

Welcome,

The second half of 2006 has proven to be very exciting for the solar cooking community. First was the successful world Solar Cooking conference in Granada, Spain followed by the premiere of the solar cooking film, *SUNCOOKERS* in famous festivals. Next, recognition Awards to SCI and to individuals promoting solar cooking in the world. At the project and country level, awareness is growing and positive action is on the rise in development agencies and government departments. This news and more is featured in this issue of SuNews. Please read on.....

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WREC 2006 AWARDS AND MORE..

1X WORLD RENEWABLE ENERGY CONGRESS HONORS THE WORK OF SOLAR COOKERS INTERNATIONAL!

From its establishment in 1987, SCI recently heard great news from WREC Award organisers.

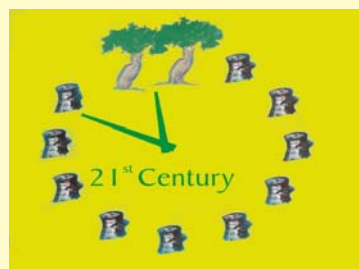
Their mission is to single out the renewable energy research and industry's **star performers**, as well as public policy makers, highlighting best practices, research and policy success stories, corporate achievements, the strongest individual efforts, and **the most compelling community supporters**.

"You have been selected for this award because of your dedication to promoting renewable energy in Africa. Helping the people of Africa move away from a dependence on firewood towards using renewable energy is helping to protect their environment and increasing the quality of women's lives," writes Scott Haapala, award committee program officer.



Patrick Widner & Faustine Odaba

To finally receive broad peer recognition of their achievements in Africa was sweet music to SCI. Mr. Patrick Widner, Executive Director of SCI, and Ms. Faustine Odaba (EARO Field-Assitant) traveled to Florence, Italy last August to receive the Award.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Gender and Energy training – Nakuru Oct. 06
- TOT – Kajiado and Kadibo - Nov 06
- Commercialization training – Addis – November 06
- 50th Anniversary Celebrations Tetra Pak (EA) – Nov 06
- Global grass root women's conference in Bondo 1- 4th Dec 2006
- World Social Congress Jan 2007 – Nairobi, Kenya

MORE

ASES, American Solar Energy Society recently honoured Ms. Barbara Kerr, who was featured in the last issue of SuNews. She was awarded the **Women in Solar Energy Award 2006** for her significant contribution to the acceptance and advancement of women in Solar Energy. She was also recognized as a founder of the solar cooking movement. **BRAVO Barbara, soldier on!**

AND MORE.....

Bev Blum - founder and twice Director of Solar Cookers International, was honoured at the Solar Cooking Conference in Granada, Spain and also during the 2006 Shine On event in Sacramento, CA.

SCI (East Africa) also honour the retiring Director for her foresight in selecting Kenya as the location for SCI's Community Projects. We wish her well in her future endeavours.



Mama Bev,
Kwaheri ya kuonana, hope to see you again, in East Africa.

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MAAJABU – MAGIC – MIRACLE – CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I smile as I write these words, and remember my officers' smiles as women, demonstrating how the sun can cook delicious foods, burst out in laughter and some in song! Whispers continue:

"How can this be – cooking without fire?"
(Attempting to touch) "Is this paper / this carton hot?"
"Can this paper really cook?"
"Is it really cooking?"
"No – I can't believe until I taste the food."

These whispers are now common both in Kajiado and Kadibo where awareness is being created through public demonstrations. True to their words, some stay on until they have tasted the food, taking a doubtful bite, a tiny bit on the finger tips, chewing it with the front teeth ready to spit it out just in case. In the meantime others are looking on with much curiosity. Soon the look in the face begins to change, the head begins to nod in affirmation, then the mouth utters the words, "It is cooked....." Before he can finish, other hands stretch out for a taste:

Yes it is cooked!
It is so nice, can I have another piece?
It is so good you can eat it without stew! (Referring to solar ugali.)
The meat is so well done – am still wondering how we never thought of this before.



SOLAR COOKS IN KAJIADO

Others of course prefer to get a little "sun shock;" we let them touch the hot lid with their fingertips and ...you can guess the reaction...faster than lightening the hand draws back, right into the mouth, or into the other hand:



A WOMEN'S GROUP IN KADIBO

It is hot!
Oh yes it can cook!

Now no one wants to try again and no doubts remain. Before they leave, the next question is always:

Where can we get them? How much does one cost?

SCI (EARO) is fully prepared, the two supervisors each have volunteers who work with them. Kadibo and Kajiado are planning a TOT later in November to enable them spread awareness more quickly. Business people in nearby markets have been contacted and 4 of them are willing to stock the cookers alongside their other merchandise.

Orinie TBA, Majaliwa, Nadumu and Oloika in Kajiado are groups already honing their solar cooking skills with trial CookKits, just as Mihinjo, Osiepe, Pamba ler, Michiki, and Usafi women's groups are in the Kadibo area.

SOLAR COOKING AND FOOD PROCESSING CONFERENCE, GRANADA

July 2006: With the sun blazing and temperatures soaring to a record 44 degrees Celsius, the Italian city of Granada was a melting pot! 200 delegates from all over the world congregated at the Palacio de Exposiciones Congressos to share ideas, technologies, and experience while their lunches were solar-cooked on top of the building.

Many ideas were brought to the table. Some were striking, such as using concentrator-cookers to cremate bodies in India, and date preservation in Arabia. Technologies like the powerful, elegant parabolas from Japan, and the simple, practical OYWA Cookkit, were also outstanding. Ideas about education, health, advocacy, promotion, commercialization and financing were abundant. The beauty of it all was the common factor – solar cookers. One of the most important outcomes of this conference was the formation of the Solar Cookers International Association aimed at



Delegates

representing solar cookers through a unified voice and creating regional networks to increase awareness and access to solar cookers worldwide.

A regional network for Africa was initiated and the steering committee made up of SCI(EA), Sunfire Solutions (SAfrica) was agreed upon.

The crown of it all was a day-long demonstration of solar cooking at Granada's Parque de las Ciencias Museum. Solar cookers of all shapes and sizes were displayed and used to cook delicious pizzas, cakes, desserts, hot Indian rice, roast beef, doughnuts, vegetables, and lentils. You name it, everything was there, including water pasteurization and popcorn in an African pot by Kawessa Mukasa.

It was a wonderful day with everyone adorning wide hats and sunglasses, and tasting foods here and there as the sun set. We concluded by honoring those who have dedicated their lives to promoting solar cookers – such as the founder/ director of SCI – Beverly Blum.

PICTURE GALORE



Klaartje Cuyckens, Belgium-Learning solar cooking in Nyakach



Margaret teaching grade 3-5 students in New York



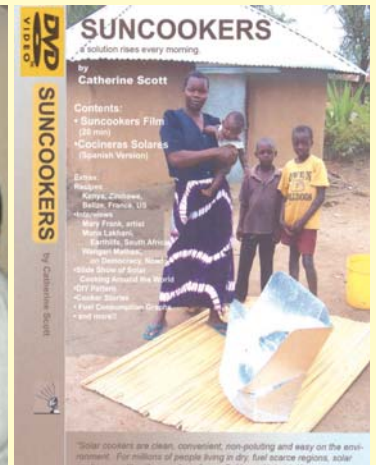
Roasting the Spanish Bull!



Solar cooker trainers in Lokichoggio



Margaret at an Independent Radio station in New York



Sigor women's group solar cooks



Alicen Chelaite & Orié Rogo encounters the Cookit on Gender Day-Egerton



An aerial view of solar day cooking in Granada

A BRILLIANT SOLUTION 1,800 TIMES OVER!

Having bought and used her own CookKit, Ms. Gloria Ababu, the ADP Katito working for World Vision International, was convinced that the CookKit would alleviate the suffering of children in her lower Nyakach programme. Her conviction was affirmed when she bought one for her mother, who lives with school-going grandchildren in Vihiga. Her mother testified to the ease of providing hot lunches for her grandchildren while simultaneously doing other things, like farming.



Dinah hand's over 1,800 Cookkits to K'okal a partner with WVI

Ababu noted that the children in her programme were often late returning for afternoon lessons due to the time they spent gathering kindling to prepare fire for cooking. The CookKit was an answer to those concerns.

In addition, Ababu saw the CookKit as a tool that would free up children's time to do homework in the evening, whereas normally they would spend that time collecting sticks to cook dinner. Further, there was a need to let children be children, to let them have a little playtime and experience life beyond work.

It was noted that the concern for children would have an enormous ripple effect on the community. There would be fewer cases of waterborne disease, fewer fire accidents, less exposure to smoke, and less respiratory disease, (which often keeps children out of school). Meanwhile, fewer trees would be used, enhancing environmental conservation, producing more fertile soils and rain, and boosting the community's food security.

All these considerations finally led Ababu to place an order for 1,800 CookKit sets, complete with painted pots and lids. Ooh, la la... what a breakthrough for Sunny Solutions, what a gift to vulnerable families! The WVI purchase served the purpose for which it was meant, and in addition, boosted the image of the Solar Cooker shops as they became mini factories, employing community youth to assist. The shops were awash with activity as hundreds of CookKits piled up. The SCOREPS in the project also made good earnings as some took home close to Kshs7,000/= almost 100 USD! You can only imagine how many families

benefited from this activity, and how many more will, simply by using the gift regularly! The CookKit is certainly a Sunny Solution, as WVI has realized. Many other groups are now encouraged to try it out, both within and outside the project area.

There are still many more children and other vulnerable groups who are in need, and now you too can do something. This Christmas, give a shiny brilliant gift: give them sunlight!

**Donate a solar cooking set to a family for only Kshs1,500/= or \$20
What a lasting gift this season!**

FROM "WASTE" TO LIFE SAVING TECHNOLOGY!

As you approach the SCI (EA) office, the entrance is almost blocked with rolls of shiny and coloured "waste" materials from Tetra Pak Eastern Africa. These are gifts which, with a little food based glue and a 3 x 4ft piece of cardboard, make wonderful solar cookers called CookKits.

For the last two years, Tetra Pak (EA) has not only enabled this tool to be made on site by women, but has also indirectly spurred enterprise development, because the gift has made the solar CookKit more affordable to those who really need it.

- One solar CookKit saves 2 tons of trees in a year!
- One solar CookKit saves 1/3 of a poor family's income that would have otherwise been used to buy firewood and charcoal.
- One solar CookKit cooks for a family of 6-8, in a smoke free, cough free, clean environment!
- One solar CookKit frees up the cook's time and enables her/him to engage in more gainful activities.
- One solar CookKit boils, roasts, bastes, steams, and stews all your favourite foods nutritiously.
- One solar CookKit pasteurizes your drinking water, enhancing family health
- One solar CookKit reduces the risks of fire accidents
- One solar CookKit is a **true solution** when the sun is shining – as it has for generations in east Africa!

And the **BEST** part is that **Tetra Pak (EA)** is part of this solution. Solar Cookers International appreciates Tetra Pak's generous gift. With this gift we are able to make affordable CookKits, and the women who make and sell them are able to realize a reasonable profit. As we all know, every cent counts!

BRAVO Tetra Pak (EA) and congratulations on your 50th Anniversary – we are proud to partner with you! (SCI – EA).



Tetra Pak 'waste' and a Cookkit made from it

NEWS BITS

WOODSTOCK FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES **SUNCOOKERS**

SUNCOOKERS was among 70 short films featured during this year's Woodstock film festival, in Woodstock, Rhinebeck, Rosendale and Hunter between October 11 – 15th. The film, produced by Cathy Scott and initiated by DeeDee Halleck and Mary Frank, is a 20 minute educational and inspiring piece regarding the potential life changing impacts of solar cooking in sun-rich, fuel-scarce regions of East Africa.

What inspired DeeDee?

"There are so many stories of gloom and doom; we need to have a few positive ones. What especially interested me is that this is very much a project that benefits women. Ever since Mary Frank showed me the 'CookKit' [a 3-by-4-foot piece of cardboard

lined with aluminum foil], I thought about making a film about the whole process."

SUNCOOKERS premiered in New York, on September 21st, 2006. Present were Mary Frank, the executive producer DeeDee Halluck, SCI UN advocate AJ Lidermann, and many other well wishers. SCI was represented by Mr. Patrick Widner, the Executive Director and Mrs. Margaret Owino – Africa Office Director.

Comments: This is a good product that we can use to tell our story and raise friends and funds to sustain and expand efforts already on the ground!

This film will be available for institutions soon, from the regional office, Nairobi

Somalia

It has been reported that SUNFIRE COOKERS are getting very popular in Somalia as they can even cook INJERA, the local flat bread. Check this out at www.sunfirecooking.com

Burundi

Della and Gerry Rockhill, from Free Methodist Church WA, USA, recently held four solar cooking workshops in Bunjumbura. She reports that the workshops were appreciated and the people were excited as they ate solar cooked foods for the first time in their lives.

A young pastor who joined the workshop on his own volition, made a Cookit and a commitment to spread the idea of solar cooking to young men in Burundi.

GREATER AWARENESS

Giraffe Center.....

SCI (EA) participated as facilitators in a recent workshop held for teachers from North Eastern and North Western Kenya, areas with abundant sunshine. The topic of discussion was Sustainable Energy Use. The Regional Director discussed theories of Renewable energy and talked specifically about the use of solar cookers.

The ten teachers were given hand outs, taken through a solar cooking demonstration, and finally offered a dessert of solar-baked cake at the Giraffe Center, Nairobi. At the end of the talk, each was given a gift of a solar Cookit, 4 plastic bags, and an instruction booklet.

SCI (EA), appreciates the invitation from the African Fund for Endangered Wild Life (AFEW) as it enabled us to reach teachers in remote areas of Kenya. We wish them all well in their efforts to use the abundant sun, and in setting an example for others in their communities.

Nature Kenya.....

The East Africa Natural History Society, is a membership organization that promotes the study and conservation of nature. Recently, they published a book, Learning for Sustainable Living in Kenya, aimed at enhancing the quality of education in Kenya.

The book provides information, inspiration, and practical action for youth as an investment in sustainable living among Kenyans. The chapter on renewable energy use discusses solar cooking extensively, using the QUICKIE COOKIT.

Thanks to Nature Kenya for enabling thousands of young Kenyans to know they can cook with the SUN, and that the technology is easy to make and to use

Nairobi International Trade Fair - 2006



SCI volunteers at the show

SCI (EA) participated in a week-long demonstration of solar cookers and fed hundreds of showgoers who sampled solar cooked foods for the first time in their lives. This effort was rewarding as the Ministry of Agriculture stand took first position and SCI (EA) was at the center of it all. As the show came to a close, SCI (EA) received an invitati and participated in World Food Day exhibition ,on October 16th.

Its all about the magic of solar cooking!

PACE Project

Pan African Conservation Education Project (PACE) has extensively featured solar cooking and solar water pasteurization as a practical example of what people in Africa can do to ensure sustainable use of natural resources while meeting most of their pressing needs, such as safe drinking water and cooking fuel.

The film features project officer Dinah Chienjo and Seline Osian, a solar cooker trainer and entrepreneur in the use of solar energy to cook

food and pasteurize drinking water. The film, the book, and directory are important tools for environmental education and awareness for schools and society.

Gracias to all involved in this project. SCI (EA) is greatly honoured to be part of this great cause. On 24th October 2006, SCI(EA) participated in the launch of this educative film and the opening of Malewa Conservation education centre- in Gilgil, by giving a solar cooking demonstration.

LOKI STEPS UP AS ITALIAN EMBASSY INITIATES SOLAR COOKING IN WEI WEI VALLEY – SIGOR.

Recently, in between traveling to Florence to receive the WREC Award, Ms. Faustine Odaba was busy as a bee, assisting Ms. Nancy Crooks with the Lokichogio, training of trainers and setting up a shop and an eatery of solar cooked foods and also traveling to Sigor, with Mr. Oscar Ricci, to Wei wei to initiate a solar cooking trial project.

Both events were a success and the marvels of solar cooking and eventual potential benefits are the talk of the two towns. SCI (EA) is grateful to the two agencies for helping us reach even the remotest, neediest parts of Kenya with this wonderful technology – the solar Cookit.

APPRECIATION

From Uganda.....

Dear Sir/Madam,
It was very exciting reading your **SUNEWS** magazine, January -June 2006 issue, which you sent us. Thank you very much for maintaining this contact which I remember I gave to you in 2004, at the Nairobi International show.

The cookit wonders you have explained in the magazine, will surely transform the lives especially of the rural folk who are greatly escalating environmental degradation in the whole of our East African region.

Uganda is no exception in this fuel crisis where people live in sun-rich fuel scarce regions especially in the eastern district of Soroti where I work for a membership organization (Soroti District Farmers Association - SODIFA).

Farmers are already organized into production and marketing groups. It is my interest that you let us know how best we can benefit from this technology to improve on the lives of our people and save our environment from extinction.

With kind regards,
Ejoku Samuel Peter
Coordinator /Sodifa



Virginia Callaghan,
SCI (EA)
says
Thank you !
Asante !
Gracias !
Erokamano !



The Problem.....

From Bolivia.....

Kudos to the East African Regional Office for their fine, informative and uplifting news letter. Some great pictures really tell a wonderful story. I especially liked hearing about how involvement in solar cooking education developed into empowerment economically and socially for Jenipher.

Here in Bolivia we too have had the joy of seeing women's self-esteem rise through solar cooking activities.

Every page gets better, even a great recipe for sun-browned Brownies . . . who thinks of these things!!!!
qué creativos!!!

Friends, if you haven't read the latest issue of Sunews, log on to SCI's web page and enjoy some quick reading that should stir you to proaction.
Grand job folks!

"In dreams begin our possibilities"
Shakespeare

David Whitfield (Director)
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*SCI (EA), appreciates
the efforts of all staff
and volunteers in 2006
and wishes all our do-
nors, friends ,
stakeholders,partners,
colleagues, Board
members a HAPPY 2007!*

From Mumias.....

When I got interested in solar cooking about 2 months ago, I thought it was something very, very rare and probably never heard of in Kenya... Boy was I wrong! I'm so amazed at all the different projects going on in this country and the rest of the world. You are doing a great job spreading the news.

Thank you very much for your time!

Lukas Christensen Kenyan cell: 254 726987217
Jikaze Self-Help Group
Mumias, Western Kenya
Volunteer for Danish MS Kenya

From Egerton, Njoro....

Dr. Wilson Ogola, the Chairman of the department of Industrial and Energy Engineering Department, Egerton University, reports on the Gender Awareness Day held on the 17th October 2006. The theme of the day was **"GENDER, HEALTH AND VIOLENCE"**. The department presented a paper "The potential of Women in Engineering" and an held exhibition on solar cooking using the CookIt, the guests of honour included, Hon. Alicen Chelaite – Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports and Culture and Ambassador Orié Rogo Manduli, Chairman NGO Council (Kenya). Two MSc. engineering students, Rosemary Chemeli and Alice Mutai were on hand to explain how the CookIt works.

Once again, Egerton, takes the lead amongst the institutions of higher learning in building greater awareness on the use of alternative energy technologies for basic need and the future! Hongera Egerton!

**Please send your comments,
experiences and questions to
the address below**



The Solution.....

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