

In this volume...

- Educational Opportunities
- A Few Reflections on Voluntary National Reports (VNRs)
- Evidence: The power of standards
- Hot off the press! SCI's Annual Report for fiscal year 2017
- News from SCI Associates
- Call for Proposals
- Events
- Travel Scholarships
- Award Opportunity

Educational Opportunities



The poster features a background image of two large solar cookers in a field. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, the word 'WEBINAR' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the title 'Solar cooker performance evaluation' is in a smaller, dark blue font. The date '03 AUG 17' is prominently displayed in large, bold, dark blue letters, with the time '20.00-21.30 GMT' in a smaller font below it. At the bottom left is the SCI logo, and at the bottom right is the ISES logo.

WEBINAR

Solar cooker performance evaluation

03 AUG 17
20.00-21.30 GMT

SCI
SOLAR COOKERS
INTERNATIONAL

ISES
International
Solar Energy Society

Webinar: Solar cooker performance evaluation

Thursday, 3 August 2017 20:00-21:30 GMT

[Click here to register.](#)

This webinar is organized by the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) together with Solar Cookers International.

The solar cooking sector has expressed the need for an independent, international organization to develop the capacity for testing solar cookers. Solar Cookers International (SCI) responded to this need by developing the SCI performance evaluation process (PEP) for solar cookers. SCI has also designed and built open-source, low-cost, portable PEP testing stations that apply the ASAE S580.1 protocol for Testing and Reporting Solar Cooker Performance. This webinar will focus on how solar cooker evaluations can: 1) provide users with information they need to select the appropriate device for their needs, and 2) hold manufacturers to a public accountability standard. [Click here to register.](#)

Panelists:

Julie Greene, Executive Director, SCI
Dr. Paul Funk, creator of ASAE S580.1 protocol and former SCI board member
Dr. Alan Bigelow, Science Director, SCI
Anne Patterson, Founder and CEO of Solavore.

[Read about the solar cooker performance webinar here.](#)
[Click here to register.](#)



Webinar: Solar cooking in Latin America – series in Spanish

Tuesday (Martes), 22 August 2017

11 am CDT (Mexico City)

Registration details will be announced soon.

SCI is partnering with 6th SCI World Conference 2017 presenters and travel fund recipients to offer the webinar series with several pioneering Latin American solar cooking organizations. The next one scheduled is:

- Sazón del Sol and Solar Mexico in the webinar "Solar food processing in Mexico"

Las sesiones contarán con la participación de diversas organizaciones pioneras en cocción solar dentro de Latinoamérica:

- La Sazón del Sol y Cocina Solar México en el webinar “Procesamiento solar de alimentos en México”

Webinar: How to Promote Integrated Solar Cooking as a Social Business: Two Examples of Success from Africa

Wednesday, 30 August 2017

12:00-13:00 (Pacific Time)/ 21:00-22:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time)

[Click here to register.](#)

Previous experiences have shown the lasting gain of Integrated Solar Cooking (ISC) as a development aid/charity project in Africa was often below expectations. Therefore, Solar Cooking Kozon (merged from Solar Cooking Netherlands and Kozon) strategy now is to promote ISC social businesses, offering support in ISC business startup financing and skills training. Organizations or individuals that submit a project proposal to Solar Cooking Kozon must prepare a business plan, showing how they expect to become financially (almost) independent after two to three years of financial support.

Two examples of successfully growing ISC businesses in Africa will be presented: Togo Tile in Mali and the Solar Connect Association in Uganda. Both small ISC companies are successfully expanding due to the drive and skills of the entrepreneurs themselves, facilitated and reinforced by Solar Cooking Kozon's support.

[Click here to register.](#)

SCI Associate Mukasa Kawesa and his team with certificates after receiving training (sponsored by Solar Cooking Kozon) on communication and marketing skills to increase efficiency in the field when marketing to rural people, their core customers. These tips, and many others, will be shared during the upcoming webinar.



Solar Connect Association staff including Mr. Theo Sinke and Mr. Kawesa Mukasa (front row, left side)

A recording of the webinar will be available to Solar Cookers International Associates. [Click here to learn more about and join the SCI Association.](#)

Webinar: Solar Cooking Sector Updates

Thursday, 21 September 2017

8:00-9:00 am (Pacific Time)/ 15:00-16:00 GMT

[Click here to register.](#)

Click here to [be the Webinar Sponsor.](#)

Refugee Working Group Call

Thursday, 21 September 2017

9:00-10:00 am (Pacific Time)/ 16:00-17:00 GMT

[Please register for the Solar Cooking Sector Updates webinar immediately before.](#)

Empower hundreds and gain visibility by becoming a [SCI Webinar Sponsor](#).

Contact info@solarcookers.org.

Empower hundreds and gain visibility by becoming a [SCI Webinar Sponsor](#).

Contact info@solarcookers.org.



Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan at the UN

Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan at the UN High Level Political Forum, July 2017

[Watch](#) how she explains solar cooking in the context of the SDGs. Solar cooking helps achieve all 17 SDGs. Thanks to Dr. Alan Bigelow, SCI's science director, for filming this solar cooking United Nations moment.

A Few Reflections on Voluntary National Reports (VNRs)

-Editorial by P. A. Gallett, SCI representative to the United Nations, submitted after participating in the High Level Political Forum

So similar are many of the VNRs that I am almost persuaded by now that there is a template passed around to the reporting countries, containing stock phrases such as “fully committed”, along with references to three levels of government involvement (national, regional and municipal), assurances of integration of the 2030 agenda in national budget, legislation, etc. , along with various other similarities of

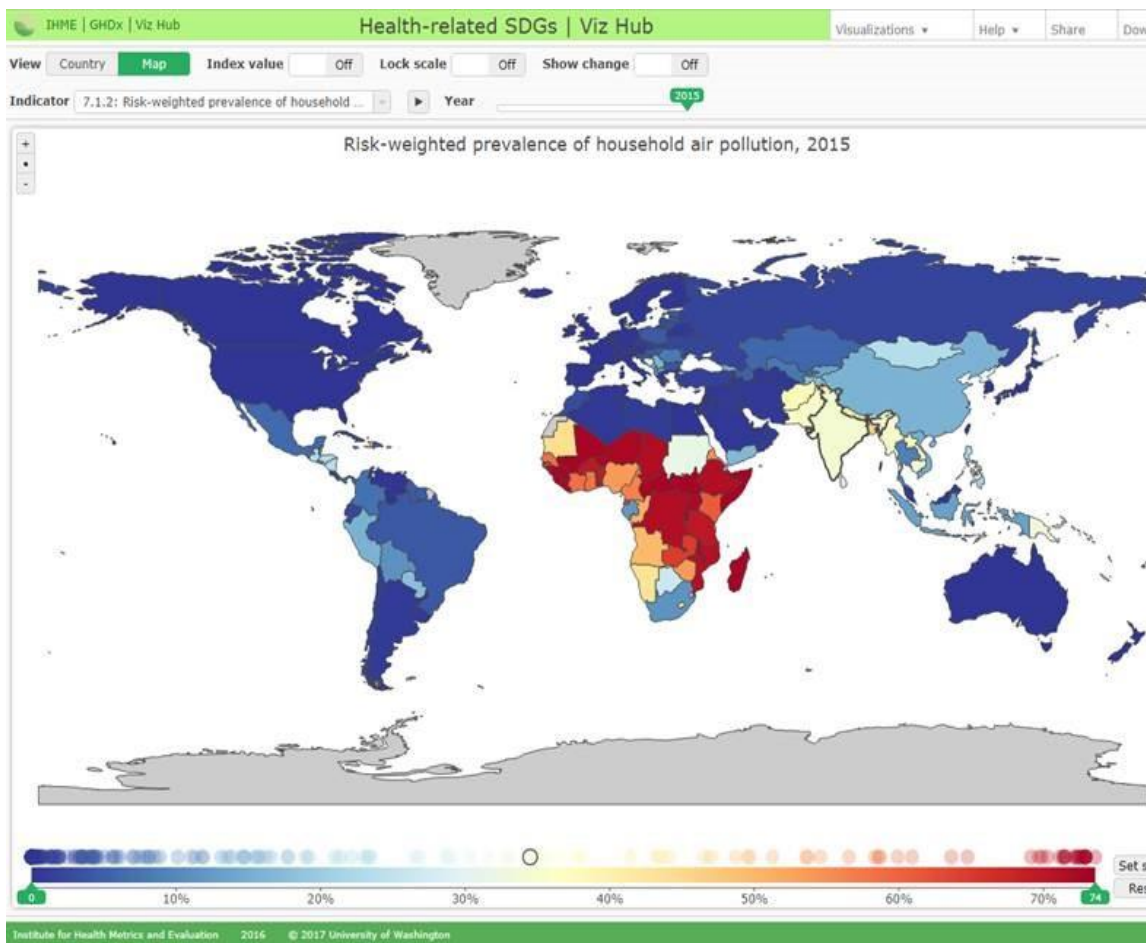
form and content. Stir in statistics on GDP, poverty, and the changes of each. Then serve. Or, perhaps, some of the authors of these reports skillfully described and supplied what was expected of them.

This is in no way a disparagement of the honorable members or the lofty aims they declare in these sessions, but rather a call to reason and practicality. We have to look beyond the professions of high purpose couched in polished catch-phrases, and consider the ambient circumstances of the country presenting. Some of the speakers made it clear with nary a blush that the implementation of their goals depended on “development partners” in the international community. One went so far as to rely on “... establishing *long term* relationships with donors ...” (emphasis added). Neither humility nor regret was evinced in any such report..

Obviously, these countries’ compliances are tottering on a rickety structure, as they depend on the abiding goodwill of a fickle future...

Some of the presenting countries today had no data collection/management system in place., though most or all professed value for such. It seems a mite vacuous to assure dedication to the fulfillment of promises for which there are no means of measuring, evaluating and accurately reporting that progress. Again, this is not a criticism, but a call to reason.

Evidence: The power of standards



Track your country's progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the prevalence of household air pollution (7.1.2).

The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation offers this interactive map at <http://ihmeuw.org/45dw>. Individual country information is available by clicking on the "Country" button in the upper left corner and then selecting a country of your choice.

"Having an ISO standard [that includes] solar cooking technology will make governments take it seriously as a green energy option."

- Godfrey Mawira, World Food Programme -
Kenya

The International Organization of Standards (ISO) will meet in Kathmandu, Nepal, to make important decisions about standards for clean cookstoves (ISO/TC 285). Solar cookers come out on top: as a no-emissions cooking technology, **solar cookers get a Tier 4 rating – the highest cookstove rating.**

The standard gives preference to low-emitting stoves. Though it's obvious to the solar cooking sector that solar cookers belong in this standard, some ISO/TC participants are actively trying to exclude solar cookers from this international cookstove standard.

We need your help.

I've noticed that the Kenya's standard's body is an ISO co-secretariat member with the US. Please contact your national standards body. If you can apply for membership in that body, please do. If you succeed, you may be eligible to participate in the ISO/TC 285 meeting. You can share the evidence and results that show the many reasons why solar cookers must be included in this standard. Lowering carbon dioxide emissions is now a global goal. Solar cookers have an important role to play in drawing down emissions – and so do you.

Contact info@solarcookers.org to learn how you can play a part in reducing global emissions.
– Julie Greene, Executive Director, SCI

Hot off the press! **SCI's Annual Report for fiscal year 2017**

This what empowerment looks like.

SCI's is uploading a summary of its extraordinary fiscal year to solarcookers.org

Paper copies will be mailed to selected supporters in the weeks ahead.

If you would like extra paper copies to help spread knowledge of solar cooking to your colleagues, please email donor.relations@solarcookers.org.

News from SCI Associates

Solar cooking on Navajo nation featured in new book

Pat McArdle's work teaching solar cooking in the Navajo Nation is represented by a photo included in Al Gore's newly released book, *An Inconvenient Sequel – Truth to Power*. A former board member of both Solar Household Energy and Solar Cookers International, McArdle has inspired an entire generation of solar cooker designers, trainers, and advocates. McArdle's novel, *Farishta*, featured solar cooking as an important plot point. This publication of her photo is an additional, welcomed opportunity to introduce solar cooking to the global audience.

School solar cookers save energy and emissions in Costa Rica



These solar box cookers have heated lunches for Costa Rican students for twelve years, minimizing the need for microwave ovens at the school and reducing the use of electricity. These were built using Prof. Shyam Nandwani's design and technical input. Photo: S. Nandwani, 2013.

Report on the County Innovation (Council of Governors-CoG) forum held in Kenya in mid-June 2017

Submitted by Godfrey Mawira



Photos: G. Mawira 2017

We discussed and highlighted on how innovators and social entrepreneurs could help counties in Kenya spur sustainable innovations. There are innovation centers being created across the country to foster innovation partnership between counties, private sectors NGOs and the national government through providing annual innovation symposiums. These serve to showcase the various innovations across counties, identify and exhibit appropriate inventions to be supported by county governments. Eco-mandate grabbed the chance to showcase sustainable energy developments in solar cooking, and how we're undertaking research in green energy and promoting adoption of solar cooking among refugees and rural communities. We show-cased solar cookers and solar dehydrators.

Many officials from different counties were quite impressed, and convinced that Eco-mandate is helping societies move a step forward in realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And btw I sold a number of solar cookers.

My clarion call to everyone, especially the government was on development of positive policy framework for solar cooking; that Kenya has an enormous solar fuel potential and that with our plentiful sun, huge demand among refugees and rural communities means that the country is already an ideal place for successful solar cooking initiatives. I mentioned my biggest challenges faced so far were with regard to taxation. I've had to contend with KRA officials demanding hefty taxation (almost 30%) for cooker materials I imported recently from the US.

- Eco-mandate is now receiving many calls, invitations to exhibitions and conferences to showcase solar cooking.
- Our challenge is lack of capital to set-up solar cooker assembling centers, but with zeal and determination, and some little support we'll overcome that.

The discussions in other thematic groups held that social enterprise and innovators should be registered and entered into *maarifa* (knowledge) centers database- an initiative of CoGs. Also, extension services are needed to support implementation of policies on innovation, and lastly financial incentives and incubation services would be paramount to spur innovations across the country.

Call for Proposals



Reminder: ENEA Access 2nd Call for Projects 2017

ENEa has created the pro-bono ENEa Access Program as part of its business model in a committed effort to contribute to access to energy in developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. This program aims to support social entrepreneurs and development organizations who work on the field to improve energy access.

[Read about the 2nd Call for Proposals here.](#)

Deadline: 31 July 2017

Events

Solar 2017, American Solar Energy Society (ASES)

Solar Cooking Track **SCI attending - confirmed*

Denver, Colorado USA

9 – 12 October 2017

Social Capital Markets (SOCAP) **SCI attending - confirmed*

San Francisco, California USA

10 – 13 October 2017

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves - Clean Cooking Forum **SCI attending - confirmed*

New Delhi, India

24 - 28 October 2017

Solar World Congress 2017, International Solar Energy Society (ISES)

Jumeirah Hotel, Etihad Towers

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

29 Oct - 2 Nov 2017

International Organization of Standards (ISO)/TC 285 **SCI attending - confirmed*
Kathmandu, Nepal
30 October – 03 November 2017

UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) **SCI attending - confirmed*
Bonn, Germany
6 - 17 November 2017

CONSOLFOOD2018 - Advances in Solar Thermal Food Processing
Instituto Superior de Engenharia, Universidade do Algarve, Campus da Penha
Faro, Portugal
22 - 24 January 2018

Second round call for abstracts: Deadline 30 September 2017

Submit to the organizers (Celestino Ruivo: cruivo@ualg.pt and Bernhard Müller: bs_mueller@gmx.net).
Oral sessions, keynote lectures, a round table discussion, and poster sessions are being planned.
For more information, see the conference website www.consolfood.org

Travel Scholarships

[Applications for travel scholarships from the Global Alliance for the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Forum, New Delhi, India, October 2017 are now available from the Global Alliance.](#)

The deadline for applications is 1 August 2017.

Please direct travel scholarship questions to forum@cleancookstoves.org.

Award Opportunity

The Dubai Municipality and UN-Habitat invite submissions to the 2017 Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment.

This is an opportunity to highlight effective interventions that are in line with the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 – to make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The award is open to all the different actors to show case their most effective interventions. Awards range from 15,000 to 30,000 USD.

The Dubai International Award recognizes significant contributions which:

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people's quality of life
- Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable

Deadline: 31 August 2017

To register and submit an application, please visit <http://www.dubaiaward.ae>. To learn more about the Dubai International Award visit our webpage unhabitat.org/dubai-award/. All applications must be submitted online. If you have questions, please contact best.practices@unhabitat.org.

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

Consider a special gift to SCI in 2017.

Honor someone with a gift [today](#).

US Tax ID # 68-0153141

(Not the kind of email you wish to receive? Express your preferences [here](#))

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 Editor: Ms. Julie Greene, Executive Director, Solar Cookers International

Assistant Editor: Mr. Jeron Lawson, Administration Assistant, Solar Cookers International



[Manage Subscription](#)