



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

**Ministry of Energy, Mines,
Water and Environment**

INTEGRATED MOROCCAN WIND ENERGY PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

Tangier, 28 June 2010

HIS MAJESTY THE KING Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, has inaugurated on Monday June 28, in Tangier the **Tangier I** wind power farm of **140 MW** which, with an investment cost of **2.75 billion Dirhams**, is so far the largest project of its type in the Cherifian Kingdom.

The project is part of the implementation of programs planned in the new energy strategy developed in compliance with the **High Royal Directives** placing the development of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency as a major priority and as an optimal way of allowing Morocco to meet the challenges of security of supply, environmental protection and sustainable development.

Upon this occasion, Mrs. Amina Benkhadra, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment together with Mr Ali Fassi Fihri, the General Director of the Office National de l'Electricité, presented before **His Majesty the King** the outline of the Moroccan Wind Energy Project which **foresees the construction of new wind farms bringing the installed electrical power originating from wind sources from the current 280 MW to 2000 MW in 2020.**

In this timeframe, the power facilities operating on renewable sources of energy will account for 42% of the global electrical capacity installed, with **solar, wind and hydraulic power** representing **each 14%**. In this way they contribute to meeting the ever growing energy needs boosted by the acceleration of the economic and social development Morocco is experiencing with the completion of major projects already launched or programmed in the fields of agriculture, industry, infrastructures, housing and tourism. This unprecedented growth entails increasing needs in various types of energy at a sustained annual average pace of **5%**. **The global installed electrical power** is forecast to **rise threefold in 2020** against its current level.

This project which contributes to the development of the considerable potential Morocco enjoys with regard to wind energy, estimated at 25000 MW, includes the following wind powered electrical facilities:

- **280 MW** already provided by the wind farms of **Abdelkhalek Torres (50 MW)** and **Lafarge (30 MW)** in **Tetouan**, of **Amougdoul** in **Essaouira (60 MW)** and **Tangier1 (140 MW)**

- **720 MW** under construction in **Tarfaya (300 MW)**, **Akhfenir (200 MW)** and **Bab El Oued (50 MW)** in **Laayoune**, **Haouma (50 MW)** and **Jbel Khalladi (120 MW)** in **Tetouan**, and

- **1000 MW** to be built on **five new** sites selected due to their great potential: **Tangier 2 (150 MW), Koudia El Baida in Tetouan (300 MW), Taza (150 MW), Tiskrad in Laayoune (300 MW) and Boujdour (100 MW).**

In this project special attention has been given to the North and Oriental regions which encompass high wind energy potential, and where six wind farms are planned two of which have already been completed.

This program integrates the manufacture of wind farm equipment into the national industrial fabric in order to broaden and make long lasting the impact on the domestic economy in general and the development of wind energy in particular.

The projects will be achieved in the framework of public/private partnerships where the Office National de l'Electricité, the Fonds Hassan II pour le Développement Economique et Social and l'Office National de l'Electricité, and la Société d'Investissements Energétiques will be associated with strategic partners of worldwide references in the wind industry and electricity generation.

The **cost of the project investment** estimated at **31.5 billion dirhams** will be covered by national and international public and private funds as well as by concessionary and non concessionary financing mechanisms available in the framework of multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

This far reaching project, due to its multiple dimensions, matches the unflinching determination of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God assist Him**, to **reconcile economic and social development, environmental preservation and the fight against climate change.** It will enable the production of 6600 GWh per year, corresponding to 26% of our current annual electricity output.

By completing this wind energy project and the Moroccan solar energy project our country will be able to cut down on energy imports by annual savings of **2.5 million equivalent tons of fossil fuel-derived oil**, thereby ruling out the emission of nearly **9 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.**

At the end of the presentation, Under the Presidency of His Majesty The King, May God Assist Him, the State, represented by the Ministry of Finances and Economy and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, the Office National de l'Electricité, the Fonds Hassan II pour le Développement Economique et Social and la Société d'Investissements Energétiques, concluded a framework agreement for developing the wind energy integrated project.

Have attended this important event the Prime Minister, the President of the Parliament and Chamber of Counsellors, the members of the government, the presidents of parliamentary commissions, the chairmen of Moroccan boards and institutions, bank and insurance managers, university presidents, the presidents of several CGEM federations, the elected officials of Tangier and the representatives of the territorial administration, the members of the diplomatic corps, the representatives of international organizations and bilateral cooperation bodies and operators from the wind industry and electricity generation.