

Sunlabob awarded US\$100,000 environmental prize

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In recognition of Environment Day 2008, the renewable energy company Sunlabob received a United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Prize on Wednesday in Nairobi, Kenya.

Sunlabob, based in Laos, was one of two organisations presented with a US\$100,000 cheque at the Nippon Foundation-supported award ceremony.

“This is a proud moment for Sunlabob, and for the entire renewable energy sector in Laos,” Sunlabob Renewable Energy Company Director Saleumphon Vongsakhamphui said.

The company has been working hard towards making renewable energy solutions affordable and appropriate for the rural setting, not only in Laos but for developing countries all over the world.

“This award is confirmation that we are on the right track, and it will enable us to further develop existing technologies and explore new innovations,” he said.

The award is in recognition of Sunlabob’s ground-breaking efforts in ‘moving towards a low carbon economy’, which was the theme of World Environment Day in June 2008. Sunlabob Director Andy Schroeter received the award in Kenya, saying “This is a

proud moment for Sunlabob”.

Commenting on the wider impact of this award, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and founder of the UNEP Sasakawa Prize, Yohei Sasakawa, said he was convinced that the Sasakawa Prize, through the laureates and their powerful messages, was helping to persuade people to reconsider their lifestyles and understand the seriousness of the issues facing humanity.

The staff at Sunlabob are very pleased by the changes towards a more sustainable future that are taking place in society and believe the international recognition this award has given them will help them to continue their work.



Mr Andy Schroeter (centre) accepts the UNEP Sasakawa Prize for Sunlabob in Kenya.