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## Closing Session

In the closing session, Dr. K. Rijal made a presentation of findings and policy recommendations (as presented in the earlier section). This was followed by concluding remarks by Dr. T.S. Papola and a vote of thanks by Mr. Jaipal Shrestha.

Dr. T.S. Papola, in his concluding remarks, said that he was satisfied with the lively deliberations that had taken place during the previous two days. He hoped that the findings and recommendations arrived at would be useful not only in the context of Nepal but also in other countries of the Region. He genuinely hoped that these recommendations would be taken care of by the respective organizations in Nepal, as these were not only based on discussions but were an outcome of the studies carried out in the four countries of the HKH Region and, in the case of Nepal, detailed field surveys were also carried out. He also assured the participants that ICIMOD would produce a report of the experts' consultation in due course of time. Finally, he thanked all the participants who contributed towards the success of the meeting.

Mr. Jaipal Shrestha, in his vote of thanks, remarked that the previous two days had brought about reorganisation of the different challenges to promoting energy technologies in the HKH region, with specific emphasis on Nepal. He added that realistic

and feasible policy interventions had also been identified. He outlined the perspective of CIDA's priorities in Nepal and identified issues such as the proper analysis of incentives for community and commercial participation, government subsidies per optimal technology mix, and the strengthening of Nepal's policy environment; answers to none of these issues were easy.

Mr. Shrestha mentioned that, in most cases, the value of RETs is clear. There is still a need to broaden the legitimacy of and argument for RETs within a development context. That is, in terms of poverty alleviation, health and sanitation, environmental conservation, literacy and education, and, most importantly, community economic development. He stressed the need for establishing a policy environment which is supportive of RETs, together with appropriate institutions, that go beyond conventional cost benefit analyses. He emphasized adopting practices that integrate the full benefits of RETs into market prices. Although the unit cost is important, it must be valued against the contributions to development within the HKH region which can be derived for improving access to reliable and environmentally sustainable sources of energy. He added that, once the perspective was enlarged, the need to strengthen opinions supportive of RETs would be clear.