

## Summary

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Following the first oil crisis in 1973, the Japanese government started a national project in 1974 to develop oil alternative energy resources. The project, named the Sunshine Project, was Japan's first long-term program to carry out research and development of new energy technologies, including photovoltaic power systems.

NEDO was established in 1980 following the second oil crisis in 1979 to promote the research and development activities of the Sunshine Project. Since its establishment, NEDO has been actively engaged in the development of new energy technologies. The Japanese government also introduced a new energy conservation project called the Moonlight Project in 1978 and reorganized the Sunshine Project as the New Sunshine Project in 1993. Technologies that were initially considered futuristic have borne fruit and significantly helped to promote the introduction of PV and wind power generation systems.

Bearing in mind the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station disaster that occurred in 2011 as well as the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2016 to address climate change, discussions are currently underway on how to make renewable energy sources economically independent. Measures to decarbonize primary energy sources are also being considered. Renewable energy is thus expected to play a more important role than ever before.

NEDO, as one of Japan's largest public research and development management organizations, is endeavoring to realize a society that utilizes new and sustainable energy models. Specifically, NEDO is promoting research and development in order to ensure and expand the practical use of renewable energy systems, including development of technologies for further lowering PV and wind power generation costs and overcoming geographical constraints unique to Japan's natural environment.