



NEWSLETTER

June
2009

Chairman's Foreword

Dear YES-DC members,

It has been a while since the last newsletter was published, but we're back! Last YES-DC year wasn't easy, most of the year there were only 4 board members active, as Hans van Kuijk had to leave us in the beginning of 2008 due to a job offer abroad. Nevertheless, we ended the year 2008 with a big bang, the network activity. Over 50 YES-DC members participated (a new record), and this event ultimately resulted in an enthusiastic new YES-DC board for 2009. A brief introduction of each and everyone will follow in this newsletter.

The new board has already provided you with some activities as there were the SDE activity, UNFCCC's trip to Bonn, Building Environment activity, and there is more to come!

Last but not least it is a pleasure to announce that YES-DC will have his **third lustrum** this year! What started with meetings in October of 1994 has grown to be an organization with over 250 members. We are very happy to celebrate this milestone with all of you somewhere in October of this year (further information will follow soon).

Hopefully we can make this year a successful and energetic year for **all of you**,...but first enjoy the first edition of the YES-DC newsletter of 2009.

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The Young Energy Specialists and Development Co-operation (YES-DC) is an association of students and young professionals interested and/or working in the field of energy and international co-operation.

Colophon

The Newsletter is distributed by YES-DC to their members. Subscription is free of charge and the newsletter can also be downloaded from our website. For any further questions or suggestions feel free to contact us.

Website: www.yes-dc.org

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YES-DC in Bonn for the UNFCCC – Spass machen und spass haben, das ist egal!

Author: Martin Boon MScBA

A funny misunderstanding in German – Spass machen is from Jiskefet – aroused quite some excitement for the handsome waitress on a terrace in Bonn at nighttime and the group of 14 YES-DC members, who went down to the former federal capital. This has just been one of the highlights of our visit to the UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany.

As early as the beginning of April, summer had arrived in Bonn, where most people would rather sit outside on a sunny terrace than joining a conference inside. However, YES-DC members are not known for being hedonists, and so we went to the conference anyway. And don't get me wrong, I sure do appreciate you people, but I was a little surprised to hear no one argue about leaving the lovely terrace for what turned out to be a quite slow-paced and non-revolutionary plenary session of the UNFCCC – this is an understatement.

For those who haven't joined the trip to Bonn let me tell you a bit more about the UNFCCC. First of all, it stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and is the organization that sets the framework for climate policies. Its ad hoc working group sessions, of which the session in Bonn was one, have been organized in prologue of the successor of the Kyoto protocol, which is due to be signed at the end of the year in Copenhagen. During the sessions UN member states (that have ratified the UNFCCC) are given the opportunity to put forward issues in the light of the new climate protocol. This way, the UNFCCC can build a framework around these issues.



My name is **Maarten Mangnus**, chairman of the board. I got acquainted with YES-DC during the final stage of my master thesis “The Implementation Possibilities of Renewable Energy in the rural areas of Suriname”, a topic which fits the idea of YES-DC pretty well. The first year of my career at KEMA pushed YES-DC a bit to the background but I bumped into Gerard Stienstra, who pulled me right back into YES-DC. About a year ago I joined the strategy department of E.ON Benelux and continued my participation in the almost totally new and very enthusiastic YES-DC board of 2009. This year I hope to put YES-DC in your spotlight again, with more and differentiated readings, discussions, excursions, etc. In short, a YES-DC that fits right into **your** energy world of today.



After a slow-paced and non-revolutionary session, in which some of the UN member states presented their issues related to the climate protocol, the group of 14 split up and joined some of the side-events by several (non-governmental) organizations. One of them was about the development of renewable energy in the former Soviet countries Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as Russia. Apart from that, the representatives of Kazakhstan and Russia also informed us about the harmful effects of exploiting nuclear resources, including rather shocking images of deformed babies. For anyone who didn't know too much about the development in these countries, the session was real worthwhile joining, and it provided the audience with powerful and emotional arguments against further exploitation of nuclear resources.

Now our minds were fed, it was time to feed our bodies as well. And so we went out to a nice German restaurant, where they served very tasteful homebrewed beer. The owner must have known that a group of loudly speaking and hungry Dutchmen and one polite Englishman were about to settle down at his place, because we were given an entire room of the restaurant just for ourselves, sweet!

Street life in Bonn turned out to be very nice and relaxing on this summer April day, so we decided to stay out as long as we didn't need to wear a jumper. We hit a few more drinks on the terrace that I told you about before, after which some of us felt like going back to the hostel for a decent night of sleep. However, most of us manned up for Bonn's night life, and we were told that Hausbar at the Rhine River was the best place to go. YES-DC ruled the dance floor – credits to go out to our secretary Ms. Dagmar Zwebe – and it remained busy in downtown Bonn until the late hours of the night.

As die-hard young professionals we slept out till 8 o'clock on the Saturday morning. Yes, 8 am, except for the students within the group; I guess they partied till 8 am. The weather was just about as nice as the day before, and some of us decided to go shopping and sightseeing, while others went straight back to the conference. We got back together at the conference for the afternoon sessions. One of them was about the American proposal for a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which all UN member states are familiar with for some years, apart from the US. So, should we listen to them?! Well, the presentation was good, but the lack of sleep made some of us drop off quickly anyway.

In short: wir haben Spass gemacht! Or was it Spass gehabt? Well, I'd love to go back and ask that waitress ...

Looking forward to see you at the next YES-DC event!



I am **Dagmar Zwebe** and I am the secretary of Yes-DC since the beginning of 2009. Therefore all email, vacancies and new/old memberships pass my attention. Furthermore I see it as our goal to get the Yes-DC members more actively involved in the organisation again.

In my daily life I am bringing the pyrolysis technology to the market. My company BTG Bioliquids BV is selling on a commercial basis the pyrolysis technology that has been developed within BTG Biomass Technology Group. This technology converts all types of biomass to oil!

I am **Michael Herweyer**, the treasurer at YES-DC for the year 2009. This year all financial issues will go via me, and my goal is to spend it as effective as possible. Also I want to organize and participate at a great number of interesting activities in order to level up my knowledge and network. In my daily life I am working at Alliander (former Continuum) as a corporate social responsibility advisor. Our team forms policy and advises the board in all CSR questionnaires.



Something new under the African sun

Author: Pepijn van Kesteren

Student in Energy Science, University of Utrecht

Or is it? Some of you might have heard of so called "solar cookers". Following to many a great example of a great technology that simply no one is using; following to some others still the holy grail of world-saving techs. For a long time those some were joined by many people: scientists, volunteers, idealists, and politicians all alike embraced the idea of solar cooking, to bring a sustainable free energy source to the needy in developing countries. The main target: stop deforestation.

The idea is as simple as the technology: you focus the sun's rays and you'll have enough energy to cook food. All you need is e.g. a parabolic mirror and some standards, and you will never need wood again (or at least much less).

So in time there have been many projects trying to implement solar cooking, with varied success. Designs have changed from parabolic cookers to box cookers to panel cookers and back, with the first being the most efficient, but the most expensive, and the last the least efficient, but also the least expensive. And even though all those designs have their specific advantages, forests don't seem to shrink in size any slower than before.

The main reason for this is obviously that not enough people are using it (yet). The reasons for that are less simple and quite varied, though two are jumping out: one, the cooker is too expensive and two, there are still easier and cheaper alternatives available.



This year I, **Christiaan de Pous**, will be responsible for the organisation of the congress DEO-day (Duurzame Energie en Ontwikkeling - Renewable Energy and Development). I was born and raised in The Hague, travelled abroad for a gap year, studied abroad in Florida and graduated in innovation management in Utrecht last year. Currently, I'm working for Deerns consulting engineers. We design building installations. My focus is on climatisation systems and sustainable energy concepts.

With my working field, the construction sector, I hope to enrich the YES-DC board. My goal is to keep in touch with old contacts; gain new contacts and stay focused and up to date on energy and sustainable development issues.

Last but not least I would like to organise the DEO-day in cooperation with YES-DC members. So if you're interested; don't hesitate to contact me.



For the first problem Copenhagen might bring a solution: It was heard on that same UNFCCC conference as written about above that Copenhagen will probably leave more room for small scale (read household scale) CDM projects; more than is currently possible under Kyoto. Therefore solar cooking could soon become subsidized by the carbon emissions it is preventing (which could easily reach 1 ton / year), partially solving the problem of costs.

That then only leaves the problem of the alternatives. There's two ways to solve this: or you cut down all the forests, so there are no alternatives anymore (since basically everyone cooks on wood or charcoal here), or you make sure the solar cooker has an advantage that doesn't know an alternative anymore.

That last is exactly what TNO is currently developing (since cutting down all the forests is too much physical work for all those desk-scientists and it kind of counters the reason to implement it initially): By combining the solar cooker with so called thermo electric generators, or TEGs, the cooker will not only help to save money on firewood, but it will also provide something that is very rare here: electricity. It is turning the solar cooker into a very small CSP plant, by simply combining two relatively old technologies (TEGs have been used since the first Russian satellites, which are nowadays even still working). The main advantage: it is cheap as hell. A TEG might cost you an extra 30.000 Ariary (slightly over 10 euro), where a simple PV system (12 W) will easily cost you over 1.500.000 Ariary here (I'm currently in Madagascar, hence the quotations in Ariary).

Of course it wouldn't be that cheap if there wasn't a downside to it. The TEG is with 2 – 3 % efficiency far from efficient, and chances are slim to find much more efficient types in the near future. But considering that a parabolic solar cooker can generate up to 700 Watts of heat energy, 2% of that is still 14 Watts. Combine that with Philips' new PowerLEDs, which require only about 3 Watts but are as bright as energy saving light bulbs, and you can light the average rural African house.

Now, it sounds as wonderful as Obama ratifying Copenhagen, but of course the story as mentioned is slightly simplified. There are many more technological gaps that have to be bridged (e.g. how to store the energy until you actually need the lighting), but TNO wouldn't be TNO if they couldn't overcome those (one of the foreseen solutions is a heat battery; once again as simple as TNO is brilliant, but unfortunately no room here to elaborate on this too much).

Furthermore there are non-technological aspects that have to be taken into account: actual problems with the use of solar cookers, cultural difficulties, other options / competitors, etc. Fortunately for TNO – and the rest of the world for that matter – there are still students who are willing to give up all their luxuries in the West, to fly to horrid places as Madagascar and, without any self interest – really, who wants to go to one of the most biologically diverse country in the world, which also happens to have wonderful beaches, great food, and delicious cocktails – help TNO find out those problems and the potential impact of the foreseen improvements. In doing so we hope to develop something that will actually be used for a change, or just not develop it at all. Though don't be sad if that last is the case; it will only mean that there is a better alternative under that same African sun.



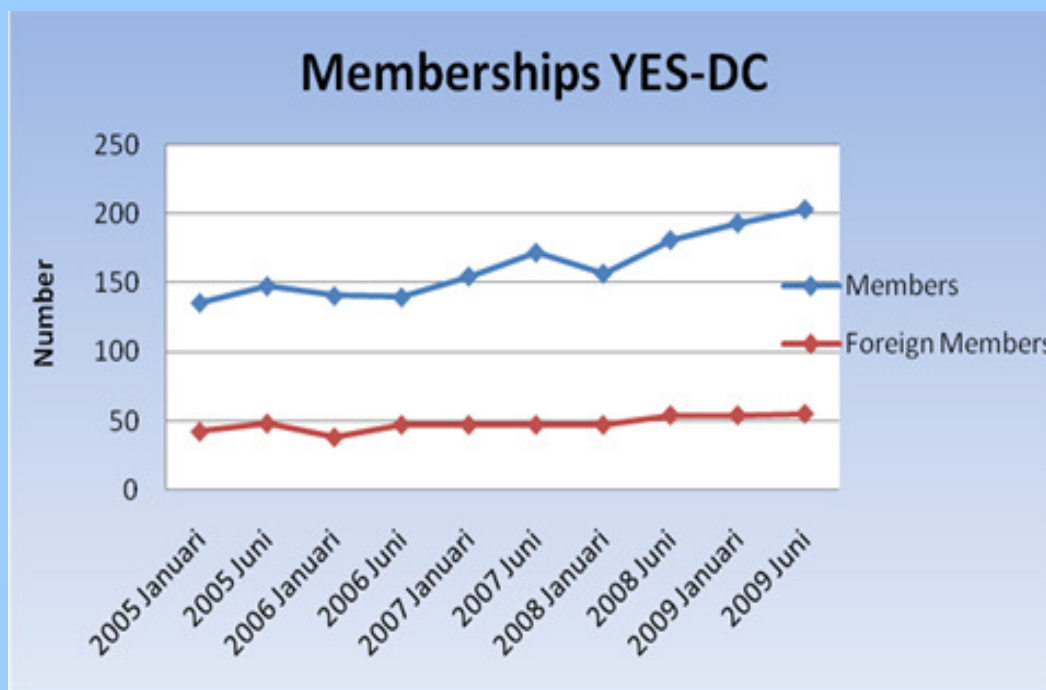
Hi, my name is **Pepijn van Kesteren** and for the coming year I will work on increasing YES-DC's ties with international organizations. Being the only student left in the board, I will also work on strengthening our base with other students. Besides YES-DC, I am currently working on my thesis for the master Energy Science at the University of Utrecht. The topic of my thesis is small scale concentrated solar power (CSP) for rural areas in developing countries, and is facilitated by TNO in Eindhoven. Furthermore you can find me being active in political youth organizations, such as ECOSY, where I try to spread the DESERTEC (sustainable energy from deserts) as well as other sustainable ideas.

YES-DC members: on the move!

We're still growing at a steady pace. Would you like your colleagues or fellow students to join our network and benefit from our excursions, lectures and contacts please direct them to our secretary Dagmar Zwebe (info@yes-dc.org) and she'll make sure they will get all the information they need. Also note that students and expat members get a discount on the membership.



Hello, my name is **Marc de Wit** and I will be active in organizing debates, lectures and excursions this year. Next to re-establishing the monthly frequency of activities we aim to serve the interests of the diverse group YES is increasingly becoming. Ranging from (last year) students to the (self declared) establishment. Professionally, I am a researcher at Utrecht University working on large-scale deployment of biomass for energy in Europe.



Dear readers. My name is **Anna Ritzen** and I will be responsible for this newsletter. I would like to serve you with the latest news of our network and a review on our activities. We also plan on having our members abroad more involved in publishing their experiences in this newsletter. So if you're abroad, working on energy and interested in writing please contact me because we would love to hear your story. As for myself: I got to know YES-DC through a colleague while working in Cambodia on renewable energy for households. I've spent the last 3 years working on the supply side of renewable energy solutions abroad

and in the Netherlands. Currently I'm working on onshore and offshore wind energy development at Ecofys.