

Press Release

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Japan Renewable Energy Foundation
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JREF signed MoU with DESERTEC Foundation to promote an Asian Super Grid for renewable energies

Tokyo / Hamburg, 10 March 2012. Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF) signed a memorandum of understanding with the DESERTEC Foundation to expand renewable energy in Asia and promote the "Asia Super Grid Initiative (ASG)" as a basis of renewable energy-based electricity system.

JREF promotes the ASG initiative to facilitate an electricity system based fully on renewable energy in Asia. The ASG initiative envisions the interconnection of the national grids of Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia, and Russia with low-loss High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission lines. These transmission lines would enable the delivery of electricity from the region's most abundant renewable energy sources to its centers of demand. The DESERTEC Foundation has rich experiences on the study of renewable energy potential and the utilization of HVDC in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Such experiences will help JREF to materialize the ASG initiative.

Dr. Tomas Kåberger, JREF Executive Board Chair, said:

"Technologies to harness solar and wind energy have improved dramatically in the last few years. Combined with modern power transmission technologies, renewable energy can support the long-term economic prosperity of the region. Establishing an Asian Super Grid will be challenging and require a high-level of international collaboration but its benefits make it worth the effort. We are happy to be able to benefit from the experience of DESERTEC in this undertaking."

Dr. Thiemo Gropp, Director of the DESERTEC Foundation, stated:

"The efficient use of the practically inexhaustible energy of the East Asian desert sun in combination with the expansion of renewable energies can sustainably improve living conditions for current and future generations in Mongolia, China, Japan, the Koreas and the Mekong region. It also offers these countries the chance to take a leading role in the fight against climate change by harnessing the most abundant of all energy sources on earth."

About Japan Renewable Energy Foundation

Established in September 2011 by Masayoshi Son, CEO of the Softbank Group and Chairperson of the Foundation. Lead by Tomas Kåberger, Executive Board Chair of JREF, Professor of Chalmers University and former Director General of the Swedish Energy Agency, the Foundation conducts various activities in order to establish a society based on renewable energy.



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About the DESERTEC Foundation

The DESERTEC Foundation is a global civil society initiative aiming to shape a sustainable future. It was established on 20 January 2009 as a non-profit foundation that grew out of a network of scientists, politicians and economists from around the Mediterranean, who together developed the DESERTEC Concept. Founding members of DESERTEC Foundation are the German Association of the Club of Rome, members of the international network as well as committed private individuals.

Website <http://www.desertec.org/>



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