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# Stability Enhancement of Small-Scale Power Grid with Renewable Power Sources by Variable Speed Diesel Power Plant\*

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### **Abstract**

This paper proposes a power control method to improve a stability of a small-scale power grid with renewable energy sources. In an isolated smallscale power grid such as an island, diesel power plant is main power source which has an environmental burden and expensive running cost due to high priced fossil fuel. Thus, expanding installation of the renewable energy sources such as a wind power is strongly desirable. Such fluctuating energy sources, however, harm power quality of the small-scale power grid, and in addition, conventional power plant in the small-scale power grid cannot, in general, stabilize the grid system with such fluctuating power sources. In this study, Variable Speed Doubly-Fed Induction Generator (VS-DFIG) is proposed to be installed at a diesel power plant instead of a conventional Fixed Speed Synchronous Generator (FS-SG), because quick control of a power balance in the small-scale power grid can be achieved by using the inertial energy of VS-DFIG. In addition, utilization of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is also considered to assist cooperatively the VS-DFIG control. As a result of the simulation analysis by using the proposed method, it is verified that frequency fluctuations due to renewable energy source can be effectively reduced by quick power control of the VS-DFIG compared to the conventional FS-SG, and further control ability can be obtained by utilizing BESS. Moreover, the transient stability of a small-scale power grid during a grid fault can also be enhanced.

## Keywords

Small-Scale Power Grid, Variable Speed Doubly-Fed Induction Generator (VS-DFIG), Diesel Power Plant, Wind Power, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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### 1. Introduction

Utilization of renewable energy is spreading worldwide, especially energy conversion from solar and wind energy to electric power is most prevalent form for using renewable energy. However, their fluctuating energy output due to unstable weather condition may influence and disturb a stable operation of a power grid. Under such situations, mitigation of fluctuating power by using energy storage system such as battery has been studied [1] [2] [3] [4], but huge capacity is needed for the energy storage system which causes extremely high costs. Meanwhile, a microgrid concept which is an independent power grid in tiny scale is becoming more common. In the microgrid, flexible control of power generation and consumption can be achieved well compared to large-scale power grid, and many demonstration tests with locally capturing energy, e.g., solar, wind and biomass, have been performed [5] [6] [7] [8]. Such microgrid might become one of the distributed power sources.

There are many small islands with residential areas worldwide, and these power grids are almost small scale and independent of large-scale power grid on the main island. In most cases, main electrical sources in such small-scale power grid are supplied from diesel engine power plants. However, such plants have an environmental and cost problem due to an exhaust gas and fuel transportation by the ship. On the other hand, because most of the islands are in abundant wind energy, and therefore an installation of renewable energy, mainly the wind, is quite significant in order to decrease the dependence on fossil fuel. However, because of fluctuating characteristics of renewable energy due to weather condition, power quality of small-scale power grid with renewable energy sources introduced will be deteriorated. Thus, even a small renewable energy source may not be introduced in such situations. Considering such situations, stabilization of fluctuating power in the small-scale power grid is vitally important in order to increase renewable energy utilization.

In order to solve the problems stated above, several kinds of generator systems have been proposed and investigated to control microgrid system with renewable energy sources [9] [10] [11]. Most of these systems are composed of a conventional synchronous generator driven by a diesel engine as the main power source, and energy storage system is often considered. But as mentioned previously, installation of a large storage system is not very realistic because of high cost. If the diesel engine driven generator as a main power source can have an ability of quick control of its power output, then the generator can greatly contribute for stabilizing the fluctuating power. If the conventional fixed speed synchronous generator, however, is adopted in such system, its diesel engine has to perform rapid output control and then the life of the engine will be shortened. In contrast, if the variable speed generator is adopted in such system, the diesel engine does not need to respond so rapidly because of the inertial response of the variable speed generator. Under such consideration, application of variable speed diesel generator has been pro-

posed in several reports [12] [13] [14]. However, there is little report in which detailed analyses of the small power system including the diesel power plant and wind power station with natural fluctuating wind condition as a renewable energy source are performed with considering their cooperative control system.

In this paper, a new design and operation method of small-scale power grid is proposed in order to improve stability of the system frequency against fluctuating power from the wind power station, in which a variable speed diesel generator with employing Variable Speed Doubly-Fed Induction Generator (VS-DFIG) is adopted and controlled cooperatively with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). In this study, a degree of the smoothing effect which is depending on various conditions of the small-scale power grid is investigated by a simulation analysis, and then a possible amount of the wind power installation is estimated for various environmental conditions of the islands. In addition, the simulation analysis includes a case of grid fault and the effect of the proposed system on transient stability enhancement is also evaluated.

Among the similar analyses reported so far, there are reports about microgrids including diesel generators, BESSs and renewable energy sources. For example, several simulation results for transient performance like a step load change obtained by using detailed numerical model are presented in [15]-[26], and analyses for controllability improvement under fluctuating power during long time period are presented in [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32]. However there are few reports in which the VS-DFIG is considered. This paper proposes a new strategy to enhance the controllability of the main generator in a small-scale power grid by adopting the VS-DFIG, and thus it will be possible to introduce further renewable energy sources to small-scale power grid with the proposed VS-DFIG based diesel power plant.

The simulation analysis in this paper is performed by PSCAD/EMTDC.

# 2. Overview of the Modeling

# 2.1. Model of Small-Scale Power Grid

Figure 1 shows a construction of the small-scale power system model. A Diesel Generator 1 (DG1) and a Diesel Generator 2 (DG2) are diesel power plants. Squirrel Cage Induction Generator (SCIG) is a constant speed wind generator. Power ratings, rated voltage and impedances of the transmission lines are shown in Figure 1. DG1 is a conventional FS-SG equipped with speed governor and automatic voltage regulator. DG2 has the same rating as DG1 for which, however, two types of generator are used. One is a FS-SG same as DG1 and the other is a VS-DFIG. In this study, difference between the performances of the two types of DG2 for power grid frequency characteristics is evaluated. The wind power station is composed of single SCIG equipped with aerodynamically characterized wind turbine. Load A and B are modeled by using resistive components as consumers.

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#### 2.2. Model of Diesel Power Plant

The speed governor model of the diesel power plant shown in **Figure 2** is used for DG1 and DG2. Though several types of diesel engine governor models have been reported, a simplified model is used in this study [33] [34]. The speed governor generates the output reference of the engine's torque in order to maintain its speed to be the reference speed by using PID controllers. DG1 governor has an effective integral element, and thus, DG1 operates under Load Frequency Control (LFC) which keeps a power balance between supply and demand on the order of several minutes, while DG2 operates under governor free because its integral controller is not so effective. Each parameter of the governors is shown in **Table 1**. Parameters of the PID controller  $K_p$ ,  $K_p$ ,  $K_D$  and  $T_D$  are determined through a trial and error method in order to obtain the most desirable performance.

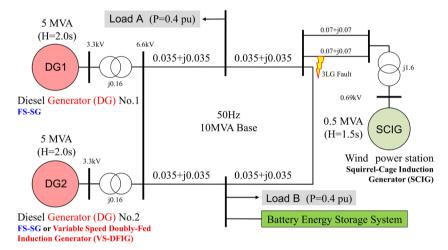


Figure 1. Model system of small-scale power grid.

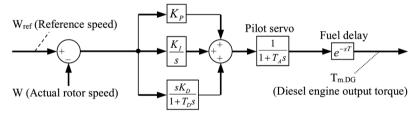


Figure 2. Model of the diesel engine and its speed governor.

Table 1. Parameters of the speed governor of the diesel engines.

Parameters	DG1	DG2 as FS-SG	DG2 as VS-DFIG
Proportional gain K <sub>P</sub>	6.0	4.0	0.8
Integral gain $K_{\rm I}$	1.0	0.001	0.004
Differential gain $K_D$	10.0	10.0	2.0
Time constant $T_D$	0.1	0.1	0.1
Time constant of the pilot servo $T_{\rm A}$	1.0	1.0	1.0
Time constant of the diesel fuel delay T	0.5	0.5	0.5

Time constant T<sub>A</sub> and T of the diesel engine model are typical value.

## 2.3. Model of FS-SG

The FS-SG is used widely as a hydraulic, thermal, and diesel power plants. **Table 2** shows parameters of the FS-SG for the diesel generators in this study. The automatic voltage regulator shown in **Figure 3** is equipped with each FS-SG.

#### 2.4. Model of VS-DFIG

A basic configuration of the VS-DFIG and its secondary excitation control system is shown in **Figure 4**. This system has an advantage that only partial power rating is needed for its electronic power converter. Since the VS-DFIG can control its reactive power according to specified reference, automatic voltage regulator for FS-SG shown in **Figure 3** is not used. Active power of the VS-DFIG can

Table 2. Parameters of the FS-SG.

Rated capacity	5 MVA
Rated voltage	3.3 kV
Resistance of stator winding	0.0025 p.u.
Leakage reactance of stator winding	0.14 p.u.
Resistance of field winding	0.0004 p.u.
Leakage reactance of field winding	0.2 p.u.
D-axis synchronous reactance $X_d$	1.66 p.u.
D-axis damper winding resistance $\boldsymbol{r}_{kd}$	0.0051 p.u.
D-axis damper winding leakage reactance $\boldsymbol{X}_{kd}$	0.0437 p.u.
Q-axis synchronous reactance $\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{q}}$	0.91 p.u.
Q-axis damper winding resistance $r_{kq}$	0.0084 p.u.
Q-axis damper winding leakage reactance $\boldsymbol{X}_{kq}$	0.106 p.u.
 Inertia constant H	2.0 s

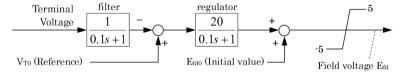


Figure 3. Model of automatic voltage regulator of the FS-SGs.

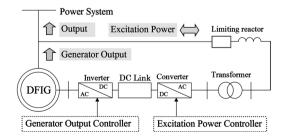


Figure 4. Model of the VS-DFIG and its controller structures.

be controlled according to power grid frequency as explained below. **Table 2** shows parameters of the VS-DFIG. Also, parameters of the SCIG wind generator are also shown in **Table 3** because both of VS-DFIG and SCIG are induction machines.

#### 2.5. Model of BESS

In this study, a BESS is utilized and installed at Load B in parallel and it is activated temporarily when rapid frequency fluctuation that the VS-DFIG cannot control occurs. The BESS is modeled using an ideal electrical source which has no power losses and is operating in unity power factor at the AC terminal. Reference of the BESS output power is generated as shown in **Figure 5**. The BESS power control is activated when the frequency deviation is exceeding  $\pm 0.075$  Hz and the BESS power is limited to  $\pm 125$  kW in this study.

#### 2.6. Model of Wind Power Station

The wind power station is modeled as a single wind generator composed of a SCIG and a wind turbine of which aerodynamic characteristics are expressed as following Equations (1)-(4) [35]. The output of the generator is regulated by a pitch angle controller of the wind turbine as shown in **Figure 6** when wind

Table 3. Parameters of the induction generators (VS-DFIG and SCIG).

Parameters	VS-DFIG	SCIG
Rated capacity	5 MVA	0.5 MVA
Rated voltage	6.6 kV	0.69 kV
Resistance of stator winding	0.01 pu	0.01 pu
Leakage reactance of stator winding	0.15 pu	0.07 pu
Magnetizing reactance	3.5 pu	4.1 pu
Resistance of rotor winding	0.01 pu	0.007 pu
Leakage reactance of rotor winding	0.15 pu	0.07 pu
Inertia constant	2.0 s	1.5 s

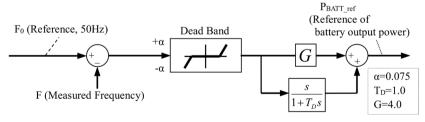


Figure 5. Reference of BESS output.

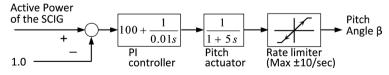


Figure 6. Pitch angle controller of the wind turbine.

speed is over the rated wind speed.

$$P_{wtb} = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_p \left( \lambda, \beta \right) \pi R^2 V_w^3 \left[ W \right] \tag{1}$$

$$C_P(\lambda, \beta) = 0.5(\Gamma - 0.022\beta^2 - 5.6)e^{-0.17\Gamma}$$
 (2)

$$\lambda = \frac{w_{wtb}R}{V_{vt}} \tag{3}$$

$$\Gamma = \frac{R}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{3600}{1609} \tag{4}$$

where  $P_{wtb}$ : output of the generator [W];  $\lambda$ : tip speed ratio; R: radius of the wind turbine [m];  $\omega_{wtb}$ : speed of the wind turbine [rad/s];  $\rho$ : air density [kg/m³];  $\beta$ : pitch angle of the wind turbine [deg];  $V_w$ : wind speed [m/s].

# 3. VS-DFIG Output Control System

In the case that DG2 in **Figure 1** is VS-DFIG, VS-DFIG compensates power fluctuations in order to suppress frequency fluctuations of the power grid. The control system is composed of proportional controller and differential controller (inexact differential) as shown in **Figure 7** so that relatively quick change of the frequency can be controlled.

# 4. Simulation Analysis

## 4.1. Simulation Settings

Wind speed data used in the simulation analysis are actual wind speed data measured in Hokkaido Island, Japan. This is because it is important to evaluate performance of the proposed variable speed diesel power plant for stabilizing power system frequency fluctuations under natural wind speed condition. Two profiles of wind generator output shown in Figure 8 are used in the simulation analysis and they are referred as Profile No.1 and Profile No.2. The wind speed data for Profile No.1 and Profile No.2 are for 30 minutes with 1 second sampling, and resulting wind generator outputs have almost same average value but different fluctuating level (standard deviation) to each other as shown in Figure 8. Simulation analyses for 3 cases have been performed for the combination of two diesel generators; *i.e.*, DG1 and DG2 are both conventional synchronous generator (Case 1), DG2 is the proposed VS-DFIG (Case 2), and the BESS is added to Case 2 (Case 3).

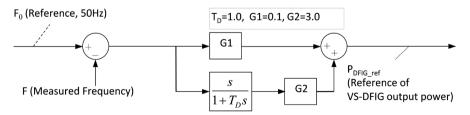


Figure 7. VS-DFIG output control system for stabilization of the small-scale power grid.

# 4.2. Simulation Result 1—Compensation of Power Fluctuation under Natural Wind Condition

**Table 4** and **Figure 9** show the calculated standard deviations of the system frequency in the three cases under the 2 wind generator output profiles. It can be seen the frequency fluctuation can be controlled in the latter two cases (Case 2 and Case 3) much better than the first case (Case 1).

In addition, maximum and minimum deviations of the system frequency from the synchronous frequency (50Hz) are shown in **Table 5** and **Figure 10**. It is also

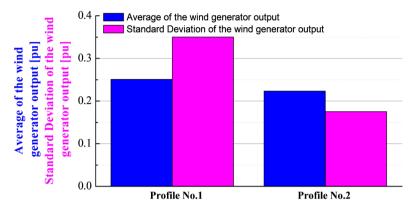


Figure 8. Output power profile of the wind power station.

Table 4. Standard deviation of the grid frequency fluctuation.

Profile No.	Case 1 FS-SG as DG2	Case 2 VS-DFIG as DG2	Case 3 VS-DFIG as DG2 with BESS
1	0.082	0.063	0.047
2	0.065	0.054	0.043

DG1 is FS-SG in all cases. Unit is in Hz.

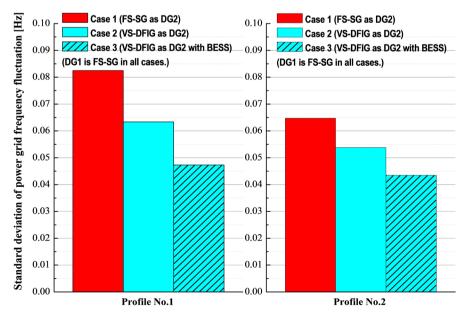


Figure 9. Standard deviation of grid frequency fluctuation.

**Table 5.** Maximum deviation of the grid frequency.

Profile No.		se 1 as DG2		se 2 G as DG2	Case 3 VS-DFIG as DG2 with BESS	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
1	0.662	-0.439	0.248	-0.178	0.130	-0.113
2	0.374	-0.294	0.156	-0.308	0.105	-0.188

DG1 is FS-SG in all cases. Unit is in Hz.

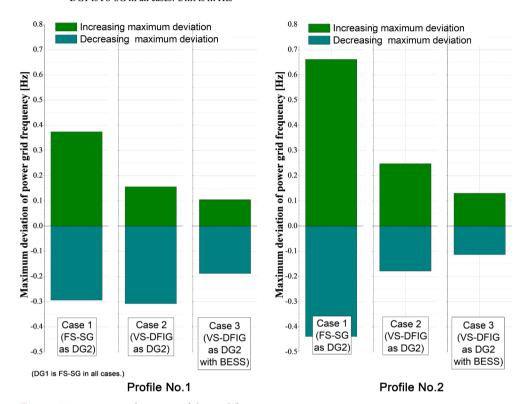
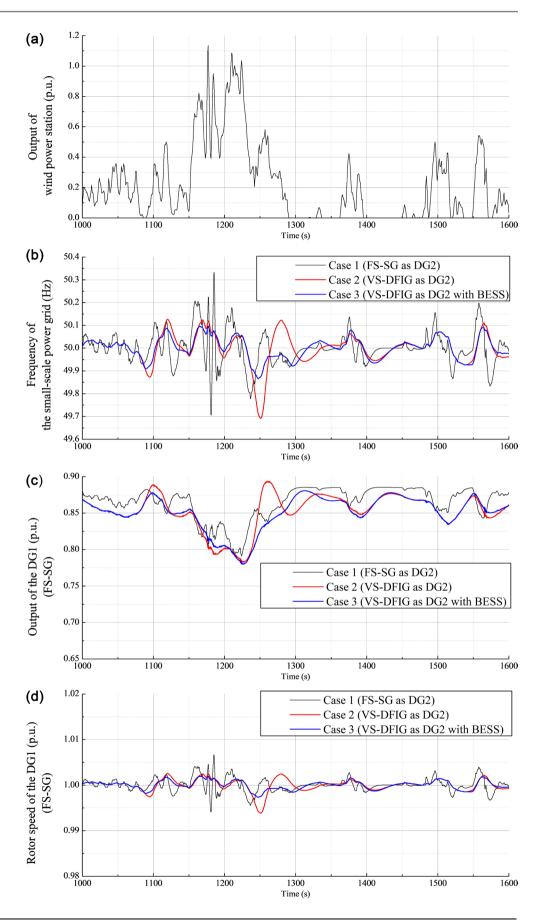


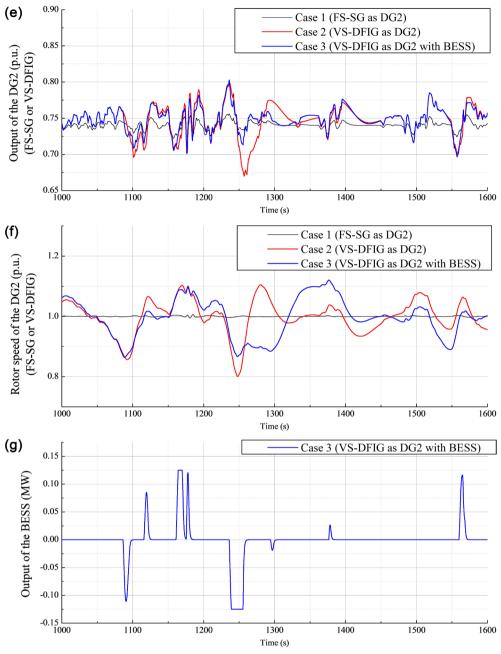
Figure 10. Maximum deviation of the grid frequency.

seen that the maximum and minimum deviations of the system frequency can also be controlled in Case 2 and Case 3 much better than Case 1.

Though the proposed VS-DFIG can provide the significant contribution to the frequency control, the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) assistance can provide further improvement. When the power system frequency deviation exceeds  $\pm$  0.075 Hz (it is the preset threshold in this study), then the BESS is activated to control its output according to **Figure 6**. It is clear from **Table 4** and **Table 5**, and **Figure 9** and **Figure 10** that the BESS control system shown in **Figure 5** has sufficient ability in assisting the VS-DFIG to suppress the system frequency fluctuations.

**Figure 11** shows time-domain responses (enlarged graphs for 10 minutes including the parts with large fluctuations) of the 3 cases under Profile No.1. As a result, the VS-DFIG can suppress effectively the frequency fluctuations compared to the case of the conventional synchronous generator while the oscillations of its prime mover torque are relatively large. When power compensation by the BESS





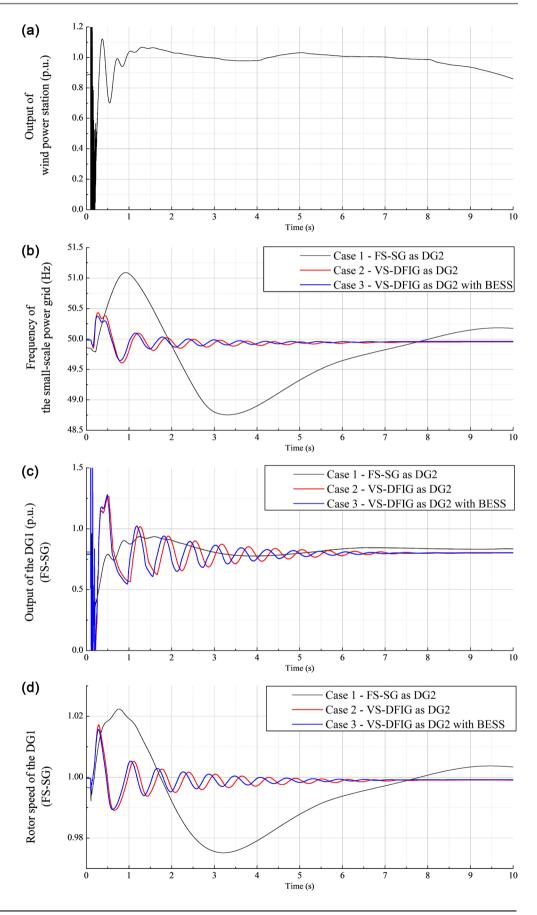
(DG1 is FS-SG in all cases.)

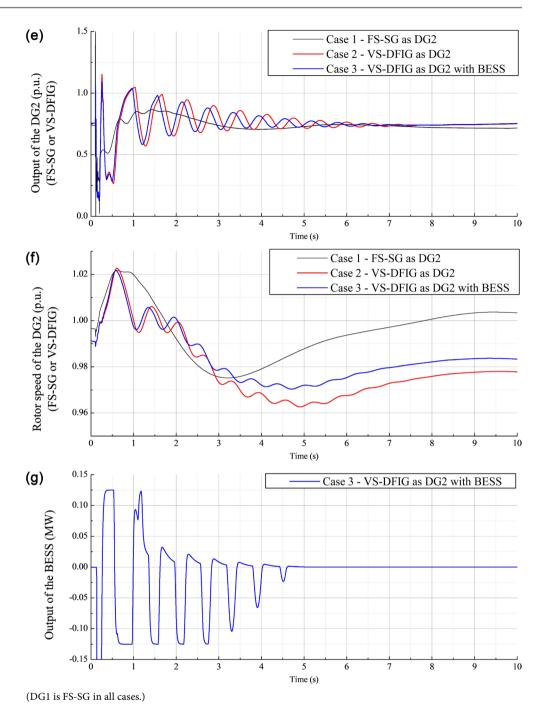
**Figure 11.** Responses of the power grid for 3 cases under Profile No.1. (a) Output of the wind power station. (b) Frequency of the small-scale power grid. (c) Output of the DG1 (FS-SG). (d) Rotor speed of the DG1 (FS-SG). (e) Output of the DG2 (FS-SG or VS-DFIG). (f) Rotor speed of the DG2 (FS-SG or VS-DFIG). (g) Output of the BESS.

is added, however, the torque oscillations as well as the system frequency fluctuations can be controlled effectively.

# 4.3. Simulation Result 2—Transient Stability Enhancement under a Fault Condition at the Grid

Responses of the grid when a three-phase grounded fault (3LG) was occurred at





**Figure 12.** Responses of the power grid for 3 cases under grid fault. (a) Output of the wind power station. (b) Frequency of the small-scale power grid. (c) Output of the DG1 (FS-SG). (d) Rotor speed of the DG1 (FS-SG). (e) Output of the DG2 (FS-SG or VS-DFIG). (f) Rotor speed of the DG2 (FS-SG or VS-DFIG). (g) Output of the BESS.

the point shown in Figure 1 are simulated. Figure 12 shows time-domain responses under 3LG grid fault. In the case of grid fault, the system frequency fluctuates rapidly and widely due to loss of a power balance. As shown in Figure 12(b), the system frequency varies greatly in the case that DG1 and DG2 are both FS-SG. In contrast, in the case that DG2 is VS-DFIG, this generator regu-

lates quickly its power and then the frequency fluctuations can be suppressed effectively. Moreover, the BESS can also contribute to stabilize the frequency fluctuations. As a result, it is concluded that the proposed power control by VS-DFIG of the small-scale power grid is also greatly effective for a large disturbance in the grid.

#### 5. Conclusions

In this paper, the variable speed diesel generator is proposed to control the grid frequency fluctuations of a small-scale power grid and its performance is evaluated through simulation analyses. In addition to the variable speed diesel generator, BESS is also proposed to assist the frequency control of the variable speed diesel generator.

It is shown from the simulation results that the proposed variable speed diesel generator can control the frequency fluctuations of a small-scale power grid effectively, and further control ability can be obtained by introducing the BESS assistance. Therefore, it can be concluded that wind power installation in an isolated small-scale power grid like a small island can be increased by introducing the proposed cooperative control of VS-DFIG based variable speed diesel power plant and BESS.

Though the proposed system can contribute to increase wind power installation into a small-scale power grid as mentioned above, there are some issues to enhance the performance of the proposed system. For example, stability of the system frequency of a small-scale power grid is depending on parameters of controllers of the VS-DFIG and BESS. There is a possibility for these parameters to be improved more. In addition, the performance of the system against other wind and grid system conditions should be analyzed in order for the system to be effective in any of the conditions. Further improvement of the control systems is undergoing in order to maximize the penetration level of the renewable energy sources into a small-scale power grid which has various types of grid construction and various types of wind and load conditions.

# **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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