SPOTLIGHT SESSION

ENERGY ACCESS AMIDST COVID-19 AND BEYOND
Jointly organized by:
Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)
(18 June 2020, 10:30-12:00 PHT)

VOICE FROM THE FIELD:
OPERATING SMALL ISLAND MINIGRIDS
TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

RENE M. FAJILAGUTAN
General Manager - Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc.
President - Association of Isolated Electric Cooperative
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

• Fear and confusion among personnel and member-consumers

• Cashflow problem due to community quarantine
  • 50-60% drop in collection efficiency
  • Increased consumption by residential consumers

• Operational difficulties in ensuring continuous service
  • Procurement and delivery of supplies for remote island minigrids
  • Providing quick O & M response
  • Billing and collection

• Delays and/or stoppage of on-going projects
RESPONSE MEASURES TO COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

• Oriented Employees about Covid-19

• Modified operation protocols
  • Use of modern technology to connect with employees
  • Localized work force for collection and maintenance work

• Provided financial relief to EC Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs)
  • Deferment of collection
  • Free one-month electricity for lifeline consumers
  • Revert pre-paid metering to post-paid service to assure continuous service

• Developed Sustainability Plans
  • Preserve available cash; redefine budget priorities
  • Defer or cancel major CAPEX projects
• **Strictly implement the health protocols** among employees and MCOs
• **Ensure continuous service**, especially for healthcare and essential service facilities
• **Facilitate transition to RE technologies** – promote switching from diesel-based to RE-hybrid systems in remote island grids
• **Increase energy access among AIEC members** – close to 2 million households unserved and 55,000 households underserved
• **Find reliable partners** to implement more off-grid RE or RE-hybrid projects
• **Seek financing support** and **engage with government to improve regulatory environment** for off-grid electrification
THANK YOU

RENE M. FAJILAGUTAN
General Manager - Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc.
President - Association of Isolated Electric Cooperative
Capaclar, Romblon, 5500
Romblon, Philippines
renefajie@yahoo.com
romelcoinc1989@gmail.com