

## ■ Nepal improves energy efficiency through biomass utilization ■

**M**any countries in the Asia-Pacific region have millions of tons of potential energy sources in the form of rice husk, waste wood, coconut shells, horticultural and agricultural waste, palm oil waste, organic solids, bagasse, etc., which could easily be utilized in boilers to replace fossil fuels. As part of its commitment to promoting biomass energy use in SMEs in its member countries, the APO organized a project on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for SMEs in the Greater Mekong Subregion of ASEAN in 2006. This was followed by a South Asian regional workshop on Biomass Utilization for Industrial Boilers in Pakistan in 2008. The second phase of the regional workshop took the form of a series of national projects in selected countries. One of the most successful of those national seminars was held in Nepal, 5–6 March 2009, which was jointly organized by the APO and the National Productivity and Economic Development Center.

The two-day seminar was opened by Minister of Environment, Science and Technology Ganesh Shah and conducted by APO expert A. K. Asthana, Senior Technical Specialist, Indo-German Energy Programme, India, and local expert Ramesh Prasad Nepal, an energy efficiency expert with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI). Both experts gave presentations and facilitated group discussions to help participants prepare action plans for the promotion of biomass boilers in Nepal. The seminar was attended by 57 participants, 60% of whom were from the private sector. Representatives of the Federation of Cottage and Small Scale Industries Association and FNCCI were also present. The level of interaction between experts and participants was remarkably high. “In Nepal, biomass utilization in industrial boilers is quite popular since the country does not have its own petroleum refinery, no fossil fuel



*Minister Shah delivering the opening address*

deposits, and all energy sources are imported,” explained local expert Nepal. Secretariat Research and Planning Department Director Mukesh D. Bhattarai, who oversaw the seminar, commented it had been one of the most successful APO projects held in Nepal. The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Minister of Industry Asta Laxmi Shakya.

The APO plans to establish model companies on the use of biomass boilers in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to promote regional dissemination of the potential for improved energy efficiency. A training manual on biomass utilization will soon be completed and distributed to the model companies and other interested stakeholders. It will also be available as an e-book on the APO Web site. 