

Announcement: SCI 2016 Order of Excellence Awardees

In 1995 SCI established a permanent **Solar Cookers International Order of Excellence** to recognize individuals whose sustained efforts have contributed most to empowering people to cook food and pasteurize water with solar energy.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, the SCI Board of Directors is proud to bestow the 2016 Order of Excellence on the members of the Indian Organizing Committee of the 6th SCI World Conference, held at Muni Seva Ashram in Gujarat, India. With their diligence and hard work, they secured an excellent venue, organized logistics, promoted the conference in their networks and the media, and recruited dozens of volunteers to create an outstanding, high-quality event to amplify solar cooking results worldwide.

SCI recognizes new Order of Excellence Awardees Mr. Deepak Gadhia, Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan (Conference Secretary), Dr. Ajay Chandak, and Mr. Ghanshyam Lukhi.

More than 200 members of the global solar cooking community benefited by participating in the event. Impacts from seeds planted at this conference will yield results for solar cooking for years. Some previous recipients of the SCI Order of Excellence include inventors of the solar box cooker – Barbara Kerr and Sherry Cole (1995), SCI founder – Dr. Robert Metcalf (1997), and researcher and refugee project innovator Dr. Barbara Knudson (2005). To see the complete list of SCI Order of Excellence awardees, [click here](#). Thanks to Mr. Gadhia, Dr. McGilligan, Dr. Chandak, and Mr. Lukhi for their significant contributions to the momentum of the solar cooking movement.



L to R: Mr. Ghanshyam Lukhi, Mr. Deepak Gadhia (SCI Global Advisor), Dr. Ajay Chandak (SCI Global Advisor), Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan (Conference Secretary and SCI Global Advisor).

American Solar Energy Society (ASES) SOLAR 2017 Conference

9-12 October 2017

University of Colorado, Denver

Denver, Colorado USA

ASES SOLAR 2017 - Call for Participation –

Deadline for submission: 1 April 2017

SCI partner ASES will offer a Solar Thermal Cooking Track. Paper and Abstract topics may include technical presentations, advocacy, sustainable development, refugee applications, policy, and behavior change. Applications for the North American context are encouraged. Accepted papers will be peer-reviewed and published in the ASES conference proceedings. Presenters may submit an abstract without submission of a full paper. Papers and abstracts submitted after 1 April will not be considered. Travel funds are not available. Presenters and students will receive a discount on registration fees, but registration fees will not be waived. Visa letters will be available upon request. Technology demonstration opportunities will be available, weather permitting. Go to [SOLAR 2017](http://SOLAR2017) for more information. For questions, contact solar2017@ases.org.

World Health Organization survey recognizes the importance of solar cooking

The World Health Organization's (WHO) new Household Energy Use Survey includes solar cookers as a selected cooking technology option, thanks to advocacy efforts by SCI and partners. Many countries will use this survey to track progress on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and for the first time, solar cooker use will be counted.

The WHO is the custodial agency for portions of SDG 7, ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. This survey will be incorporated in national censuses. Survey results, combined with results from SCI's Solar Cooking Adoption and Impact Survey, will help SCI track solar cooker use and locations.

This survey effort is part of a growing partnership between the WHO and SCI. SCI will then provide the data to its United Nations partners. Why is this important? Data tells the story of the world's needs so that countries can address them. In this way, nation leaders will see the positive impact solar cooking can have on their people's health, economic development, and their environment.

Education

Winrock & U.S. EPA Cook Stoves & Indoor Air Webinar

16 March, 2017

14:00 – 15:30 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)/Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

This free webinar will demonstrate how improved cookstoves in three productive use applications is improving livelihoods, increasing quality of commercial

products and reducing environmental degradation in Africa. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Welcome to SCI's new Organizational Associate: The American Solar Energy Society (ASES)

A new level of the SCI Association was launched at the 6th SCI World Conference 2017 for organizations. Benefits include increased recognition and networking opportunities. [Learn more and join here.](#)

Solar Cooking Challenge at the Uttarakhand Renewable Development Agency

Uttarakhand Renewable Development Agency (UREDA), Dehradun, India organized a solar cooking challenge for their staff, on 10 January 2017. SCI staff member Hemangi Rawat was invited to participate as a judge. The competition was held in UREDA's own solar energy park to demonstrate the diverse functionality and benefits of solar cooking, using the zero emission clean energy technology of parabolic dish cookers. Five divisional UREDA teams, with approximately 20 employees enthusiastically participated in this competition. Participating teams solar cooked nutritious Indian dishes like Rajma (Kidney beans), rice, vegetable rice biryani, rice kheer (Indian rice pudding), and even roasted papads (lentil wafers). Teams also demonstrated the usage of traditional sauce pans and pressure cookers to solar cook the food. This dish type solar cooker can cook food for 12-15 people at a time and saves electricity equivalent to 600 watts. UREDA director Jyoti Khairwal, and senior management officials also arranged for judges and prizes to make this friendly competition a truly meaningful experience for the staff. Dr. A.J.Singh, deputy chief project officer said "UREDA continues to look for innovative ways to raise community awareness on the benefits of solar cooking".



UREDA staff member solar cooking Photo: H. Rawat 2017

SCI Associate promotes solar cooking in India

Mr. Kedar Mehta volunteered his technical skills and became a SCI Associate during the SCIWC 2017. After the Conference, Mr. Mehta delivered a seminar on concentrating solar technologies at one of the reputed universities in Rajkot. "About 150 mechanical engineers were very curious about solar cooking...I mentioned the mission and vision of SCI." Solar cooking adoption spreads because of committed partners like Kedar.



SCI Associate Mr. Kedar Mehta teaches 150 engineers about concentrating solar technologies

Please submit articles for the *SCI Digest* to info@solarcookers.org.

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Solar Cookers International is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization leading global advocacy for the solar cooking sector.

To learn more, visit www.solarcookers.org

SCI Digest Editors: Ms. Julie Greene, Executive Director; Ms. Svetlana Hristova, Outreach Associate, Solar Cookers International





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