

**8<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 Panel Discussion, International Conference “Citizens’ work on the spread of photovoltaic energy in Japan” in Osaka**

**The activities of “Photovoltaic Power Plant Chiefs Network (tentative name)”**

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**1. First**

Japan leads the world in the spread of solar power generation (PV) and 80% of the PV is setup on Japanese households. The reason for the high PV coverage, in Japan, was government legislation, enacted in 1994 and the pioneering movements of citizens who responded to the legislation.

Here, I would like to explain about the activities that are conducted by “Photovoltaic Power Plant Chiefs Network. This Network has been preparing to set up a liaison community for the people who are within the jurisdiction of Tokyo Electric Power Company and have a PV set on their own homes. The Network is planned to be formally established on May twenty-fourth, after the founding assembly.

**2. The process of foundation of the Network**

The process of our activities is shown below. The preparation for the foundation was started by ten members of the founders’ group including Mr. Hakumei Fukami (an emeritus professor of Keio University) and Mr. Harumi Suda (the director of National Center for Prevention of Global Warming).

**◆The process of the activities of Photovoltaic Power Plant Chiefs Network**

**-2002 February: The preparatory meeting of the founders’ group**

**-April: The first meeting of the founders’ group (Which has been held once a month since then)**

**-July: Sending out questionnaire survey postcards concerning the founding of the Network**

**-August: Collecting and studying the results of the questionnaire survey postcards**

- October: Sending out the questionnaire survey postcards on the aims of the Network
- December: Collecting the questionnaire survey postcards
- 2003 February: Holding a "Preparatory committee symposium" for the Network, establishing the founders' group
- April: Holding local seminars in 9 prefectures including Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Yamanashi
- 24 May The founding meeting and the commemorative symposium of the Network will be held.

In July 2002, we sent out a questionnaire survey postcard to 20,000 people who have PV on their homes living under the jurisdiction of Tokyo Electric Power. About six thousand of them replied that they, "Approve, or have interest" in the establishment of the association. 170 people who replied have "Approved or had interest" in the association and have volunteered to take part in the preparation of the establishment of the association.

◆The result of the questionnaire survey.

- The number of the postcards sent: 19,560 (100%) (The people who are within the jurisdiction of Tokyo Electric Power and have PV on their homes)
- The number who agreed to the establishment of the association 2,004 (10%)
- The number interested in the establishment of the association 3,955 (20%)
- The number of no replies (including the number of uninterested) 13,601 (70%)

Based on the opinions of the people who were willing to take part in the preparation of the establishment of the association, we generated the contents of the questionnaire on the aims of the Network and sent them in October 2002 to 6,000 people who gave us positive answers in the last survey.

### 3. Examining the aims of the association

About 60% of the questionnaire postcards were answered and returned. The results are shown below.

◆The results of the questionnaire survey on the aims of the association

The number of questionnaire postcards sent out: 5,959 (100%). The number of questionnaire postcards answered: 3,530 (59%)

①What is your main reason for having PV?

-75% thought that setting up PV could contribute to solving environmental problems

-Others wanted to contribute to the energy problems, wanted to cut down the electricity bills, etc.

②Are you satisfied with the PV you have now?

-75% : Satisfied -25% : Unsatisfied/ Don't know

③The opinion on the aims of the association

-50%: to exchange their experiences and opinions on PV to popularize PV.

-50%: to exchange their opinions with electric companies and PV manufacturers.

④Opinions on the relationship between the association and Tokyo Electric Power Company.

-49% had the opinion that Tokyo Electric Power Company should join the Network as a member because they have also been promoting renewable energies.

-41% want the TEPCO to cooperate with the Network's stewardship.

-10% want to avoid the special relationship with TEPCO, etc

⑤Have you experienced any problems of PV?

-84%: No -16%: Yes

⑥If you answer "Yes" to ⑤, how did manufactures deal with the problems?

-68%: They dealt with it well

-32%: Rather unsatisfied with their response, unsatisfied, etc.

The results of the questionnaire showed what the participants expect to the Network: No.1 is to promote the spread of PV to wider society; No.2 is to exchange their experiences and opinions about PV among the members of the Network.

In February 2003, we held the preparatory committee's symposium, inviting the people who volunteered to cooperate with us on the founding of the association from the preparatory stage. We had a discussion about how the association should organize itself socially, how to self-support it self, what activities it should conduct locally, and its budget.

In April, we held local exchange meetings with the help of enthusiastic participants in each area. All the local meetings had approximately fifty attendants. They exchanged opinions about the aim of the Network and the ideas on how organizational structures of the association should be developed. The place where the local exchange meetings were held included Urawa City, Mito City, Yokohama City, Maebasi City, Tiba City, Koufu City, Tyoda Ward, Utunomiya City, and Mishima City.

#### 4. Conclusion

Considering previous discussions, we are preparing to found the association with the following purposes.

(The proposals):

1. To improve the conditions for power generation and convenience of the PV owners.
2. To give opportunities for PV owners to exchange their opinions and experiences.
3. To exchange opinions with electric companies, PV manufacturers, engineers for PV installation, and aim to improve the social roles of these sectors.
4. To raise awareness of potential PV users and mobilize the society in order to popularize PV.

By the establishment of the Network, we hope to see the movements of Japanese PV pioneer citizens become more active and we also hope that the association will be able to contribute to the popularization and development of PV in the world.

#### 5. Acknowledgement

As I have described, Tokyo Electric Power Company have cooperated with us greatly, in the preparation of the Network and its future administration.