Dear Members and Friends of ZEE,

As the evaluation of the ZEE was successfully passed we would like to inform you now about the newest developments of the ZEE and its activities with this newsletter.

The ZEE Team

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EVALUATION OF ZEE

The Centre for Renewable Energy was positively evaluated by the rectorate of the University of Freiburg and will be supported by project oriented start-up funding for one more year. The rectorate expects within this year the development of a realignment and restructuring of the ZEE by incorporating the Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences. Subsequently the contracts of the managing director and the secretary will be extended for one year until July 2012, enabling to offer our master course “MSc Renewable Energy Management” further.

MSc Renewable Energy Management (REM)

We received even more applications than last year and thus had to choose the best candidates of 310 applications for the master programme REM. In the final meeting of the admission committee 30 students were selected for winter term 2011/2012.
GRADUATE SCHOOL KleE
The post graduate programme „Small scale renewable energy systems“,(abbr. KleE) intends to create the scientific basis for a comprehensive, decentralized energy supply from different renewable energy sources. This task will be addressed by an interdisciplinary group of scientists from University of Freiburg, University of Applied Sciences Offenburg, Fraunhofer ISE and Fraunhofer IPM: 14 postgraduates will work on this task under the guidance of professors from University of Freiburg, University of Applied Sciences Offenburg and Fraunhofer ISE. 10 scholarships are provided by the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, 2 scholarships by the University of Freiburg and 2 scholarships by industry.

The Kick-Off-Meeting took place on 13th and 14th July 2011 at the ZEE. A PhD student representative was named and different activities for internal and external communication as well as an umbrella idea for KleE were discussed. During a four day enclosure in black forest in November 2011 this will be discussed in detail within the PhD student group and then finally balanced with the professors.

“WORK GREEN – Karriereforum Erneuerbare Energien” -28th January 2012
The first job fair WORK GREEN organized by students of the 3rd semester as their “Student Organized Event” in January 2011 was a big success. Some of the students of the next REM generation decided to carry on and will therefore found a registered association. The next WORK GREEN will take place at 28th January 2012 at Mensa I in the heart of the city. Three companies already booked a stand (early bird discount until 31st August 2011). More information can be found here: www.workgreen.eu
SUMMER SCHOOL SOLAR SHIFT

Solar Shift summer school on „Solar Applications for Rural Development“ was organized and hosted by The Centre for Renewable Energy (ZEE) and the M.Sc. programme Renewable Energy Management (REM) in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This weeklong summer school, held from 31 May to 7 June 2011, covered many different aspects in the field of solar technologies, from photovoltaic over solar thermal systems, financial and social concerns as well as a lecture on solar water treatment and desalination. 25 Alumni of German Universities, including highly qualified experts, scientists and decision makers in industry and politics from around 21 developing countries were invited by the DAAD to participate in Solar Shift. After this week the world’s largest fair on solar technologies INTERSOLAR welcomed the participants for three additional days, filled with chances to build and improve networks update knowledge about the latest developments in the sector.

Solar Shift has proven to be a great success and left highly content organizers and participants (please refer to the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information).

www.solarshift.uni-freiburg.de

DAAD APPLICATION

We recently applied for the DAAD tender for guest lecturers in summer term 2012. If granted Dr. Thomas Buchholz from the Rubinstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont (USA) will join us for the Elective I Bioenergy in our MSc REM programme in summer term 2012 and stay here from May to July 2012.
BMBF APPLICATION
The “Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)” announced a tender for further education at universities in Germany. The University of Freiburg applied together with Fraunhofer ISE/Fraunhofer Academy for approx. 10 different subprojects with a total funding of 4.2 Million Euro. After our success at first stage we now are asked to hand in the complete project proposal until 22nd July 2011. Two subprojects from the ZEE are part of this application: the development of further education trainings in “Solar Energy Engineering” (496.000 €) and in “Management, Sustainability and Bioenergy” (350.000 €).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RESS, 15th-16th September 2011, Freiburg

For further information please refer to www.ress-conference.uni-freiburg.de
Summer School on Solar Applications for Rural Development

31st May – 6th June 2011, Freiburg

OVERVIEW
Renewable energy is not an entirely new concept, but it recently has come to emerge as an alternative to fossil fuels and other deleterious energy sources. Products within this industry are being created on an unprecedented scale, and various systems are available for use. Solar technologies are extremely promising with ever-increasing output efficiency and the capability to be used in almost any location. Decreasing availability of fossil fuels quickens the need for solar technology, which is driving current developments. Solar systems are also relatively affordable and applicable to both homes and villages. Many projects capitalizing on solar power have already been implemented in developing countries, and serve as encouraging results for many more to come. Considering the importance of solar technologies the Centre for Renewable Energy at the University of Freiburg in collaboration with the DAAD organized a week long course on solar technologies for rural electrification and enhancement of living standards in the developing countries.

PARTICIPANTS
Highly qualified experts in the field of renewable energy from developing countries around the world attended Solar Shift, bringing together academia, government and industry with a wealth of experience in rural electrification projects. Solar Shift summer school created an interactive knowledge-exchange environment focused on Solar Technology applications for Rural Development for specialists. Bidirectional learning was pursued through workshops, case studies, discussions, excursions and lectures.

TOPICS
The main topics addressed in Solar Shift summer school were: Financing, Solar Thermal Applications, Photovoltaic Applications, Solar Water Desalination and Treatment. The highly qualified lecturers presenting on each of the topics guaranteed the quality of the summer school and made it an extremely rewarding experience for the participants.

EXCURSIONS
Excursions were planned in the city and its surrounding to showcase the Green City Freiburg and its successfully implemented projects in renewable energy to our international guests. A visit to the Ecological Village of Freiamt, the solar community of Weisweil, the solar district Vauban in Freiburg and the Fraunhofer ISE, brought the Alumni into contact with the latest technology and successful implementation strategies.

OUTCOMES
The most important difficulties and conditions for the implementation of rural electrification and water desalination were exposed. A comparison of experience of many Solar Shift participants resulted in the concrete need for a general societal framework. This framework has two components: Societal awareness of the benefits of such technologies and the political will to utilize these benefits. Public acceptance is a key component to benefiting from a shift away from fossil fuels. It is important for governments to establish an appropriate non-restrictive regulatory frame. Based on these two principal axes, there will be a chance to reduce the risk and therefore the cost of these technologies. Overcoming this most important obstacle will make this technology more available on a daily basis.