

Dear Members and Friends of GOGLA,

I hope you all had a great start in the new 2015 – the UN International Year of Light! I am excited to work together with you through the year and achieve big successes for the off-grid energy sector.



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In 2014, our industry saw inspiring developments – the market is growing and starting to show its future potential. Investors are increasingly recognizing this: in 2014 we counted some US\$ 90 million of publicly announced investments in off-grid energy businesses, with a few companies attracting well over USD 10 million of funding. To foster the dialogue between industry and investors, GOGLA held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Off-Grid Energy Access Investor Conference in December, on which we received a lot of positive feedback.

In 2015 GOGLA aims to further strengthen its role as *voice of the off-grid industry*. We already have a line-up of events during the year: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Off-Grid Investor Conference in March in New York as a warming up, and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Exhibition in October as the main highlight of the year. Apart from that, GOGLA will continue to engage with its members on a number of industry-related topics and initiate more theme-specific activities and meetings.

I would like to thank GOGLA's members and partners for the support and encourage all of you to continue your active collaboration because together we can turn the vision of universal energy access into a reality!

Koen Peters,

Executive Director, GOGLA

# **Working Group Updates**

## **Policy and Regulation**

With the objective of creating a policy hand book that collects various official industry opinions, the working group is currently drafting positions on the use of public and donor funding, VAT and tariffs, and kerosene subsidies. Further it has reached out and started to strengthen relations with national renewable energy association to increase cooperation between the national and the global.

## **Quality and Standards**

The group continues to cooperate with Lighting Global on updating the existing IEC Technical Specifications for pico-PV products and in addition supports the extension of technical specifications towards small SHS and Plug & Play solar kits. A first draft for the new technical specifications should be available in spring 2015. The Working Group further feeds the industry opinion into a study that analyzes different transition scenarios for the Lighting Global quality assurance framework.

## **Business Models and Market Intelligence**

The 2nd Off-Grid Energy Access Investor Conference took place on the 17th December, 2014 at the Bloomberg Auditorium in London. The feedback from the event was very positive and clearly showed the need for such networking opportunities. GOGLA is currently organizing a follow-up event in March 2015, in New York. These conferences aim to foster the dialogue between the off-grid industry and investors, and thus, support the development of the off-grid sector.

## **Measuring Social Impact**

Over the last months the group continued to work on priority metrics that will allow GOGLA members to report their social impact consistently and in a comparable format. The group will soon invite GOGLA members to give feedback and comment on the proposed calculations.

## **GOGLA News**

### **GOGLA President Speaks At The International Year Of Light Opening Ceremony**

The President of GOGLA, Harry Verhaar, gave a presentation at the opening ceremony of

the UN 2015 International Year of Light on 19th of January, in Paris.

Mr. Verhaar pointed the attention of the audience to the issue of energy access, which affects some 1.3 billion people globally, and the transformative role that off-grid solar energy could have in these people's lives. [Read more](#)

## **Industry And Investors Meet At The 2nd Off-Grid Energy Access Investor Conference**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Off-grid Energy Access Investor Conference, organized by GOGLA in cooperation with BNEF, Quadia and SolarAid, took place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, at the Bloomberg Auditorium in London. The event brought together investors and industry representatives and engaged them in a dialogue about the present and future developments in the off-grid sector. [Read more](#)

## **Off-Grid Lighting Needs And Opportunities Emphasized At UNEP en.lighten Forum**

GOGLA participated in the UNEP en.lighten Global Efficient Lighting Forum (GELF) on 10 and 11 November in Beijing. The event brought together some 200 government, donor and industry representatives to discuss progress in promoting efficient lighting. [Read more](#)

## **Other News**



The  
Economist

### **Afirca: A Brightening Continent**

FOR THE WORLD'S 1.2 billion poorest people, who are facing a long and perhaps endless wait for a connection to mains electricity, solar power could be the answer to their prayers. A further 2.5 billion are “underelectrified”, in development parlance: although connected to the grid, they can get only unreliable, scanty power. [Read more](#)



SUN-  
CONNECT  
News

### **Beyond-the-Grid Is Not Just About Light, It's About Resiliency**

At times when the grid fails, distributed generation offers a way to keep the lights on — not only in areas beyond the reach

of the grid but in cities as well. [Read more](#)



### **How Remote Monitoring is Transforming BBOXX**

SMART Solar is BBOXX's remote monitoring technology that enables real-time communication between every solar home system and BBOXX HQ. Widespread cellular networks give BBOXX a connection to every solar home system, no matter where it is. [Read more](#)



### **One Degree Solar Partners With Sollatek Electronics For Distribution in Kenya**

There are some exciting developments at One Degree Solar! One Degree Solar recently partnered with Sollatek Electronics (Kenya) Limited (SEKL) as the exclusive and appointed distributor for the One Degree products in Kenya. [Read more](#)



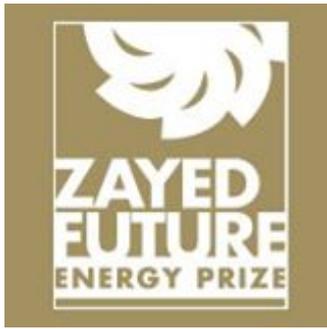
### **Product Health Wins Innovate UK's 'IoT Launchpad' Competition**

Product Health is one of a small number of London and Cambridge based Internet of Things (IoT) businesses to successfully complete the three-stage application process for grant funding and support from Innovate UK's £1M 'IoT Launchpad' fund. [Read more](#)



### **d.light Finalist For The Powerful Answers Award**

Verizon, the largest mobile carrier in the U.S., named d.light a finalist for the Powerful Answers Award, a competition for innovative, technology-based solutions to world problems. d.light's idea is a mobile-enabled grid that converts high costs of distributed solar energy into affordable monthly payments. The winner will be announced Jan. 27th, 2015 in New York City. [Read more](#)



### **M-Kopa Solar Wins the 2015 Zayed Future Energy Prize**

M-Kopa Solar was announced the winner of the 2015 Zayed Future Energy Prize in the SME category at the opening ceremony of the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, on 19th of January. [Read more](#)



### **SolarAid Manages Google-Funded Study On The Social Impact Of Solar Lights**

SolarAid are managing the first large-scale randomised control trial study into the impact of solar lights on poverty alleviation and pollution/health outcomes. The study, funded by Google, is being conducted in Kenya, and results are expected in 2016. [Read more](#)



### **WakaWaka launches Virtual Grid in Rwanda**

WakaWaka's prepaid solar power is now available in Rwanda! The prepaid WakaWaka gives off its light and power through weekly payments, much like a prepaid mobile phone. Weekly payments mean low upfront costs and easy access to solar power. [Read more](#)



### **Philips calls for action to end light poverty and prevent millions of needless deaths**

More than 1.3 billion people are trapped in light poverty as they don't have access to electricity. Most of those affected resort to kerosene lamps and candles to light their homes and businesses. But these primitive light sources claim the lives of 1.5 million people every year through respiratory illnesses and fires. [Read more](#)



## **The Inclusive Business Accelerator launches online bootcamp for social entrepreneurs**

Entrepreneurs who are working in low-income markets can now apply for a special online bootcamp starting in March. The deadline for applications is February 15th. The topic of the online bootcamp is 'marketing and distribution to the Base of the Pyramid'. [Read more](#)

## **New Publications**



### **[GOGLA Did You Know Paper](#)**

Did you know that a range of different off-grid lighting products meet the individual energy needs of households and communities at affordable prices?



### **[Light and Livelihood: A Bright Outlook for Employment in the Transition from Fuel-Based Lighting to Electrical Alternatives](#)**

Publisher: UNEP

Date: December 2014

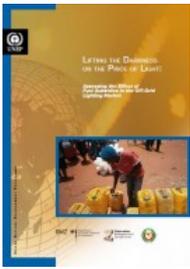


### **[Light for Life: Identifying and Reducing the Health and Safety Impacts of Fuel-Based Lighting](#)**

Publisher: UNEP

Date: December 2014

### **[Lifting the Darkness on the Price of Light: Assessing the Effect of Fuel Subsidies in the Off-Grid Lighting Market](#)**



Publisher: UNEP

Date: December 2014



**End of Life Solar Lamps Recycling Strategy**  
**Definition: Kenya & Cameroon**

Publisher: Total, GIZ, Altai Consulting

Date: October 2014

## Please welcome our newest members



## Upcoming Events

**February 2015**

**15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit**

05 Feb 2015 - 07 Feb 2015 Delhi, India

[More information](#)

**March 2015**

**Mobile World Congress**

02 Mar 2015 - 05 Mar 2015 Barcelona, Spain

[More information](#)

**Solar Energy East Africa**

10 Mar 2015 - 11 Mar 2015 Nairobi, Kenya

[More information](#)

**3rd Off-Grid Energy Access Investor Conference**

18 Mar 2015 New York, USA