

Start of Commercial Operation and Opening Ceremony of Small Hydro Power Plant in Shimogo Town, Fukushima

Marubeni Corporation's fully owned subsidiary, Mibugawa Power Company, held an opening ceremony today for a small hydro power plant named Hananosato Power Station that completed construction in February and commenced commercial operation from June 18 2015 in Shimogo Town, Fukushima Prefecture.

The plant is installed 1,200m downstream from the water intake located beside the Osawa River in the Nakayama area of Shimogo Town. Maintenance activity for the plant is expected to be streamlined as other plants will be developed in this town in the future. The capacity of the plant is approximately 175kW and it is expected to produce approximately 1 million kWh per annum. The expected annual power generation will cover the annual power consumption of 300 ordinary houses and the generated power will be sold for over 20 years under Japan's feed-in-tariff scheme.

Compared to large-scale hydroelectric generation that requires dam construction, small hydroelectric generation is an environmentally friendly business that draws attention as one of the highest potential power sources among multiple power sources.

Mibugawa Power Company entered into a general agreement with Shimogo Town for the purpose of renewable energy development, and hopes to contribute to Shimogo Town's future development plan through the development of the renewable energy projects that will utilize natural energy implicit in Shimogo Town.

This project is Marubeni's eighth small hydro power plant in commercial operation since it started commercial operation of a small hydro power plant in 2006. Marubeni will proactively work on the production of renewable energy in Japan and targets to develop around 30 small and medium-sized hydro power plants by 2020.

■Mibugawa Power Company

Head office: 4-2, Ohtemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Representative: Tomofumi FUKUDA (President)

Establishment: 1960

Capital: JPY 250 million

Sales: Approx. JPY 1 billion

■ Shimogo Town, Fukushima Prefecture

Land area: 317.09km²

Population: 6,015 (as of 2014)

Mayor: Mr. Manabu HOSHI

Municipal office: 1000, Oishi, Shiono, Shimogo Town, Fukushima Prefecture

■ Photo of Hananosato Power Station

