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Solarpark in Wierthe

Wierthe: Visit from the Sultanate of Oman

Yesterday, Solar Park Ziegeler in Wierthe received the International Research Centre for Renewable Energy (IFEED) visitors from the Sultanate of Oman, India and Afghanistan.



International meeting at Solarpark in Wierthe (v.l.): Dr. Ahmadudim Wais, Marco Perschke, Jürgen Mandel (beide IFEED), Bürgermeister Hartmut Marotz, Frank Ziegeler, Prof. K.P. Ramachandran, Jürgen Degenhardt (Firma Ziegeler), Prof. Dr. Nasir El Bassam (IFEED), Prof. Shaik Feroz, Dr. Upkar S. Sadana und Marcia Schlichting (IFEED).

Wierthe. Professor Dr. Nasir El Bassam IFEED-director initiated the meeting by stating, "After Fukushima we must rethink our energy policy". The Sultanate of Oman, located in the east of the Arabian Peninsula, has oil and natural gas sources, but these are sufficient only for 15 years. Although the land borders the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the so-called "sun belt" countries, there is currently no significant use of renewable energy sources. In Germany, renewable energies amount to more than ten percent.

Professor K.P. Ramachandran of Caledonian College of Engineering, said: "We need a lot of energy for air conditioning and cooling systems". These may be obtained from solar energy that is available in abundance. Another issue is water treatment.

Also visiting to gather information on the status of the use of various technologies of renewable energy sources, was coordinator for technical assistance in Afghanistan, Dr. Ahmadudim Wais. "We intend to set up an energy village 25 kilometers north of Kabul." By the end of the year, the Ziegeler firm will help to place the solar cells. Other villages are to follow. Even in India 10 000 villages are supplied with solar energy. "After the disaster in Japan, it is the best alternative", said Dr. Upkar S. Sadana. The government

wants to promote this solar initiative. So far, India energy needs come mainly from coal and hydro power.

The Ziegeler company acts as a service provider. "We offer training, and have a training center," said CEO Frank Tiley.