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Media Release

For immediate release

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LEAD ON ENABLING R.E. GROWTH

(GLAND, Switzerland, 3 June 2014) - The number of developing countries with policies in place to support the expansion of renewable energy has grown more than six-fold increase in just eight years, according to a report from the Renewable Energy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) released today.

There were 15 countries with policies in place to support RE in 2005; by early this year, there were 95. These 95 countries today make up the vast majority of the 144 countries with renewable energy (RE) support policies and targets in place.

Raf Senga, WWF's Asia-Pacific energy policy manager, says the dominance by developing countries in terms of support policies and new RE capacity demonstrates a growing recognition by them that renewables are the strategic option of choice to secure a sustainable energy future and a green economy that is equitable.

“The increasing cost competitiveness of renewables combined with their climate, health, socio-economic co-benefits have permeated the energy discourse, even in the not so well-off societies.

“Financial institutions, that are so crucial in achieving a tipping point in energy investment away from fossil fuels, should take heed and seize the massive opportunities that the fast-growing renewable energy industry offer.”

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Notes for Editors:

1. Read the **REN21 report** [here](#)
2. Check out the **interactive renewable energy map** [here](#)
3. **Highlights from the report** are:
 - In 2013, renewables accounted for more than 56% of net additions to global power capacity overall.
 - Hydropower rose by 4% to approximately 1,000 GW in 2013, accounting for about one-third of renewable power capacity added during the year. Other renewables collectively grew nearly 17% to an estimated 560 GW.



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- Renewable energy provided 19% of global final energy consumption in 2012, and continued to grow in 2013. Of this total share in 2012, modern renewables accounted for 10% with the remaining 9% coming from traditional biomass the share of which is declining.
- For the first time, more solar PV than wind power capacity was added worldwide.
- Even as global investment in solar PV declined nearly 22% relative to 2012, new capacity installations increased by more than 27%. The solar PV market had a record year, adding about 38 GW in 2013 for a total of approximately 138 GW. China saw spectacular growth, accounting for nearly one third of global capacity added, followed by Japan and the United States.
- China, the United States, Brazil, Canada, and Germany remained the top countries for total installed renewable power capacity.
- China's new renewable power capacity surpassed new fossil fuel and nuclear capacity for the first time.
- Growing numbers of cities, states, and regions seek to transition to 100% renewable energy in either individual sectors or economy-wide. For example, Djibouti, Scotland, and the small-island state of Tuvalu aim to derive 100% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.
- Uruguay, Mauritius, and Costa Rica were among the top countries for investment in new renewable power and fuels relative to annual GDP.
- More than 35 GW of wind power capacity was added in 2013, totaling just more than 318 GW. But despite several record years, the market was down nearly 10 GW compared to 2012, reflecting primarily a steep drop in the U.S. market. Offshore wind had a record year, with 1.6 GW added, almost all of it in the EU.
- Heating and cooling from modern biomass, solar, and geothermal sources account for a small but gradually rising share of final global heat demand, amounting to an estimated 10%.
- Global new investment in renewable power and fuels was at least USD 249.4 billion in 2013 down from its record level in 2011.

For further information, please contact:

Mandy Jean Woods mwoods@wwf.org.za / @MandyJeanWoods / +27 72 393 0027

Raf Senga rsenga@wwf.org.ph

About WWF - WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF's global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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