

## Press Release

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Japan Renewable Energy Foundation  
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### International conference on renewable energy “REvision 2012” closes in success

Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF) held a 2-day international conference titled “REvision 2012-new renewable direction for Japan” on 9-10 March 2012 at the Tokyo International Exchange Center in Japan. The conference was attended by 800 people as direct audience, with more than 80,000 people viewing it live through Ustream.

Over 30 distinguished international experts on renewable energy gathered as speakers, including Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director General of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Mr. Katsuhiko Yokomichi, Senior Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment of Japan, Mr. Gunnar A. Jóhannesson, Director General of the National Energy Authority of Iceland, Mr. Odd Håkon Hoelsæter, former Chair of Nord Pool, Mr. Masayoshi Son, Founder and Chairperson of JREF, Mr. Tomas Kåberger, Executive Board Chair of JREF, and Mr. Tetsunari Iida, Director for Policy Innovation of JREF.

During the conference, it was reported that;

- The prevalence of renewable energy is accelerated year by year, and investments are also increasing.
- Energy supply based on renewable energy has started to be discussed as a realistic plan in Europe.
- Promotion of renewable energy in developing countries is progressing rapidly.

Regarding the ‘Myth’ in Japan that defines renewable energy as ‘expensive’ and ‘unstable,’ the following points were introduced;

- Renewable energy is perceived as energy that can generate competitive benefit, since it can reduce dependency on expensive fossil fuel and nuclear power.
- The abundant European experiences with wind power generation already show that it is already possible to predict fairly accurate power generation amount.
- The technology of grid operation has developed enough to manage production from renewables at a sufficient level.

Regarding the electrical flexibility between Germany and France, which is often misunderstood that Germany imports electricity from France, it was clearly stated that Germany is rather an exporting country in Europe.

On the other hand, it was pointed out about Japan that transparency and flexibility are lacking in the Japanese energy market, that the non-integrated regulations have generated various barriers preventing renewable energy to penetrate into the market, that energy policies are not being handled by the community with the participation of the residents, and that it has been focusing only on electricity without building up heat energy policy. The importance of positive social movements, local investment and knowledge sharing was also acknowledged. The Asia Super Grid Concept was discussed as a tool to promote renewable energy deployment in Asia, and the speakers called upon the importance of promoting renewable energy both from global and local points of view.

JREF also announced at the conference that it signed the following memoranda of agreement;

1. A memorandum of agreement with the National Renewable Energy Center of Mongolia, to pursue joint research projects regarding renewable energy potential in Asia
2. A memorandum of agreement with Desertec Foundation, an NPO located in Germany, to pursue information sharing projects.

It is the mission of JREF to accelerate the promotion of renewable energy in Japan through introducing such international experiences and pursuing joint researches with experts of the world.

Presentation documents and Ustream video clips will soon be available at the JREF website ([www.jref.or.jp](http://www.jref.or.jp)) .

#### 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.

