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The new Alstom Corporate Foundation supports 11 projects worldwide focusing on the protection of the environment

The new Alstom Corporate Foundation, created in November 2007, has, during a ceremony in Paris on 17 September 2008, rewarded eleven projects in the field of environmental protection. These projects, presented and supported by Group employees, will be the first to be financed by the Foundation, which will devote €1 million per year to this purpose.

Alstom employees and their partners have, for a long time, led local initiatives taken throughout the world to improve the living conditions in the communities which surround the company's factories, projects or offices. The Alstom Foundation has been set up to allow the Group to federate and reinforce these local initiatives by concentrating on the most appropriate actions in the area of environmental preservation.

Operating in 70 countries, Alstom has a broad presence worldwide, often in areas where environmental protection is a critical issue for the local population. In addition, Alstom's core activities, with cutting-edge technical solutions in the field of green power and sustainable mobility, as well as a strong corporate responsibility policy, make it the ideal company to support initiatives in this area.

The eleven initiatives to benefit from Alstom Foundation support were selected from 24 projects, coming from 17 countries. One of the most remarkable initiatives rewarded in 2008 will permit the implementation of alternative electricity systems in order to preserve biodiversity in the Meili Snow Mountain national park situated in a remote area of China's Yunnan region. Other projects chosen were from Argentina, North Korea, India, Switzerland, the US, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, France and South Africa.

The projects, supported by Alstom employees, must respond to preservation needs or local environmental improvements and must also be developed by local people. The Foundation's board of directors chooses the projects every year. This board is composed of Alstom representatives and outside personalities: Jacques Attali (President of Planet Finance), Robert Barbault (Director of Biodiversity at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle), Claude Mandil (Former executive at the International Energy Agency) and Nicole Pasteur (Research Director at the CNRS, the French national scientific research centre).

The first selection criterion, of course, is positive impact on the environment but the type of projects which interest the Foundation is very broad. They can range from informing populations about the stakes involved in environmental protection, to the development of renewable energy sources, as well as programmes for reforestation, improving water quality, preserving ecosystems or limiting greenhouse gas emissions, notably by encouraging the usage of public transport.

Selected Projects:

Economic development:

Setting up a national park in Yunnan (China)
Construction of a pedestrian bridge (Indonesia)
Providing alternative energy to 60 households using wind energy systems (North Korea)

Social initiative actions:

Construction of a "green" orphanage for destitute children and to promote environmental awareness (India)
Providing solar energy by using renewable energy resources to four houses for mentally handicapped people (USA)

Education and environmental awareness campaigns:

"Green Helmets" programme (Argentina)
Green bags initiative (China)
Promotion of educational cartoons (France)
Protection of coral reefs (Malaysia)

Community activity and strong employee involvement:

Corporate social responsibility programme (Philippines)
Eco-schools (South Africa)

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