lives through renewable energy.

To take Koru onto the next stage of development the Trustees want to focus efforts on expanding Koru's appeal into Europe and beyond, while growing the delivery arm of the charity, our project portfolio. The Board has elected to create a new post and appoint a Chief Executive Officer with experience in developing organisations, while focusing Keith Tyrell's Development Director role on accelerating and expanding the charity's project operations. On behalf of the Koru Board of Trustees, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Neil Jeffery as the new Chief Executive of the Koru Foundation. Through an extensive search and selection process we believe we have found an outstanding candidate to lead the organisation through the next critical stage of its development.

Neil has a decade's experience leading and building organisations: for five years he was Executive Director of a research and policy institute in Washington DC providing analysis for the US Congress and more recently he has successfully led two UK based organisations through significant periods of change and growth, as CEO of International Development Enterprises and Executive Director of International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights.

Neil has worked with poor communities in the developing world for over 20 years with particular expertise in poverty, development and human rights and we are all very excited about working with him to build and strengthen the work of the Koru Foundation.

Strengthening the fundraising side of the charity remains an essential requirement for Koru upon which to build and grow its project portfolio. To help meet this end, Tahel Bar El has been promoted to Koru's full time Fundraising Officer. Tahel will continue to build the vital and expansive fundraising brief and you will be hearing from Tahel as she plans a range of events in 2010 to help attract funding to allow us to deliver even more projects. Meanwhile, Nicola Ward continues to deliver Koru's effective marketing and communications function as Koru's Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

I would also like to mention that Ewan Bloomfield recently stepped down as Koru's Projects Officer. As Koru's longest standing member of staff, Ewan was instrumental to the development of the Koru Foundation and the Board would like to thank him for the valuable contribution he made and wish him all the best in his new role working for Practical Action.

Finally it only remains for me to say that I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *New Energy* and continue to support the work of the Koru Foundation.



**NEIL JEFFERY, KORU CEO**

## PROJECT UPDATE | continued from front page

who attend the school and day care centre. I was lucky enough to visit in the autumn when the weather is still warm. The windows and doors of the school were wide open and the singing of young children could be heard, but high up in the mountains it is easy to imagine how cold it gets in the winter months and why the classrooms have to be closed to the elements.

Local teacher Urmila Lama explained to me that, "in the winter we had to close the windows and doors and we couldn't really do anything with the children because it was too dark. We had to take them all into the school kitchen where we have a stove which we cook on using firewood which would provide light and heat, but we couldn't really teach them anything and

we couldn't let them stay near the stove for too long as the fumes were bad for their health". With the use of the electric lights the school can now continue teaching through the cold winter months and also runs adult learning classes in the evenings throughout the year.

Kamala Pakharin, like most other people living in rural Nepal, was reliant on using kerosene and firewood before the Koru Foundation installed a 150 watt wind turbine on her smallholding. Kamala explained to me how much better life was now she had electricity, "now when the wind is blowing we don't need to use kerosene any more which has made a real difference as it costs 70 rupees for one litre and when it was scarce we would have to travel up to 15km to buy it. Whilst working under the kerosene lamps



I felt like my eyes were closed but with these electric lamps I feel like my eyes are open – they don't produce any fumes and the light they provide is like working in daylight!"

Kamala is also able to charge batteries for other appliances and power a television which has enabled her to feel connected with the outside world. "I let children from the local area

## Micro hydro power in Mozambique

# Carbon Compensation funds Mozambican micro hydro project

**Delegates attending the EWEA's European Offshore Wind Conference in Stockholm in September and BWEA 31 which took place in Liverpool in October, have helped to fund a micro hydro project in Mozambique by donating to the Koru Foundation's Carbon Compensation scheme.**

Helen Jones, Director of Events and Marketing at BWEA, explains that "BWEA's member companies are all working towards carbon free energy generation, but we feel it is important to remind individuals attending our events to consider their mode of transport and offer the opportunity to compensate for carbon emissions. BWEA is delighted to support the Koru Foundation through this scheme".

In addition to encouraging delegates to support the Koru's carbon compensation scheme, EWEA chose to donate one euro for every delegate attending the European Offshore Wind conference in a gesture to compensate for CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from delegates' travel to the conference.

"We are very pleased to support Koru's important work bringing clean, renewable energy to developing countries," said Christian Kjaer, EWEA Chief Executive. "But it is also important that we in Europe take our own CO<sub>2</sub> footprints seriously, which is why we wanted to help compensate for the air travel to Offshore 2009."

Thanks to the overwhelming success of EOW 2009, Kjaer presented the Koru Foundation with a cheque for €5,000. Nicola Ward from the charity said, "We are really grateful to EWEA for choosing to compensate for the carbon emissions of

their conference delegates by supporting our work."

This donation, along with the donations from delegates who attended BWEA 31, has enabled the Koru Foundation to set up a micro hydro project in a poor community in Mozambique which will make a huge difference to the health, education and livelihood opportunities of the people living there. Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world and more than 90% of the population does not have access to electricity. People are reliant on dry batteries and candles to provide lighting for their homes and they often have to travel long distances to recharge their batteries and access basic health care.

The project, which is jointly funded by the EU and donations to the Koru Foundation's carbon compensation scheme, will involve a 15 kW micro hydro station which will be built in the community of Ndirire, providing power for 80 families. If you would like to find out more information about compensating for your company's carbon emissions through the Koru Foundation's carbon compensation scheme then please contact Nicola Ward on Tel: 00 44 (0)1273 606 685 or email: [nicola@korufoundation.org](mailto:nicola@korufoundation.org)



### newsbriefs

#### Koru secures new three year sponsorship

The Koru Foundation is pleased to announce that the JJ Charitable Trust has agreed to sponsor the foundation for three years. The JJ Charitable Trust is one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts and is one of the leading examples of sustained philanthropy in the UK. It focuses on funding environmental projects both in the UK and overseas. The Trust has chosen to support Koru because we share a common goal of helping people to develop in an environmentally sustainable way.

#### Renewable Connections launched at BWEA 31

Koru Foundation Development Director Keith Tyrell introduced BWEA 31 delegates to a new initiative called Renewable Connections at a seminar on corporate social responsibility which took place at the annual conference in October.

Onshore wind farm developers from across the UK came to find out more about the scheme which aims to share the benefits of renewable energy by linking UK wind farms with poor communities in developing countries through an annual donation provided by the wind farm developer. Delegates from major renewables companies heard about the potential benefits of the scheme which include new avenues for community engagement and supporting the UK government to meet its global climate and development goals which top lawyers Hammonds and Eversheds advise should be a material consideration for Planning Officers when considering new wind farm applications. If you would like to find out more about the renewable connections scheme please contact Keith Tyrell on 01273 606 685 or email: [keith@korufoundation.org](mailto:keith@korufoundation.org)

#### running4renewables

*running4renewables* is an initiative set up by Daniel Rafferty, Project Developer at Vento Ludens, which aims to get 50 runners running in events across the UK, culminating in the Edinburgh Marathon on 23rd May 2010. The aim is to raise £35,000 to fund a Koru Foundation project in Sierra Leone. Daniel decided to organise this challenge after reading about the Koru Foundation's work on our website: "For some time now I have been thinking of undertaking a fundraising event with the aim of raising enough money to implement a renewable energy scheme in a poor African country."

"The *running4renewables* initiative is calling upon all members of the UK renewable energy industry, from companies to education establishments, consultants to policy makers, leaders of industry and individual supporters of renewables, let's be part of securing a more dependable energy future for the sufferers of energy poverty, and the hope they need to create a better life."

Please visit [www.running4renewables.org.uk](http://www.running4renewables.org.uk) for more information.

come and watch the TV in the evenings. Before we used to go to sleep at 8 o'clock but now we don't go until after 9pm because we watch the TV for two hours before we go to bed. We watch the news and other informative programmes that are shown at this time and now I know what is happening in my own country."

IMAGES: NICOLA WARD MEETS KORU FOUNDATION BENEFICIARIES IN NEPAL



Due to its relative proximity to Kathmandu, Phakel has become a demonstration site to highlight the benefits of wind power and is helping to shape the Nepalese government's energy policy. So hopefully in the future the lives of many more people in Nepal will be transformed by the power of the wind.

# DONG Energy and SKM

## join KORU to fight poverty through renewable energy

Both companies announced their support for the Koru Foundation at the BWEA's 31st annual conference in October where the Koru Foundation was exhibiting as the chosen charity of the BWEA.

Keith Tyrell, Koru Foundation Development Director, said, "I'm really pleased and excited that DONG Energy and SKM have decided to become core sponsors of the Foundation. It's a huge honour that they have recognised the value of our work and want to help us tackle poverty in the developing world."



Koru has funded a micro hydro project in Mozambique with Partner Practical Action which like this one in Kenya will provide electricity for rural communities

**One of Europe's top wind power generators, DONG Energy and leading engineering, sciences and project delivery firm Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) have pledged their support for the Koru Foundation by becoming Friends of the charity.**

This three year partnership with DONG Energy and SKM will allow the Foundation to grow in scale and provide clean, sustainable sources of power to even more communities.

Per Hjelmssted Pedersen, Director of Wind Development at DONG Energy, who met with Keith Tyrell at BWEA 31, said "As a world leader in construction of offshore wind farms and with huge experience in effective energy production, it is natural for DONG Energy to support the Koru Foundation and their work by providing sustainable energy solutions for the developing world. The solutions are often simple but have an enormous impact on local societies, and as a responsible company DONG Energy are looking forward to participating and making this happen."

DONG Energy and SKM join other leading renewable energy companies Airtricity, Ascot Renewco and Natural Power who have witnessed the difference their support as Friends of the Foundation has made over the last two years. During this time, Koru has grown dramatically and doubled the number of projects it has funded.

Stuart Hall, Director and Founder of Natural Power, explained that, "Natural Power may have grown in size and scope over the years but we have never lost sight of our desire to use renewable energy to bring about social and environmental change, as well as succeeding as a commercial organisation, and by continuing to support the work of the Koru Foundation we are able to fulfil that desire and see the real changes that being a Friend has brought about."

Sinclair Knight Merz's European Chief Operating Officer, Peter Mackellar, is similarly excited about the difference SKM will be able to



Peter Mackellar, SKM Chief Operating Officer is enthusiastic about SKM's support for the Koru Foundation

make to poor communities in the developing world by supporting the Koru Foundation, "Our corporate purpose is to deliver a positive and enduring impact on the world. We are working to embed sustainability into our approach to each and every project, to the choices of projects to work on, and the clients we work with. Sustainability is now central to everything we do.

Becoming a Friend of the Koru Foundation is a key part of SKM's commitment towards a sustainable future."

If your company is interesting in finding out more about the opportunity to become a Friend of the Koru Foundation then please contact Keith Tyrell on 00 44 (0) 1273 606 685 or email [Keith@korufoundation.org](mailto:Keith@korufoundation.org)



Keith Tyrell shakes the hand of new Friend Per Hjelmssted Pedersen from DONG Energy, at BWEA 31