DBJapan, 3 FIs establish clean energy investment firm, share purchase of solar energy company

The Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) Inc.; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC); and the Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management Co., Ltd (SMAM) have established the UDS Clean Energy 2014 Investment Limited Partnership (LPS) and have entered into an agreement with Sumitomo Corporation (Sumitomo) to purchase a majority of share in Solar Power Kitakyushu Corporation, a Sumitomo’s subsidiary of solar power generation, through the LPS. The LPS has a plan to, after each start of commercial operation, purchase shares in other solar power companies located in Japan from Sumitomo. “Japan Rivalization Strategy” of the Japanese Government says energetic and environmental constraints must be overcome in order to strengthen the industrial foundation and to enhance the international competitiveness of Japan. In the business related to infrastructures such as power plants, the players have to generally hold the assets for the long-term, while some have the needs to replace the assets, which make it possible to continuously develop new projects and improve in profitability on assets. LPS is intended to satisfy such needs.

VDB inaugurate 72 MW hydropower plant

The Vietnam Development Bank (VDB), together with 3 other banks, inaugurated the Ngoi Phat Hydropower Plant at the Ban Vuoc Commune, Bat Xat District, in Lai Cai Province. With three turbines generating 72 MW of power, the plant is one of the large-scale projects of its kind in the province. In operation, it adds about 314 million kWh of electricity per year to the national grid. Total investment of the project was adjusted to VND 2.068 trillion from VND 1.743 trillion, of which VND 437 billion was financed by investment credit through VDB’s branch of Lao Cai. The plant’s turbines No.1, No.2 and No.3 were connected to the national power grid, respectively, in August, September and November last year. Its successful operation contributes to social-economic development of the border provinces of the country.

Green building market to experience 13% growth rate through 2020

The global green building market is anticipated to grow at a CAGR of around 13% during 2015-2020, according to a report from Research and Markets. Strong growth is attributed in part to the rising awareness of global warming and climate change issues and the knowledge that green building techniques lead to a lower level of greenhouse gas emissions. Other drivers of growth include multiple government policies supporting green building construction, growing awareness of energy efficiency, and the cost-effectiveness of green buildings. Leading global players include BASF, DuPont, Owens Corning, PPG Industries, please see con’t at the back...
Growing ESG investment leading to transformation of Japanese companies

Japanese companies are currently experiencing revolutionary upheaval in the field of CSR activities. This social earthquake comes from major changes in the public expectations of companies. Society is urging companies to make clear statements or disclosures of their efforts to create long-term value and sustainable development. Various moves related to CSR activities have been made by society in recent years:

- In May 2013, the non-profit Global Reporting Initiative, GRI, whose mission is to make standard practices for global sustainability reporting, issued its G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.
- In December 2013, the International Integrated Reporting Council released the report “International Integrated Reporting Framework” to promote integrated thinking of financial and non-financial information based on environment, society and governance (ESG).
- In February 2014, the Financial Service Agency of Japan unveiled Japan’s Stewardship Code and has asked institutional investors to sign this code.
- In November 2014, the European Union amended a directive, the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), and made the disclosure of information on environment, labor, human rights and corruption prevention obligatory.
- In December 2014, the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Financial Service Agency jointly released a draft of the Corporate Governance Code.

Source: http://www.japansfs.org/

IFS tips for successful CSR reporting

The values of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability are becoming ingrained in how companies operate, even when they are not actively pursued. Here are IFS, http://www.ifsworld.com/en, tips for successful CSR reporting:

- Pick a reporting standard.
- Find measurements that measure what your stakeholders care about.
- Pick stakeholders’ concerns where you are already collecting the data.
- Start small; do not try to report on everything right away.
- Be honest; report both good and bad with successes and failures.
- Be accurate; make sure the measurement is correct and do not manipulate the data.
- Report (and publish your report) – start now and do not delay.
- Assess what you are doing right and wrong, and follow a continuous improvement cycle.


Did you know?

Here are some interesting facts that might make your world spin!

- The garbage in a landfill stays for a for about 30 years.
- In 1995 over 200 of the world landfills were full.
- Each person throws away approximately four pounds of garbage every day.
- More than 1/3 of all energy is used by people at home
- Most families throw away about 88 pounds of plastic every year
- We each use about 12,000 gallons of water every year
- 1/3 of all water is used to flush the toilet.
- The 500 million automobiles on earth burn an average of 2 gallons of fuel a day.
- Each gallon of fuel releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air.

- Approximately 5 million tons of oil produced in the world each ear ends up in the ocean.
- The energy we save when we recycle one glass bottle is enough to light a traditional light bulb for four hours.
- For every 2000 pounds of paper (1 ton) recycled, we save 7,000 gallons of water free from chemicals.
- Recycled paper requires 64% less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp, and can save many trees.
- Every ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees.
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away is enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years.
- Earth is 2/3 water. but all the fresh water streams only represent one hundredth of one percent.
- 14 billion pounds of trash is dumped into the ocean every year.

The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.

~Richard Rogers