



## NEWS RELEASE

### Contact

Sherry Johnson  
CoBank  
303-740-6518  
[sjohnson@cobank.com](mailto:sjohnson@cobank.com)

Zuraidah Hoffman  
NRECA  
571-488-7601  
[Zuraidah.Hoffman@nreca.coop](mailto:Zuraidah.Hoffman@nreca.coop)

## CoBank Donates \$250,000 to NRECA International Foundation

### *Gift Will Support Rural Electrification In Developing Countries*

**ORLANDO (February 23, 2015)** –CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, today announced a \$250,000 donation to the NRECA International Foundation to fund the development of NRECA International’s rural electrification projects in Africa, as well as Central and Latin America.

“We are proud to support the mission of NRECA International,” said CoBank CEO Robert B. Engel. “Its tireless efforts over many decades have improved the quality of life for more than a hundred million people in developing countries by providing them access to safe, reliable electrical power. Electrification is one of the most critical steps on the path to sustainable economic growth for emerging economies, and it is a privilege to partner with NRECA International in this important work.”

“We are deeply grateful to CoBank for this generous and timely contribution – the largest single corporate gift in our foundation’s history,” said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jo Ann Emerson. “There are more than one billion people around the world without access to electricity. Just as electrification transformed the U.S. rural economy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we hope to share that prosperity with other nations. This gift will help accelerate the pace of electrification around the globe.”

Over the last fifty years, NRECA International has provided 110 million people in 42 countries access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. The organization has pioneered low cost rural electrification in design, construction, application of standards, and has a wealth of experience in the planning and operation of various generation technologies including renewable resources. Comprehensive training programs are implemented in all aspects of utility operations and management to ensure that local institutions can effectively and efficiently operate and administer a functioning and economically viable utility. NRECA International projects and programs have created more than 250 successful rural electric enterprises in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

### About CoBank

CoBank is a \$107 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and the nation's rural economy. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

For more information about CoBank, visit [www.cobank.com](http://www.cobank.com).

***About NRECA International Foundation***

Since 1962, NRECA International has provided women, men and children in developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. For these 110 million people who have benefitted from our work, life has changed and improved through better education, health, provision of clean water and economic opportunity. The NRECA International Foundation is the philanthropic arm of NRECA and is supported solely through voluntary donations, with more than 300 member cooperatives and many private organizations contributing time, skills, money and materials to dozens of projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

For more information about NRECA International, visit [www.nrecainternational.coop](http://www.nrecainternational.coop).