

# Press Release

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New Energy and Industrial Technology  
Development Organization

<http://www.nedo.go.jp/english/index.html.jp>

## Japan and the Kingdom of Morocco Sign Memorandum on Comprehensive Cooperation for Collaborative Projects in the Solar Energy Field

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) have signed a Memorandum on Comprehensive Cooperation Concerning Solar Energy with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy and *l'Office National de l'Electricité* of Morocco.

They have agreed to facilitate comprehensive cooperation in the solar energy field between Morocco and Japan through the conclusion of this Memorandum. NEDO is planning to carry out key collaborative projects on grid stabilization technologies in Morocco to promote the introduction of a large amount of solar energy generation.

The Memorandum was signed by Mr. Akihiro Ohata, Minister of METI, Mr. Seiji Murata, Chairman of NEDO, Ms. Amina Benkhadra, Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, Mr. Mustapha Bakkoury, Chairman of the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy and Mr. Ali Fassi Fihri, Director General of *l'Office National de l'Electricité* of Morocco, and announced during the Second Japan-Arab Economic Forum<sup>1</sup> in Tunisia as a project to symbolize cooperation between Arab countries and Japan.



Fig. 1 Appearance of new project announcement

## **1. Outline of the Cooperation**

- 1) The ministries and institutions decided that they will promote bilateral cooperation to achieve Morocco's plan to introduce at least 2,000 MW of solar energy by 2019.
- 2) Japan will facilitate technology cooperation regarding grid stabilization technologies to deal with grid destabilization expected to occur when a large volume of solar energy is introduced.
- 3) The ministries and institutions will launch cooperative activities to establish symbolic collaborative projects in Morocco in the future to be led by NEDO.
- 4) The symbolic projects or related projects to be carried out are expected to promote projects and research cooperation among businesses of the two countries in the solar energy field.

## **2. Background**

- Morocco is located in the northwest part of Africa and its southern boundary faces the Sahara Desert. It has an abundant amount of insolation and has considerable potential to use solar energy.
- The Morocco government announced a plan to develop 2,000 MW of solar power generation facilities by 2019 with the aim of efficient use of its abundant solar resources and an increased electricity self-sufficiency rate. However, when a large amount of solar energy generation is introduced, grid stabilization technology will be necessary to accommodate the fluctuation of electricity generation caused by changing insolation conditions.
- Japan has successfully introduced more than 2,000 MW of solar power generation and has developed advanced grid stabilization technologies.
- Under such circumstances, Japan and Morocco have agreed to launch collaborative research on grid stabilization technologies in Morocco with the aim of facilitating cooperation in the solar energy utilization field.

## **3. Contact Persons**

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<sup>1</sup> The Japan-Arab Economic Forum was established in 2009 for the purpose of strengthening mutual economic relations between Japan and the Arab League through cooperation in a wide range of fields such as trade, investment, energy, technology and human resources development. Government cabinet ministers and representatives of the business communities from both Japan and Arab countries participate in the forum, the second of which was held on December 11-12, 2010 in Tunis, Tunisia.