



SunEPI Project Profile: Free Burma Rangers, Burma



Oct - Nov 2009

Project Overview:

SunEnergy Power International (SunEPI) and our sister organization, Border Green Energy Team (BGET) have been working to help the oppressed ethnic groups in Burma for many years now. Most of our work has been in support of clinics and hospitals in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, and training centers. Last year we completed a project to support the medical training teams of Free Burma Rangers (FBR). This year, our focus included solar for clinics and solar for a computer training center.

Educators of the community recognize the huge significance that computers can play in training their advanced students in becoming more proficient in all of the skills necessary to help their people through these difficult times of oppression. With great foresight, and the assistance of Free Burma Rangers, they have established a new school, complete with a computer training center. The center will provide energy for 12 computers, and the necessary auxiliary equipment.

Additional systems were provided to continue our program's work in bringing electricity to the remote clinics of the area.



Project Information:

Location: Thai/Burma border area

Partners:

SunEnergy Power International (SunEPI), Border Green Energy Team (BGET), Free Burma Rangers (FBR)

Donors:

Friends of SunEPI, FBR, and BGET

Scope of Project:

Hands on training and project implementation for off-grid computer power systems and two clinics

System description:

The systems include two-panel solar systems with Morningstar charge controllers. Seven of the systems are DC only - for computer power and clinics. The other two systems include inverters for lighting, printers, and satellite equipment.



Project Execution:

Prior to the training and implementation work, BGET and FBR managed the logistics to get all of the equipment delivered to the site of the school. A new building was specifically constructed to become the school's computer training center and was completed prior to our arrival.



Once on site, we combined a hands on training with the implementation of nine two-panel, stand-alone solar systems. Using separate, smaller systems provides for more equipment reliability and flexibility as conditions and needs change.

Following the basic training and implementation work, the BGET team conducted a training in maintenance and operation of the system.

We were fortunate to be able to go to the site where we installed 12 similar systems last year, and were able to perform a maintenance review, as well as take time to update the training of personnel. We found all of the systems working well.

Going Forward:

The people of this area endure continuous harassment and conditions of ethnic cleansing. They have a huge need for support in both health and education.

We are hoping to do even more next year, focusing on providing energy to several clinics and up to 20 schools.

Please visit www.sunepi.org to read more about past projects on the Thai/Burma border and to learn of ways to help.

