

Press release

Paris, February 12, 2009

PlaNNet Finance receives the European Union « 2009 Sustainable Energy Award »

PlaNNet finance and its partners were rewarded for their, microfinance and renewable energies project RENDEV, in the “cooperation programme” category.

The project was selected as part of the European Union **2005-2008 Renewable Energies for Europe** campaign to raise decision makers' awareness and promote access to sustainable energy. The RENDEV project was picked among 250 projects in a competition rewarding local and European partnerships who had significantly contributed to the campaign goals.

PlaNNet Finance has been running the RENDEV project since January 2007. This programme operating in Bangladesh and Indonesia promotes suitable microfinance models which in turn encourage rural populations to use renewable energies.

According to Jacques Attali, PlaNNet Finance's Chairman, « the jury selected a project that could be perfectly adapted to other countries. More than ever, with the deep crisis the world is going through, microfinance is an essential tool for the poorest populations.»

In 2009, 160 actions supporting the use of renewable energies targeting 10,000 microfinance clients will be carried out in both countries and training will be provided to the main stakeholders: decision-making bodies, solar panel installers and microfinance institutions.

To set up this project, PlaNNet Finance joined forces with partners both at the European level, such as Transenergie, IT Power, and at the local one, with Grameen Shakti, PSL, and RahimaFrooz in Bangladesh; Optima Power Indonesia, Bina Swadaya and YBUL in Indonesia. Toyota Tsusho Corporation also supports consciousness-raising actions.

Pascale Geslain, PlaNNet Finance's Head of Microfinance and Environment, concluded that « Developing the access to renewable energies through microfinance directly meets the Millennium Development Goals and contributes to the fight against climate change.»



Award distribution in the category cooperation programme

(from left to right)

PlaNNet Finance : Sébastien Duquet, Managing Director and Pascale Geslain, Head of Microfinance and Environment Programmes

Transenergie : Nadine Adra, Head of department Europe & International projects and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Energy

About PlaNet Finance

PlaNet Finance is an international organisation which aims to reduce poverty through the development of microfinance. Based in Paris, PlaNet Finance operates in over 60 countries with an international network of 38 offices. PlaNet Finance has been supporting 1,500 microfinance institutions, which in turn finance over 9 million people, for ten years.

www.planetfinancegroup.org

About its partners

European partners:

- **Transenergie (France)** is a French consulting firm specializing in renewable energies and energy efficiency. The company develops a global offer orientated toward sustainable development goals. It operates in France, Europe and worldwide and provides technical, socio-economic, financial and institutional projects engineering

<http://www.transenergie.eu/>

- **IT Power (UK)** IT Power is one of the leading international energy consultancy specializing in sustainable development technologies and policy. Since the 1980's, the company has focused on the design, development, implementation and evaluation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects around the world.

<http://www.itpower.co.uk/>

Partners in Bangladesh:

- **Grameen Shakti**, a branch of Pr. Yunus' Grameen Bank, aims to provide access to electricity to Bangladesh's rural populations. Grameen Shakti covers 38,000 villages and, to date, has installed 210,000 individual solar systems, 6,000 biogas systems and 20,000 efficient cooking stoves..

<http://www.gshakti.org/>

- **PSL**, is an organisation specializing in energy-related issues. PSL has conducted market and feasibility studies on behalf of the World Bank.

<http://www.pslhaka.net/>

- **RahimaFrooz**, a leader in the distribution of solar panel in Bangladesh, is currently involved in energy and microfinance projects in Bangladesh.

<http://www.rahimafrooz.com/>

Partners in Indonesia

- **YBUL**, a NGO supporting sustainable development projects in Indonesia.

<http://www.ybul.or.id/>

- **Optima Power Indonesia**, a leader in solar panel distribution in Indonesia.

<http://optimalpowerindo.com/v1/>

- **Bina Swadaya**, a main NGO in Indonesia involved in microfinance.

<http://www.binaswadaya.org/>

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