

A Message from NEF's Chairman

The foundation of energy supply in Japan is extremely unstable as Japan being largely dependent on foreign energy resources. Skyrocketing oil prices threw the Japanese economy into a great deal of confusion during the "oil shocks" of 1973 and 1979. The seriousness of the impact of these two oil shocks on the Japanese economy seems to be falling into oblivion as more than 40 years have passed since the first oil shock. However, the need to diversify energy sources and to stabilize energy supply remain two of the most important issues for Japan today.

At the same time, global warming caused by carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels such as oil has become a major issue on a global scale that threatens human existence. The world has been addressing global warming through the Kyoto Protocol concluded in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015. These two global actions discussed expanding the introduction of renewable energy and promoting energy saving as their main themes.

It has become clear that energy is the prime driving force for the development of humanity, but a factor that can threaten the future of humanity depending on how it is used. For future economic development, an energy policy that is harmonious with the global environment is required.

The New Energy Foundation was established by consensus of the industrial world in 1980 after the two oil shocks, with the goals of expanding the introduction of renewable energies, such as wind energy, solar energy, hydraulic power, and geothermal energy, and promoting the establishment of new energy systems such as fuel cells. Our missions include conducting survey and research projects along with formulating policy proposals at the initiative of the New Energy Industry Council consisting of experts from industry and academia, keeping people from all levels of society informed about energy issues and raising awareness, developing and training human resources to promote the development and implementation of renewable energy, and extending assistance to developing regions—mainly Asian countries—in introducing renewable energy.

The Japanese government implements a wide range of policies including a feed-in tariff system, as well as policies for technology development and for financing the implementation of renewable energy, in the simultaneous pursuit of securing a stable energy supply and countering global warming in the best possible way. The New Energy Foundation aims to play a role in these efforts being made by the government.

We appreciate your understanding of and support for our endeavor.

New Energy Foundation
Chairman