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Press Release

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**Japan Renewable Energy Foundation International Symposium
Towards YR2030 and Beyond**

**Conference Message
“Vast Deployment of Renewables Requires
Electricity Market Reform with Transparent and Fair Competition”**

Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF) held an international symposium titled “Towards YR2030 and Beyond” on September 6, 2012, at Iino Hall with more than 600 participants and many viewers on Ustream.

Opening remarks were delivered by honorable and distinguished guests including Motohisa Furukawa, Minister for National Policy; former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama; Hiroaki Niihara, Director-General of Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Department, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy; Tomas Kåberger, Executive Board Chair of JREF; and Masayoshi Son, Chairperson of JREF. About 20 distinguished international experts on renewable energy joined the conference and conducted a discussion, including Naoki Inose, Vice Governor of Tokyo; Christine Wassilew from the Embassy of Germany in Japan; Lars Georg Jensen, Chief Advisor of International Affairs, Danish Energy Agency; Li Junfeng, President, China Renewable Energy Industries Association; Osgonbaatar Jambaljamts, Director, National Renewable Energy Center of Mongolia; Hiroshi Takahashi from Fujitsu Research Institute; Felix Chr. Matthes from Institute for Applied Ecology in Germany; and Tetsunari Iida from Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies.

During the symposium, the remarkable growth of the installed capacity of renewable energy, which exceeded that of the previous year, was illustrated as the actual example in many leading countries. Furthermore, the strategy of Denmark attempting to achieve 100 percent renewable energy was introduced. The renewable energy’s current

situations and its huge potential in South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia were also reported. It was pointed out that regional interconnection would enable further deployment of renewable energy and vitalization of technology transfer. It is important to strengthen the interconnection to ensure the electric demand-supply balance and to complement the distributed renewable energy generation.

This international conference was also an opportunity to discuss the direction of electric power system which can genuinely promote renewable energy. It is urgent to eliminate the monopoly of electric power and establish simple, transparent, and fair electric power systems. The key to success is to conduct a thorough reform of the electric system including ownership unbundling. Japan learned from the experiences of planned rolling blackout in the previous year that the electric power system should be shifted from a centralized mega system to an independently distributed one. It is vital to utilize market and transmission network in order to stabilize electricity supply. In order to change the monopolized market, it is important for consumers to seek the freedom to select electric power companies or power sources. The monopoly system could become a hotbed for waste and expensive utility rates.

In order to maximize the deployment of renewable energy to meet the target of YR2030, Japan should take policy approaches learned from leading efforts in many countries, and urgently advance structural reform of the energy system. To that end, there is not much point in just describing the vision. What is most required now is to decide what to do today and tomorrow.

- ◇ The outline of the conference can be downloaded here
(http://jref.or.jp/action/event_20120727.html)
- ◇ The presentation documents and webcast are available at the JREF website.