



PRESS RELEASE

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National Development Bank of Palau announced as finalist at global green awards *Bank's support for low-carbon homes puts it in the running for 2013 Ashden Awards*

The National Development Bank of Palau has been announced as a finalist in the 2013 Ashden Awards, the world's leading green energy prize. The Bank is being recognised for its programme to encourage energy-efficient households on the island.

The National Development Bank of Palau is leading the way with its programme to integrate energy efficient measures into its mortgage lending for new builds, drastically cutting the need for energy-intensive air-conditioning.

Over the past three years nearly all the new-build homes on the islands have included approved energy efficiency measures like natural ventilation or white painted roofs. Some houses have also received energy-efficient refurbishment or installed solar PV.

The Ashden Awards were founded in 2001 to encourage the greater use of sustainable energy to reduce poverty and tackle climate change. The National Development Bank of Palau joins three other finalists in the Awards for Small Island Developing States, a new category launched this year with the support of the World Bank and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) through the SIDS DOCK support program.

Sandra D. Mincer, CEO and President of the National Development Bank of Palau said:

“The National Development Bank of Palau is honored and proud to have been nominated for such an auspicious award and to compete with many innovative programmes that address energy efficiency and the sustainable use of clean energy. To be selected as a finalist for the Ashden Awards is humbling when we are only doing what we do to assist the nation's grassroots in improving their lives.”

Sarah Butler-Sloss, Ashden Founder Director said:

“This innovative lending programme that integrates energy efficiency measures into the mortgage for the house can be replicated across other islands.”

Two winners of the 2013 Awards for Small Island Developing States will be announced at a prestigious ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London, UK on 20 June 2013.

Follow #Ashden13 on [twitter](#) to keep up with information about this year's Ashden Awards, which will be webcast on [green.tv](#) from 7pm on 20 June.

Media contacts

Ashden: Luke Malcher | +44 (0) 207 410 7068 | luke.malcher@ashden.org

Notes to editors

1. The Ashden Awards were set up in 2001 to champion practical, local energy solutions that cut carbon, protect the environment, reduce poverty and improve people's lives. Since then we have rewarded and supported more than 140 winners across the UK and the developing world. Find out more at www.ashden.org

2. Since 2001, Ashden award winners have improved the lives of 33 million people worldwide, and are now saving over 4 million tonnes of CO₂ every year.

3. Some 1.4 billion people around the world lack access to modern energy, while 3 billion rely on 'traditional biomass' and coal as their main fuel sources.

4. A total of 14 Awards will be presented at the ceremony, as follows:

- Four UK awards, to include:
 - The Impax Ashden Award for Energy Innovation
 - The Ashden 2013 UK Gold Award
- Four international awards, to include:
 - The 2013 International Gold Award
 - Citi Ashden Award for Financial Innovation
 - Waterloo Foundation Ashden Award for Avoided Deforestation
 - Zennström Philanthropies Ashden Award for Innovation
- Two Eurostar Ashden Awards for Sustainable Travel
- Two [Small Island Developing States Awards](#), supported by [SIDS DOCK](#) and the World Bank
- Two Ashden School Awards

5. Two winners of the Awards for Small Island Developing States will receive £20,000 each in prize money as well as business support, access to investors and a platform to build their profile.

6. Brief information about each finalist and high-resolution images are at www.ashden.org/UK_2012

7. The Awards ceremony on Thursday at 7.15pm on 20 June is by invitation only. Please contact Julia Hawkins (julia.hawkins@ashden.org) if you would like to be registered.

8. On Wednesday 19 June from 9am to 5pm the 2013 Ashden Conference will be held at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London where some of the UK and international finalists will speak about their work, along with panel debate and discussions. Speakers will include Jonathan Porritt and Camilla Toulmin from the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED). Journalists are welcome to attend and can book in advance for one-on-one interviews. Contact Julia Hawkins: julia.hawkins@ashden.org

World Bank and SIDS DOCK

9. The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in the mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit www.worldbank.org, www.miga.org and www.ifc.org

9. The World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is a global knowledge and technical assistance program that assists low- and middle-income countries to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction and economic growth. ESMAP is funded by the governments of Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom

10. SIDS DOCK is an initiative among member countries of the Alliance of Small Island States ([AOSIS](http://www.aosis.org)) to provide the Small Island Developing States ([SIDS](http://www.sids.org)) with a collective institutional mechanism to assist them transform their national energy sectors into a catalyst for sustainable economic development and help generate financial resources to address adaptation to climate change. SIDS DOCK helps small island states to develop and deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency through multiple initiatives aimed at reducing both fossil fuel imports and greenhouse gas emissions. The SIDS DOCK programme is jointly managed by UNDP and ESMAP. Initial funding of US\$14.5 million for SIDS DOCK has come from the Government of Denmark. For more information, please visit www.sidsdock.org