

Issue #3, December 2013 : GOGLA

Dear Members and Friends of GOGLA,

The year 2013 has been exciting and very productive for GOGLA. Step by step, we grew out of the infancy stage and turned into a fully-fledged association, professionally supporting the acceleration of the global off-grid lighting market. As you may be aware, GOGLA is presently searching for a full-time Executive Director to begin work in the spring of 2014. The assignment is intended to commence just in time for our second Annual General Meeting that will take place in conjunction with the Light&Building exhibition in Frankfurt, Germany. We have been processing promising applications and hope to finalize the recruitment process by February 2014. In November of 2013, we launched important projects that will benefit the overall market development for our members significantly:

- A study on investment opportunities in the off-grid lighting industry which focuses mainly on the need for working capital especially for our smaller and medium size members
- A project to facilitate a multi-stakeholder process for developing a joint quality assurance roadmap to serve as a guideline for future quality assurance activities
- Together with our colleagues from IFC/ Lighting Africa, we are trying to repeal the VAT increase for our products in several East African countries. In parallel, we are trying to establish necessary policy standards in other African regions together with our partners from the UNEP en.lighten initiative

GOGLA would like to thank our members, friends and partners for their support during the last twelve months. We are especially grateful to our financial sponsors from IFC, GIZ and the US Department of Energy. We are very much looking forward to new and exciting projects and to continue working together with all of you in 2014!

Season's Greetings and a happy New Year to all!

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Gregor

Secretary General



Working Group Updates

Policy and Regulation

Through UNEP/en.lighten, the group continues to be involved in the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) process of drafting a regional efficient lighting strategy. To support the communication and advocating for the off-grid lighting sector, the group is publishing a series of awareness raising materials that will be available on the GOGLA homepage soon. Moreover, the group has identified priority GOGLA stakeholders and developed approaches for reaching out to the most important stakeholder groups.

Quality and Standards

In cooperation with the GIZ a project with the objective of developing a quality assurance roadmap has been initiated. The Working Group is consulting on the project and a special task force of Working Group members is supporting the implementation of the project. Together with the GOGLA technical director and an external consultant, the group is drafting a quality assurance roadmap serving as the basis for an open and transparent stakeholder consultation process entailing webinars and a Quality Assurance Symposium.

Business Models and Market Intelligence

GOGLA's first study on investment opportunities within the off-grid lighting market is presently the main topic of the Business Models & Market Intelligence Working Group which is supporting the study with its knowledge and expertise. The working group's second focus is the preparation of the collection of global market data. This is done in collaboration with the Quality & Standards Working Group in order to establish a common nomenclature of the required data. As agreed during the last Annual General Meeting, the Working Group expects to start with the market data collection in 2014.

Life Cycle and Recycling

The Working Group developed a list of e-waste recyclers in developing countries that could potentially accept the end-of-life off-grid lighting products. The list is under revision now and will soon be available for all GOGLA members. The group is also gathering information about ongoing or planned activities for collection and recycling of spent solar lanterns in order to generate better transparency and communication between our members. The next milestone for the group is to seek partnerships with electric and electronic industries in order to establish greater collaboration with other stakeholders, already dealing with the e-waste problem.

GOGLA News

Two New GOGLA Projects Kicked Off

This November two new projects have started. With the support of GIZ GOGLA is implementing the projects "investing into the off-grid lighting market" and "developing a quality assurance roadmap" that will both greatly benefit the accelerated market transition to clean off-grid lighting solutions. [Read more](#)

GOGLEA Member Conference 2014 – Save the Date!

For the second time, GOGLEA is inviting its members, partners and close friends to participate in the annual GOGLEA member conference in order to exchange and discuss latest developments in the off-grid lighting sector. In 2014, the conference will take place from 2-5 April in the greater Frankfurt area (Germany). [Read more](#)

GOGLEA seeks an Improved Policy Environment in West Africa

Officials from 18 Ministries of Energy met in Benin in October to continue development of an Efficient Lighting Strategy for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Charlie Miller from SolarAid and Andreas Adam from Osram represented GOGLEA at the event. [Read more](#)

Off-Grid Meets On-Grid: GOGLEA at the LED Forum in Paris

Together with UNEP/en.lighten, GOGLEA held a session on “Emerging and Developing Nations, from LED Lighting to Sustainable Development” during the LED Forum in Paris. The Forum is a unique platform for information, exchange, networking and business development for (on-grid) lighting professionals and end users. Around 150 participants attended the session and engaged in a vivid discussion. [Read more](#)

Ad Hoc Working Group on Measuring Social Impact Launched

Many stakeholders involved in bringing solar lighting to the market would like to or already report on social impact metrics – for example, the number of people reached or tons of carbon offset. These stakeholders range from suppliers to distributors to ancillary groups such as the UN Foundation and IFC. Because there is no standard for calculating these metrics, different organizations use different approaches. [Read more](#)

Opinions



GOGLEA Position Towards Free Distribution of Solar Products

GOGLEA holds the view that a sound market development of solar off-grid lighting is best served by a free and open market approach. This includes that market disrupting factors should be prevented, eliminated or in the least be minimised. Such disrupting factors include direct and/or indirect subsidies for fossil fuels like kerosene, diesel etc. by governmental bodies and/or other organizations.

[Read more](#)



GOGLEA Statement on Bjørn Lomborg

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GOGLEA was asked for a statement by several members and stakeholders concerning Bjørn Lomborg's recent assertions in the New York Times. Mr. Lomborg

claims that fossil fuels as well as hydraulic fracturing are until now the only means for cheap and reliable power in the developing world, completely ignoring today's reality where off-grid technologies are a viable alternative. As an association aiming to have a proven impact on people's life, we do not respond to allegations

beyond common sense that lack any valid scientific and ethical basis. This also applies to Mr. Lomborg's statements.

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Solar Energy for Rural Development

Does Off-Grid Energy Really Only Have Positive Impacts ?

At first glance, the answer is clear: in off-grid areas of developing countries, kerosene lamps are generally used for "lighting". They hardly produce light, but very much harmful smoke. Also the combustion of fossil fuels is used, producing substantial CO₂. Therefore and not without reason, the simple message of off-grid NGOs and companies is: solar energy brings sufficient and clean light, and thus helps to reduce both the health damage of eyes and lungs as well as to reduce the burden of CO₂ on the environment. In addition, many social impacts are achieved. A seemingly simple and "good" solution for the replacement of the "bad" kerosene lamps. But is that really true? [Read more](#)

Other News

GOGLA

Global Off-Grid Lighting Association

MEMBER

GOGLA Members Engaged in Relief Actions in the Philippines

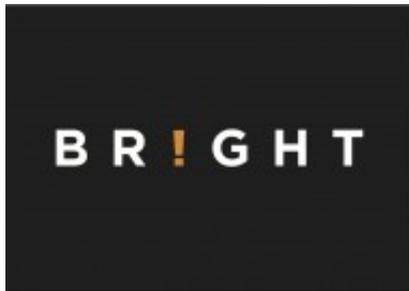
GOGLA is delighted to announce that several GOGLA members have engaged in relief actions within regions in the Philippines worst affected by Typhoon Haiyan. After being hit by Haiyan, energy supply systems collapsed in many regions and communities found themselves without access to electricity. However, especially in this early phase, light is critical for emergency response teams, relief centers and hospitals. [Read more](#)



Lighting Global Update to Standards and Performance Targets

Lighting Global plans to update the Minimum Quality Standards and Recommended Performance Targets based on program experience and stakeholder input from across the value chain. It seeks to re-assess and strengthen the standards and performance targets for off-grid lighting solutions in order to keep up with market trends, and incorporate new findings, for example, on end-user

preferences. Lighting Global therefore argues that for product performance targets to remain relevant, they must be reviewed upwards in line with technological developments and consumer expectations. [Read more](#)



SunBell from BR!GHT Products wins “Most Innovative Product” Award

During the “Off Grid Experts” event in September, the multifunctional “SunBell” lamp from GOGLA member BR!GHT Products won a new international award. BR!GHT Products is a young company, but has already received global recognition for their innovative product design. In September the SunBell was awarded “Most innovative Product 2013” by a jury from The Alliance for Rural Electrification. [Read more](#)



OSRAM wins German Innovation Prize for Climate and the Environment with the Off-Grid Lighting Concept

The OSRAM off-grid lighting concept was launched by OSRAM in 2008 in order to provide affordable, eco-friendly and safe lighting for people in off-grid regions. In recognition of this commitment OSRAM has been honored with the German Innovation Prize for Climate and the Environment in the “Climate and Environmental Protection Technology Transfer in the Developing and Emerging Countries” category. [Read more](#)



SolarAid wins European Solar Prize 2013 in the Category ‘One-World Cooperation’

SolarAid was honoured with the European Solar Prize 2013 in the category “One-World Co-operation” for their dedication to the replacement of the toxic kerosene lamps in Africa. SolarAid, meanwhile, has reached more than 3 million people and reduced their dependence on fossil fuels by creating a sustainable market for solar lights. [Read more](#)

Please welcome our newest members





Upcoming Events