October 2016

SOLTRAIN Newsletter #02

Uniting against Poverty

WITH FUNDING FROM
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

SOLTRAIN puts in a good showing at a high level, international solar conference

The **"Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini Grids to Improve Energy Access"** conference recently took place in Bad Hersfeld, Germany in the latter part of September.

The 185 experts representing 38 countries from all over the world met to present and discuss technological developments and market requirements for increasing solar deployment in developing countries.

In order to strengthen the international professional network and to present the results of SOLTRAIN, experts of the SOLTRAIN partner institutions participated at the conference at the invitation of the Austrian Development Agency.

The SOLTRAIN experts who participated at the conference

The SOLTRAIN partner countries put in a good showing with fourteen experts from all six partner countries participating at the conference. Energy advisor to SADC, Wolfgang Moser, Werner Weiss from AEE INTEC and Alexander Karner from the Austrian Development Agency also participated at the conference.

SOLTRAIN partners presented results of the joint project as well as from other solar technology-related projects that they are involved in. In all, six oral presentations and seven posters were presented by SOLTRAIN partners.

The poster presented by Anadola Tsiu (3rd from right) on **"Design, Construction and Testing of a Low-Cost Flat Plate Solar Collector"** was selected as one of the three best posters of the conference and was awarded a poster prize.

For more information visit:
http://www.solarthermalworld.org/

LESOTHO: BBCDC takes SOLTRAIN awareness campaign to the next level

SOLTRAIN's Lesotho partner, Bethel Business and Community Development Centre (BBCDC), has embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at elevating the awareness of SOLTRAIN 3 and solar thermal in general.

A print campaign appeared in the Lesotho Times in late August and SOLTRAIN was given a slot on KEL radio on Monday and Thursday nights throughout September. This slot afforded BBCDC the opportunity to explain to listeners what the SOLTRAIN 3 project is along with its aims and objectives. Listeners were in turn afforded the opportunity to ask questions about SOLTRAIN and to give comment.

In addition to print and radio, BBCDC has also printed SOLTRAIN 3 T-shirts. The T-shirts will be issued to the trainees of future SOLTRAIN workshops and to stakeholders who engage in roadmap implementation meetings. The T-shirts are co-branded with the SOLTRAIN and BBCDC logos and promote the installation of solar water heating.

SOUTH AFRICA: 2nd SOLTRAIN III workshop - implementation strategies for solar thermal

One of SOLTRAIN's South African partners, SANEDI, recently hosted their second workshop as part of SOLTRAIN phase III in Pretoria in mid-September.

The aim of the workshop was to convene a small, intensive meeting that aimed to discuss the need and potential for a decision making tool to enable policy development and implementation in the solar water heating sector, and to begin conceptualising such a model. The workshop was attended by government departments, research institutes and academic institutions.

This is in keeping with SOLTRAIN's overall aim of promoting solar thermal energy by supporting policy, installation subsidies and through the delivery of technical training courses and knowledge acquisition. Secondary to this is job creation at small and medium enterprise level and the initiation and strengthening of political support mechanisms for solar thermal systems.

The second workshop was convened against the backdrop of the conclusion of SOLTRAIN phase II in the first quarter of 2015. During this phase, the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) at Stellenbosch University, in partnership with AEE- INTEC and SESSA, launched the South African Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap (SA-STTRM).

The SA-STTRM reviews progress made in the use of solar thermal technology in South Africa to date. It also analyses the technological, legislative, regulatory and other barriers to the deployment of solar water heating technology. During SOLTRAIN phase III, the South African partners will take steps towards the implementation of the the SA-STTP.

Attendees of the second workshop agreed that implementation efforts should be concentrated on an area over which the group could actively begin to drive processes. It was thus decided that a focus on technology awareness, understanding and marketing in the sector was paramount. In addition, it was agreed that the stakeholders should work together towards creating a simple online tool that can assess a potential client's needs, and then suggest a suitable system for implementation.

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The overarching marketing approach will commence by tapping into various channels including television, local radio stations, newspaper and magazine articles, social media, industry associations, academia and schools.

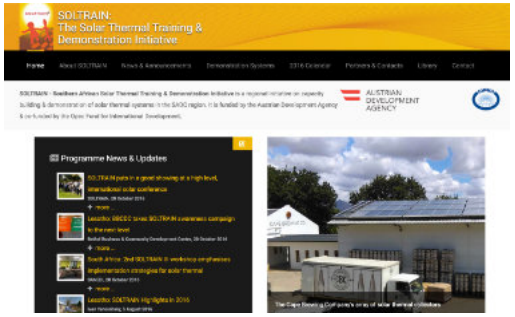
The proposed online tool for solar water heating installations would consist of a simple assessment of end-user needs. The assessment would include the number of persons in the building, the location of the building and the current electrical bill. Based on the input from this assessment, a basic idea would be given of whether or not a system would be feasible in situ, as well as the approximate system size, cost and expected reduction in electricity cost once implemented. The tool would then also provide information on system service providers.

It was also emphasized that it is important for the solar water heating sector to highlight successes wherever possible. "Any interaction on the topic is a stakeholder engagement and the more true and factual information on successful and positive solar water heater implementation is disseminated, the better for the sector," concluded Dr. Karen Surridge-Talbot.

SOLTRAIN on the web

SOLTRAIN recently launched a new web presence through another one of its South African partners, the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) at the University of Stellenbosch. The website is located at the following link: http://soltrain.org.

SOLTRAIN's website contains a directory of all SOLTRAIN partners, a listing of events and a library where SOLTRAIN publications are archived. A searchable project database of the SOLTRAIN demonstration systems includes each project's locality, vital technical statistics, a schematic of the system configuration, supplier details and a photo gallery of the installation where available.



SOLTRAIN partners are urged to review their contact details on the website to ensure that they are the most recent available. Likewise, partners are urged to review their demonstration system pages to ensure that the information for each project is complete. If partners have any updates or changes, they can contact the SOLTRAIN editorial team using editorial@soltrain.org.

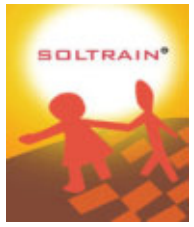
Partners are also urged to alert the editorial team if any of their demonstration systems, events or awareness initiatives are mentioned elsewhere on the web, such as in industry news articles and other online media (including video). We'll be sure to link these online mentions to either your partner profiles or demonstration system pages. In this regard, the Cape Brewing Company recently received prominence by way of an article on the online portal of the Global Solar Thermal Energy Council.

The SOLTRAIN editorial team looks forward to rolling out addition enhancements to the website in the coming months, and has no doubt that the new SOLTRAIN will assist in elevating the overall awareness of the SOLTRAIN programme across partner countries and further afield.

Visit the SOLTRAIN website ...

SOLTRAIN

The Southern African Solar Thermal Training & Demonstration Initiative is a regional initiative on capacity building & demonstration of solar thermal systems in the SADC region. It is funded by the Austrian Development Agency & co-funded by the Opec Fund for International Development.



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AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

AEE INTEC

Parque de Ciência e Tecnologia de Maluana

CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STUDIES

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