

I. PREFACE

Vorwort

This year our Institute organized the International Conference on Solar Energy for World Peace in Istanbul during August 17-19, 2013 (www.solar4peace.org). This conference was the result of many years' discussions with Prof. Walter Kohn (Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1998) and Prof. Alan Heeger (Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2000) finally realized in the city of Istanbul, Turkey where orient and occident meets.

The ideology of this meeting was to bring the world leading specialists on solar energy conversion with the scientists of Africa and Middle East together, to facilitate a fruitful communication and collaboration. Solar energy has the intrinsic property to be delocalized, decentralized and therefore democratic and peaceful as opposed to the fossil energy sources which are centralistic, oligarchic and prone to wars. This peaceful aspect of solar energy is especially important for Africa and Middle East for many countries, which do not have oil wealth and have no other energy source than the sunshine. At the end of the conference, the participants have agreed and signed a petition which will be sent and provided to all political levels and is open to sign in the homepage. Please distribute this text to all your networks and make sure that as many people as possible sign this petition at our homepage www.solar4peace.org. The full text of this petition is attached to this report.

Scientifically the year of 2013 was a very productive and successful one for our Institute, with many publications with great impact in the scientific community. Especially the discovery of air stable organic semiconductors within the family of indigoid compounds opened up the possibility of immediate industrial implementation of organic devices without the fear of rapid degradation.

In the year of 2013 also a large number of visitors and visiting professors joined our Institute for short and medium time scale. This is also part of our mission to disseminate the results of our research worldwide. Especially African Network for Solar Energy (www.ansole.org) helped and facilitated quite a number of African scientists to join our Institute and to make research. We hope and expect to have contributed to a nice future of this rising continent.

Linz, February 2014

Niyazi Serdar Sariciftci

Petition for using the solar energy for a peaceful, democratic future for the world (www.solar4peace.org)

We, the undersigned to this letter, wish to emphasize the potential contribution of solar energy to a peaceful and democratic future for our planet.

Energy is essential for the development of human society. It is the right of every human to have access to energy sources for sustaining a dignified standard of living. With fossil fuels as the dominant source of energy in modern societies, being depleted at an alarming pace, energy becomes a commodity for those who can afford it. Hundreds of millions of people in the developing world have no access to affordable energy for a sustainable life. Even the developed countries have to spend a major part of their national income for importing fossil fuels. This dependency imposes a heavy economic burden and associated volatility. Today human society looks like a “fossil fuel addict” throwing away its future.

The control of fossil fuel supplies by a few corporations at both the international and national levels permits an oligarchy to undermine any true democracy in future.

In contrast to nuclear and fossil energies, which are associated with catastrophes, wars, inequality and power politics, solar energy is correlated with a peaceful, clean, democratic, green and sustainable future for mankind. Solar energy can never be monopolized. Human society needs decentralized solar energy for realization of global democratization. With energy independence and autonomy through solar energy, the world will have a better prospect to realize global democratization and prosperity and to ensure harmony among regions, nations and people. Solar light is widely distributed on our planet and has the capacity of providing many orders of magnitude more energy than we consume as a human society today.

With this motivation in mind the delegates of the conference “Solar Energy for World Peace” (www.solar4peace.org) came together in Istanbul to exchange scientific information on new solar energy technologies. A particular aim of this meeting has been the transfer of know how to the developing countries in Africa and the Middle East, with emphasis on the need for mutual cooperation at the scientific and technical levels in order to make this technology available to every human being on earth with equal rights to this free source of energy.

The undersigned participants request responsible persons at all national and international political levels to support the research, development and dissemination of solar energy. As scientists and engineers, we will strive to create the sciences and technologies needed to harvest and utilize solar energy economically for all people on our planet. The future of human society and of our planet will depend upon the widespread use of solar energy as an abundant, free and clean source of energy.