

## Japanese seeks collaboration with CSIR on energy efficiency

A Japanese delegation from the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), and the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) visited the CSIR on 27 November to establish whether there are areas of possible collaboration between the two countries' organisations. IEEJ has a particular interest in projects involving energy efficiency.

Apart from South Africa, the visiting delegation is also seeking collaboration opportunities in its field with five Asian countries, namely Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and India.

According to Takeo Suzuki, leader of the delegation, South Africa was added to the mix because the Japanese Government is increasingly pursuing fresh ideas from areas outside of Asia, and because South Africa is the highest producer of carbon emissions of all African countries.

"This first visit from the Japanese delegation provided a good overview of the exact areas within the wider field of energy research where collaborative projects might be sought," says Dr Liesbeth Botha, Executive Director of CSIR Materials Science and Manufacturing. "The CSIR is well positioned to take the lead with regard to finding a sustainable energy solution for South Africa. We have also made initial contact with the Department of Minerals and Energy and we will continue to look for opportunities in which we can play this role."

The Japanese delegation presented interesting econometric forecasting models that it has successfully applied in the past in countries such as the Philippines, in order to project the optimal use of energy resources in many years to come. "We consider energy-environmental issues from a global perspective and propose policy solutions accordingly," explains Suzuki.

The visit formed part of a three-week research tour of South Africa during which the delegation also visited various government departments as well as energy and electricity companies. They aim to assess South Africa's energy efficiency improvement potential during this visit, with a follow-up visit scheduled in January 2009 to report their findings.

Enquiries: [CSIR Communication](#)



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