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Astonfield's VP Abraham Tarapani Selected as Aspen Institute First Fellow

Joins leaders from 20 leading companies to promote business growth, sustainable societies

NEW YORK – June 15, 2012 – Astonfield Renewable Resources is pleased to announce that Abraham “Abe” Tarapani has been selected to join the Aspen Institute Business and Society Program’s fourth class of First Mover Fellows. Individuals chosen for this program work to unite business growth with a sustainable society in the products and services they develop.

“I am honored to be selected to join such a prestigious group of individuals who are dedicated to advancing values-based leadership in their respective industries,” said Abe Tarapani, Vice President, Global Strategy & Business Development at Astonfield Renewable Resources. “I look forward to sharing Astonfield ideals and ideas with my Fellows, as we work to create long-term value for communities, our employees and the planet.”

Tarapani joins 20 other Fellows chosen this year who come from a wide variety of industries including finance (Citigroup and BlackRock); retail (Walmart); and technology (Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and AOL).

Founded in 2006, Astonfield develops, owns and operates utility-scale renewable energy power plants in emerging markets such as India, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on solar power generation in India. Tarapani manages Astonfield’s global strategy, technical partnerships and market development efforts. In this capacity he works with national and local governments to advocate for enabling renewable energy policies and regulations, and to identify and develop projects where Astonfield can invest in a country’s energy infrastructure. He also coordinates Astonfield’s approach to technology selection, as well as the development and maintenance of global technical partnerships.

The 12-month Fellowship, which includes three seminars, is built around the core themes of innovation, leadership, reflection and community. The program offers individuals a chance to become part of a growing community of innovators who share a passion about their work and belief in new possibilities for business. It also serves as an innovation lab where Fellows develop the skills to make their innovations real and successful in their organizations. The program offers both a leadership development opportunity for the Fellows and an organizational development strategy for their companies.

Candidates for the fellowship must be nominated by their peers. The selection process, which occurred over several months, began with phone interviews with Aspen staff. During the second round, Fellows had to complete an application in which they described the “next stage innovation project” they would undertake if selected to be in the program. Candidates were also interviewed by former Fellows. The final selection of the class was made by the fellowship Design Team.

About Astonfield Renewable Resources

Astonfield Renewable Resources Ltd. is a leading provider of affordable renewable energy in emerging markets. Astonfield develops, owns, and operates a rapidly growing portfolio of utility-scale solar power plants. Through strategic partnerships with global technology and finance leaders, Astonfield is deploying the world's most advanced, commercially proven renewable energy solutions to power communities in India, Africa, and the Middle East. For more information visit: <http://www.astonfield.com/>.

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