

ENERGIA Women Entrepreneurship Awards Ceremony and Press Conference to take place at the SEforALL Forum

On 5 April, ENERGIA will present its Women Entrepreneurship Awards to the five winners from Africa in Asia at the ceremony that will take place at the SEforALL Forum and will be followed by a press conference. The ceremony and press conference will take place from 1:15-2:00 pm at the SDG Media Zone.

Award winners are successful entrepreneurs, leaders in their communities and role models for other entrepreneurs. They have all been actively engaged in ENERGIA's Womens' Economic Empowerment Programme for at least one year and have been continuously running a profitable business for at least three quarters of a year. The award is meant to recognize outstanding work and encourage the winners to perform even better in the future. Each winner will receive 1,000 euros for the strengthening of their capacities to run an energy business or for enhancing the profitability of their business.

ENERGIA's partners in the implementation of the Women Economic Empowerment Programme – Kopernik, Center for Rural Technology Nepal, Practical Action, Energy 4 Impact and Solar Sister – nominated the candidates. The three-members jury selected:

- **Ibu Detty** from Indonesia, who has been running a clean energy business as a participant in Kopernik's Wonder Women Program while raising four children together with her husband and fulfilling the duties of her day job as a teacher.
- **Margaret Kariuku** from Kenya, who launched her briquettes enterprise in 2015 and has participated in various training programmes provided by the Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya project ran by Practical Action Eastern Africa.
- **Niru Shrestha**, an experienced entrepreneur from Nepal, who was inspired by the WEE-Nepal training programmes in 2015 to switch from constructing built-on-site mud chimney stoves to supplying portable biomass cookstoves.
- **Oumy Ngom**, the leader of a Senegalese women's group who has benefitted from the Energy 4 Impact programme sponsored by ENERGIA and engaged her group in the use and sale of clean energy products through the sale of solar lamps and improved cookstoves.
- **Hilaria Paschal** who became Solar Sister's very first entrepreneur in Tanzania in 2013. This mother of five children sells cookstoves and solar lights as well as helps mentor other women at Solar Sister as a group leader in her area.

ENERGIA launched the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme in 2014, as part of ENERGIA's commitment to SEforALL's overall goal of reaching universal access to modern energy services by 2030. This programme is aimed at strengthening micro- and small scale female entrepreneurs in the energy sector to become profitable and successful entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities.

More information about the ENERGIA Women Entrepreneurship Award winners and the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme is available in the attached press kit. High resolution photos of award winners can be downloaded from <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7IB8Cx3Rz7ncDNoU3ZpTzV0YzA>

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