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To: "██████████" <██████████>

Subject: The Barefoot Approach: Empowering Rural Women to Light up the World

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Barefoot College

Summer 2011

The Barefoot Approach: Empowering Rural Women to Light up the World



Assembly of Solar Panel

The Barefoot Rural Women Solar Engineers of Africa

A rural family in Africa burns around 60 liters of kerosene a year to light their home, and the average kerosene lamp in Africa spews out more than a ton of carbon dioxide every decade. Most families also cook indoors over wood fires. The health effects of burning kerosene, coal, and wood are devastating: Toxic smoke causes respiratory diseases that kill 1.6 million women and children per year and causes severe respiratory problems for tens of millions.

Solar power is not only clean, it is also sustainable, and there are tens of thousands of villages across the African continent that can benefit from being solar electrified. The Barefoot College is taking it one village at a time.

Nearly 180 rural grandmothers have solar electrified over 10,000 remote rural homes in 32 countries. As a result of their collective efforts, they have managed to save 1.3 million liters of kerosene per month, a saving of enormous proportions for a population that is hardest hit by fuel and energy crises.

A Framework for Building Local Capacity

Since 2008, the Barefoot College has been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as a Training Institute under India Technical Economic Cooperation (**ITEC**) and Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (**SCAAP**).

ITEC/SCAAP has provided administrative, logistic and financial support for training poor, rural, semi-literate and illiterate women in solar electrification and rainwater harvesting. By September 2011, 163 women from 32 countries will have been trained with **ITEC/SCAAP** support.

Click to read the [Profiles of ITEC Trainees](#).



WBSEs WorldMap

Public-Private-People Partnerships in 32 Countries

Grants from the **GEF Small Grants Programme of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** and international partners including **Skoll Foundation (US)**, **Fondation Ensemble (France)**, **Stichting Het Groene Woudt (Netherlands)**, and **Norwegian Church Aid (Norway)** have provided funds for the hardware to solar electrify whole villages where there is no chance of conventional grid reaching in the next two decades.

A global agreement has been signed by the Barefoot College and **UN Women**, the first collaboration of its kind supporting rural grandmothers trained by the Barefoot College to solar electrify their own villages in Liberia, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.



Training in Tilonia

In all these 32 ITEC/SCAAP countries, indigenous grassroots organizations have helped to identify villages, mobilize and sensitize the communities to make major decisions, identify the women trainees, prepare their passports and medical certificates, and get the necessary government approvals to send them to India. For the enormous efforts and financial output of our local partners, we are truly grateful.

In Sierra Leone, the **Barefoot Women Solar Engineers Association** has been established along with a regional training center in Kontaline developed with the support of the president of Sierra Leone. The government has committed \$1 million to solar electrifying rural communities in Sierra Leone. 150 women will be trained to solar electrify their own communities.

Click to view [Rural Women Solar Engineers of Africa](#)

Global Recognition of the Barefoot Approach

Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

Asahi Glass Foundation, July 27, 2011

The Blue Planet Prize, sponsored by Asahi Glass Foundation, is awarded to

two individuals or organizations each year in recognition of outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application that have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems. It is the oldest, biggest and most prestigious prize in the field of environment awarded in Japan.

The Barefoot College is one of this year's prize winners. Each recipient receives an award of 50 million yen (\$625,00). The awards ceremony will be held November 9, 2011 in Tokyo. The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University on November 10. [Continue](#)

Click to read the [Blue Planet Prize announcement](#)

The Barefoot Approach in the News

The Women of India's Barefoot College Bring Light to Remote Villages

The Guardian, June 24, 2011

Being trained as solar-power engineers enables women from rural India and Africa to introduce electricity in isolated areas. [Continue](#)

Rural Women Lead Race for Sustainable Energy

IPP Media, June 22, 2011

Women in rural Tanzania are blazing the trail in the race for reliable and sustainable electricity and looking to the sun to do the job. [Continue](#)

Generating the Unlikeliest of Heroes

New York Times, April 18, 2011

Persuading the Indian immigration authorities to grant entry visas to illiterate African grandmothers who claim to be trainee solar engineers is no easy task. [Continue](#)

Bedouin Women Lighting Up the Desert as Barefoot



CNN

Solar Engineers

The Cutting Edge, April 4, 2011

For many living in the harsh and desolate deserts of south Jordan, life without electricity is the norm. [Continue](#)

Women's Solar Power Expertise Brightens Rural Senegal

Trust Law, March 18, 2011

Experiencing a severe energy shortage for years, the national power company (SENELEC) of this West African nation has sought to conserve energy through daily outages that last virtually all day...< i>[Continue](#)

'Barefoot' Grandmothers Electrify Rural Communities

CNN, January 27, 2011

Turning grandmothers into solar engineers is one of Sanjit "Bunker" Roy's favorite jobs. [Continue](#)

You Can Help Provide Solar Power



Blue Planet Prize Winner: Barefoot College



Solar Cookers

Your contribution of \$100 or more will help provide solar power to rural communities in Africa.

You can **make a contribution online** to help support the sustainable development programs of the **Barefoot College**. The College helps to improve the quality of life of the poorest of the poor by addressing basic needs for water, power, health, education and employment.

Friends of Tilonia Inc., a US-based 501(c) 3 charitable organization, will provide 100% of your contribution to support the sustainable development programs of **Barefoot College**.

Please contact Friends of Tilonia at [REDACTED] if you would like to become a programme sponsor or make a major gift.

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