

## Kuwait, Japan sign MoU to launch study on integrated solar combined cyc

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Tokyo-KUNA - Kuwait and Japan signed a memorandum of understanding Tuesday to launch a detailed feasibility study for introduction of Integrated Solar Combined Cycle (ISCC) technology to Kuwait, with an eye to build a new ISCC power plant there, which is facing severe electricity shortage every summer.

The deal was struck at the 14th Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee in Tokyo between Yousif Al-Hajri, Undersecretary for the **Ministry of Electricity and Water** of Kuwait, and Masaaki Furukawa, Toyota Tsusho Corp. Chairman and CEO.

To cope with the increasing electrical power demand that has been almost doubled in the last decade, the ministry has been planning to enhance the installed capacity of power stations and improving the efficiency of existing power stations with applying the most modern efficient power generation technology.

According to Toyota Tsusho, Kuwait is geographically located at the most suitable area to adopt the ISCC technology by utilizing its abundant solar thermal energy, the cost-free cleanest renewable energy of zero emission.

The ISCC system saves fossil fuels and also contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, which matches with the policy of the Kuwaiti government to promote measures against global warming. Part of the feasibility study will be conducted with the support of the Japanese Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME), which has been promoting Japan's investment and transfer of technology to the Middle East.

The signing ceremony was overseen by Japanese Senior Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Sanae Takaichi, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Co-Chairman of the Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee Wael Al-Sagar and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Saito, as well as a number of officials from the both governments and members of the businessmen's committee. The both sides welcomed the conclusion of the MOU and pledged active cooperation in the project.

At the summit talks late July in Tokyo between H.H.the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Japanese then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, the two leaders confirmed the importance of promoting renewable energy and energy conservation in order to secure stable energy supply, protecting natural environment, as well as achieving economic growth, expressing willingness to support such renewable energy and energy conservation projects.

The one-day business meeting was organized by the JCCME, a non-profit foundation supervised by the Japanese government, has a Japan Desk in Kuwait, which plays a bridging role between private companies of Kuwait and Japan to help them establish joint ventures.

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