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Governor Richardson signs MOU with Japanese Ministry to develop Smart Grid

SANTA FE, NM– On May 1st, 2009, Governor Richardson signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), to develop cooperation in the field of research development and demonstration between METI and the State of New Mexico. Governor Richardson and Minister Nikai of METI signed the memorandum in Albuquerque, at an evening ceremony.

The MOU establishes a framework in which both the state and METI can work towards the development of a smart grid project that will eventually lead to the creation of an international energy park. METI will collaborate with current state initiatives to create a smart grid allowing renewable energy to be placed on the grid for consumer use.

In 2007, Economic Development Department (EDD) Cabinet Secretary Mondragón traveled to Japan to sign the first in the series of MOU's around the international collaborative efforts in the realm of science and technology. This past April, EDD hosted a workshop for the Ministry to discuss the state's efforts to develop a smart or green grid project. At that time the MOU was expanded to include the smart grid initiative as a means of cooperation.

“This is an important step towards the future for our state, in continuing our efforts to create a solid smart grid project that will ultimately lead to greater energy independence for New Mexico and the nation. By signing this MOU the Japanese Ministry is acknowledging our capability as a state to lead the world in the development of renewable energy,” said Governor Richardson.

METI and the state will begin discussions in the coming weeks in regards to location and funding of the future smart grid project.

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