**DBJ issues first Euro 300M sustainability bond**

The Development Bank of Japan Inc. (DBJ) issued its inaugural Euro 300 million sustainability bond, a type of Socially Responsible Investment bonds (SRI bonds) which has been rapidly growing in issuance among issuers in Europe, and America. This bond is the first sustainability bond issued by a Japanese issuer.

Beginning with anti-pollution measures in the late 1960s and early 1970’s, DBJ has provided more than ¥3 trillion in investments and loans for environmental projects over the past 40 years. DBJ’s Environmentally Rated Loan Program was incorporated into the Bank’s repertoire in fiscal 2004, with DBJ Green Building Certification following in 2011.

Considering growing demands for SRI investments and the development of SRI market which accepts more diversified products, DBJ has expanded the use of proceeds to include DBJ Environmentally Rated Loan Program in addition to DBJ Green Building Certification. DBJ has a policy to issue SRI bonds continuously and considers to broaden the eligible assets to other products such as the DBJ Enterprise Disater Resilience Rated Loan Programme or DBJ Employee’s Health Management Rated Loan Programme in the future.

**CDA partners with government agencies to revitalize brownfields in CNMI**

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) has partnered and formed a coalition with the Division of Environmental Quality and the Department of Public Lands to advance brownfields revitalization in the CNMI. To supplement existing brownfields cleanup and assessment grants, CDA seeks to apply for grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to capitalize a CNMI Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to support cleanup activities at brownfield sites.

Brownfields cleanup, redevelopment and reuse efforts have a variety of public benefits including the protection of public health and the environment, restoration of real properties, increased land values, reduced blight, less development pressure on green spaces, job creation and increased tax revenues.

What is a Brownfield Site? The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act or U.S. Public Law 107-118 defines a brownfield site as property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. Brownfields could be former factories, warehouses, gas stations, oil storage facilities, printers, dry cleaners, air strips, landfills, sites containing World War II unexploded ordinances or properties contaminated by the manufacture of illegal drugs.

**ADB to help Indonesia establish Center of Excellence on Clean Energy**

Indonesia’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to collaborate on the establishment of the government’s Center of Excellence on Clean Energy.

The center will bring together knowledge and research on clean energy, facilitate clean energy investments, and help deploy clean energy technology solutions coming from both the public and private sectors. ADB is providing technical assistance support to develop the initial concept of the center and is aiming to leverage inputs from international partners to help set it up.

The center will play a key role in accelerating Indonesia’s goal to source a significant amount of its total energy require-
“Vertical forest” wins award as best tall building

Bosco Verticale, a pair of residential towers designed by Italy’s Stefano Boeri Architetti, has been named the 2015 Best Tall Building Worldwide by the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. The Milan project, whose name translates to “vertical forest,” features thousands of shrubs, trees and plants in concrete planters on the towers’ facades, intended to mitigate noise, absorb carbon dioxide and increase the oxygen level.

Source: SmartBrief on Leadership

Carbon Capture Policies needed for faster climate action

Strong carbon capture policies are the “missing ingredients” in faster adoption of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to enable CO2 reductions, according to a report.

The ENGO Network released by members of the ENGO Network on CCS at COP21.

Some 22 CCS projects are operating or under construction worldwide — double the number at the beginning of the decade — according to the Global CCS Institute’s annual report, Global Status of CCS: 2015.


‘Third-Generation Sustainability Goals’

Analysis from PwC finds companies’ sustainability goals are evolving. PwC found that 75 percent of S&P 500 companies published sustainability reports in 2014. Instead of just focusing on critical resources like energy and water, companies are setting science-based goals that connect sustainable practices to overall business strategy.

In a blog post, expert writes that these “third-generation sustainability goals” can help drive business growth. Expert added that companies need to become more sophisticated about how they report on these third-generation sustainability goals by focusing on material issues

Source: http://www.environmentalleader.com/

Energy efficiency boom is boon for clean-tech companies

Energy efficiency technologies are booming, with demand surging for everything from green building systems to LED bulbs — and that’s creating big opportunities for clean-energy companies. “Energy is woven so thoroughly through modern society and economies that those who do an efficient, clean job of supplying the needs of their people will definitely be in a

Source: SmartBrief on Sustainability

DBP extends loan to ECHO store

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a Php5 million credit facility to Earth Life Store Supply, Inc. (ECHO Store), a corporation run by a team of women who call themselves “Power of Three Women”. The credit facility shall be used to partly finance the company’s working capital to sustain its growing operations and the expansion needs of its branches. The ECHO store is the first of its kind in the country to position green products, specialty market segment. The store sells product that are environment-friendly, organic, and promote healthy lifestyle. Its product line includes gifts, fashion and décor items, body care products, biodegradable home cleaning solutions, beverages, and books.

This credit facility is supportive of DBP’s Inclusive Lending for Aspiring Women (ILAW) entrepreneurs program which aims to empower women entrepreneurs, help business grow beyond micro credit, create more jobs, and tap into the network of women’s organizations. In May 2015, ILAW program was awarded a plaque of merit during ADFIAP Awards for its significant contribution to the nation’s socio economic, technological and human development efforts.

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