



# AHPPER

The Honduran Renewable Energy Association

**Project 2008-2009: To Facilitate the  
Government to Evaluate Renewable  
Energy Projects and Improve the  
Approval Processes**

# From Elsia Paz's Letter to the TPW Energy Collaborative

- “AHPPER has been able to make joint ventures with several organizations that are working intensively in the Honduran electrical sector but due to lack of identification with the private sector had (prior to this project) worked only with government initiatives.”

# 2008 Project Goals and Objectives (from AHPPER Proposal 2008)

- 1) Assist the government of Honduras with the revision of processes that are required to approve a renewable energy project and be able to integrate them in one whole package with the objective to decrease considerably the time required to obtain a Study Permit, Operation Contract, Water License and Water Contract so that the files corresponding to one project are revised as one single file, avoiding an independent file per project.
- 2) Support the government with all the activities related to the implementation of the Energy Policy, presently under revision by the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA). This initiative was inactive since 2004. An important part of the support will be the involvement with the socialization process of the policy by means of educational programs, training activities and marketing strategies. The above will also require conducting the proper activities to integrate all the main actors of the energy sector (SERNA, ENEE, CE, AHMON, CEC, and AHPPER).
- 3) Collaborate with SERNA with the organization of a transition committee that can continue all the efforts started in this present government, which has a limited life left of 1.5 years. This transition committee will have the proper organization to present the ongoing implementation activities to the new government authorities so that it becomes a National Plan and long term process.

# Renewable Energy Summit at Lake Yojoa September 4-5, 2008

- This was a 2-day conference and included a technical site visit to a hydroelectric plant.
- The meeting was oriented to show the opportunities of the Renewable Energy sector, the financial reality of the projects, the social and environmental benefits
- Technologies discussed: Biomass, small hydropower, wind and solar
- The 102 participants included private and public sector key players:
  - Minister of Environment and other related entities of the energy sector, directors and deputies of the National Congress of Honduras
  - National Utility managers
  - Private developers
- TPW Energy Collaborative Funds toward this conference = \$4,350.  
Total cost of conference = \$6,056

# September 2008 Conference: Presentations on Renewable Energy



During the celebration of this meeting on September 5th, the group went on a technical visit to the installations of the Rio Blanco Hydropower Project (5.2 MW). This is considered a model project for small hydro throughout the country.

# September 2008 Conference: Presentations on Renewable Energy

Highlights included presentations on various forms of energy:

- Hydropower:
- Solar
- Wind
- Biomass
- Geothermal
- The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), Tomas Vaquero, closed the event by vowing to support the sector in the processes of licenses and permits.
- AHPPER leveraged other organizations at the conference
  - GVEP
  - the GZT

# A Regional Exchange to Costa Rica, March 17-20, 2009

- 19 participants from the public and private sectors.



*Honduran participants at the Tour Hydro electric Plant Gutierrez 20 MW*

# A Regional Exchange to Costa Rica, March 17-20, 2009



*Bio-digester, located at the area of influence of Hydroelectric Project Peñas Blancas, owned by a local farmer. This practice avoids the cut of wood for cooking purposes.*

# A Regional Exchange to Costa Rica, March 17-20, 2009

- This exposure led to the US Forestry Department visiting to Honduras to educate community members with environmental aspects of hydroelectric projects.
  - Exchange included developers for the first time.
  - The invitation was made by the Honduran Conservation Forestry Institute: a unique exchange since this type of seminar is generally oriented to public employees.
  - An AHPPER member was chosen to participate in a USDA International Exchange program in August 2009.

# Strategy Related to Ongoing Dialogue with the Private Sector

- AHPPER was included to be part of the consulting group to implement the policy oriented to a Nation Plan with a long term approach.
- This official participation at monthly multi-sectorial group meetings has the purpose to orient the consulting group to implement actions that will help diversity the energy matrix in Honduras. (Currently, Honduras uses 70% thermal plants.)
- The World Bank participates in these meetings.
  - They proposed that AHPPER represent the private sector representatives lobbying for Renewable Energy.
  - The World Bank intends to finance small-scale renewable energy projects and studies in Honduras and Nicaragua, not to exceed 10 MW.
  - As a result AHPPER is now part of this consulting team and the first meeting was held in Paris, France last April 2009.
  - This program will help implement several projects that are unable to access a local bank.

# How Does the Current Political Situation in Honduras Affect AHPPER's Work and Energy Policy Work in General?

- Energy Sector takes a protagonist role:
  - Energy produced by the Honduran Energy Association projects are made with local resources and create employment in rural and remote areas of the country
  - AHPPER has the target to approve 200+ MW in the next 3 months.
  - More effort for the new President to implement the Energy Minister or National Energy Secretary
  - New initiative is the Renewable Energy National Bid, under which the national utility company will purchase 250 MW of renewable energy at a lower price, accelerating investments in the sector.

# In Conclusion

- Overall, AHPPER has been more active in all of the renewable energy activities:
  - become an integral part of the energy policy team
  - promoted initiatives to help reduce the approval process of projects
  - has a very important voice in the renewable energy sector.
- AHPPER is positive that the educational campaign will reach people that are still unaware of the actual energy situation of our country.

# A Final Note...

- “I think we are making history and starting the conversation of the energy matrix to become at least 80% renewable.” –Elsia Paz (AHPPER)



This is a single Kyocera solar module installed off grid in a small community in Roatan, Honduras. Through the charging station located inside the shed, the module charges batteries which provide lighting for 6 families.

Most of the people using the solar charged batteries have never had electric lighting in their homes before. The batteries can also be used to run DC pumps to bring water from a well or spring to cisterns near the houses.

(Source: [www.RainorShine.com](http://www.RainorShine.com))