



Dear friends,

If you catch the excitement of using and building solar cookers, your life will be changed. It is a challenge to find creative ways to build new solar cookers. In the past we have made our own designs and now we are trying to improve these models. With the help of the Internet, we are also able to get more information for our project. One man told us, after opening our web site, that he had no idea so many people in the world were involved in building solar cookers and in so many countries. May-be you get the impression that we are only helping the people with solar cookers, but throughout the project we are also involved in many other needs. Therefore, remember our staff, when they put all their energy and enthusiasm into the lives of many people.

Cover for parabol cookers

There are many war invalids in Vietnam. You see them often riding around in their wheelchairs. They have made a very simple cover at the back of their wheelchairs for sunshine protection. We took this idea and attached this simple flat parasol at the back of the parabol cooker. Many people in Vietnam do not like to stand in the sun. If a couple comes to our information room, the husband is usually very excited, but his wife is always hesitant. When we express her thoughts (afraid of sunshine), she mostly smiles. Our purpose is to take away these hesitations, so we attached a parasol at the back of the parabol. Mister Can is one of our parasol designers (see picture). (Note: There is no need for a parasol cover when you use a box cooker.)



More ideas

On the Internet we found an example of a parabolic cooker used as a solar still. We took this idea and guided the steam of boiling water through a connected pipe into a glass container under the cooker. We did this in front of our information room, so we had always people watching and giving us their comments. Our neighbour saw the (para)still and gave us some good ideas. It improved, but the results were not sufficient (2 à 3 liters a day) for one family. So, we are still working on it. We also received two parabolic cookers from the Universe, but they were not working well. We have been rebuilding one of them as a foldable cooker. The result was that you can cook with it, but slower than a normal parabol. Till now, the sunrays are not exactly coming together in the middle of the cooker, so we need to improve it.



Environment day 2006

This year we have been working with the Raglai minority in a province south of Phan Rang. They cut trees for a living and sell this wood for cooking (see pictures) They were very hesitant to adopt our project, but after living with them, they



started to be interested. One Vietnamese lady had donated ten parabols (made in our new factory) for this minority group. After a while they liked it so much that the same person donated ten other parabols. We are so thankful for her generosity and creativity in giving. We used a lot of box cookers too and trained a person for house visitations. On the

International Environment day (June 5th) we organised a day of solar cooking demonstrations with all the people who had received a cooker. It was wonderful to cook and eat together. The local authorities were very pleased. See pictures:



Environment day 2006 with the Raglai minority



Cooking in the sun with parabolic and box cookers



A delicious curry dish cooked in the parabol cooker



Fish cooked in a box solar cooker



Sharing and eating the solar cooked dishes



After a wonderful day...time to go home

Many other pictures

When you receive this letter two of our Solar Serve staff are preparing to attend an International Solar Cookers conference in Spain (July 12 –16). In our next newsletter we will tell you more. We have been encouraged by people who have been visiting our new website. Since the gallery pictures have been placed on our site, we have around 20 visitors each day. Now we have to learn how to add more information. Please don't hesitate to give your comments. We will close this letter with news from Danang and our region. Have a wonderful (solar) summer holiday!

Greetings,
Solar Serve Team



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Danang Gateway News:

Typhoon Chanchu struck the South China Sea, 200 announced dead

200 Vietnamese fishermen from the central provinces (Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Thua Thien Hue and Danang) were announced dead, when many of them went into the sea on coracles, a traditional round boat made from bamboo, after a typhoon struck the South China Sea. The storm initially blew in from east to west before suddenly changing northeast. It was apparently the change of direction that caught many fishermen. They were taking shelter on a Chinese island when the storm first struck. After that they went fishing again but were caught when the storm came back. A nationwide campaign was launched to collect aid for victims of the storm.



US doctors provide free operations in Danang

Ten doctors under the US's Vietnamese Health Program started carrying out free treatment and surgery at the Danang Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center on 6 June. This is the eighth time the US doctors have come to Danang to give free operations for congenital foot malformations. The group was expected to operate 60 patients. In addition to charitable surgery, they will share experiences with Danang colleagues. With the assistance of the US doctors group, the center will send staff to learn professional skills in the US for six months.



"Meeting at Ba Na 2006" Festival to be held in mid-July

The festival will be held from 14 July to 16 July at the Ba Na-Mo Stream tourist zone and in some other neighbouring areas. There will be many exciting activities, including musical performances, the 5th Open Ba Na Tennis Competition and Katu gong exchanges. There will also be the "Danang-Land and People" painting exhibition, ecological and trekking tours, culinary arts and traditional games. The festival is expected to attract many domestic and foreign tourists.



Environmental survey

Danang will carry out an environmental survey program. The water of Danang Bay, the city's Eastern Sea, Vu Gia, Han and Phu Loc rivers, water of lakes, sea and river sediments, the air at industrial zones, residential and public areas, and land in cultivated areas and industrial zones will be tested. Biological surveys will also be done. The program will start in January 2007.



Bird flu meeting

An APEC bird flu meeting was held on May 5 in Danang. Since the first outbreak in 2003, Vietnam has had 93 human infections and 43 deaths. According to the WHO's assessment, Vietnam is still free from human avian flu infection in 2006 compared with 48 cases in 2005. The delegates made a field trip to a poultry farm in Danang and were briefed on avian flu prevention experience by the Danang authorities. When the bird flu broke out, guidelines have been given to abattoirs and small scale slaughtering. Weekly all markets and 100 breeding farms were cleaned. 95-97% of the city's poultry were vaccinated.



Danang International Sailing Regatta 2006

An International Sailing Regatta will be held in Danang from September 1 to September 10 with nearly 20 yachts from many countries. It will include a short course from Danang Bay to Furama Resort and long courses from My Khe beach to Cu Lao Cham island and from My Khe beach to northern Hai Van. The Danang Tourism Department expects that from 3,000 to 5,000 domestic and foreign tourists will visit Danang and enjoy the event. The regatta will help attract international tourists to Danang.



Target: 95% of rural households to have clean water by 2010

After years of hard working Danang has some encouraging environmental results. 44% of rural people have access to clean water and 58% of rural households have toilets. This has improved the awareness of using clean water and keeping the environment clean. Targets for the next four years are 95% of rural households to have clean water; 90% of households with toilets, 70% of households with clean animal breeding facilities; 60% of trade villages with waste treatment systems and raise more public awareness of clean water usage and environmental hygiene in rural areas.



Helping Disadvantaged Children in Danang

The US's Carolina Adoption Service (CAS), a non-profit organization, will set up a project for orphaned, disadvantaged and street children in Danang and help them to improve their living conditions and integrate in the community. Their activities include taking care of 40 orphaned, handicapped and street children, bringing up five newly born babies and assisting five disadvantaged families with capital to earn their living.