



Alliance CEO Radha Muthiah and China's Special Representative on Climate Change Minister Xie Zhenhua visit a home in Myanmar.

## Radha's Letter

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Myanmar, where I've joined government officials and others working to better understand the country's household energy needs. Myanmar's government included clean cooking as a priority to help address its



climate goals, and they are exploring the development of a large-scale cooking energy program...

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## Feature

### [Betty Ikalany wins Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award](#)

The Alliance is pleased to announce Betty Ikalany as the inaugural Woman Entrepreneur of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding female leaders in the household energy sector who are advancing clean cooking solutions in emerging markets.



## Alliance News

### [WEEW2017: Advancing energy entrepreneurship and women's empowerment](#)

The Women's Energy Entrepreneurship Workshop brought together nearly 100 people from 14 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Europe to discuss best practices and key challenges for scaling women's entrepreneurship in the household energy sector globally.

### [PBS NewsHour highlights emerging health benefits of clean cooking in Ghana](#)

A recent PBS NewsHour piece highlighted an Alliance-supported study monitoring the health impacts of clean cookstoves and fuels on pregnant women and their children.



## **Catalytic Small Grant Program launched in Nigeria**

17 enterprises across 11 Nigerian states met in Lagos for a Boost Workshop as part of CSG, a program that provides critical funding to help small and growing businesses scale their operations.

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## **Recap: Exposing air pollution, informing policy and action**

Earlier this month, Alliance CEO Radha Muthiah joined a panel addressing the impacts of pollution on human health and the environment. Read some of the top takeaways.



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## **Alliance seeks input for Phase 3 planning**

As part of the transition to Phase 3, the Alliance is inviting partner input to enhance planning and implementation efforts. If you are interested in contributing your voice to these efforts, please follow the link to submit your responses.

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## **Sector News**

### **Air pollution affects preterm birthrates globally, study finds**

A pregnant woman's exposure to air pollution has adverse effects on her fetus, according to a new international [study](#), with prolonged exposure associated with nearly 1 in 5 premature births globally.



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### **Study identifies low-cost, corrosion-resistant metals for cookstoves**

A newly-published study suggests early promise for more durable and cost-efficient metals compared to metals available on the market.

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### [NASA Image of the Day shows pollution over Bangladesh](#)

Featuring a satellite image taken over Bangladesh, NASA's Earth Observatory highlighted cookstove smoke as a major contributor to poor air quality, noting that many government agencies, public health advocates, and environmental groups are racing to provide cleaner options in countries where traditional cookstoves are still common.



### **Partner Spotlight**

#### **CARE in Vietnam**

CARE in Vietnam launched the "Empower Me" project, through which ethnic minority women, who are active members of the Village Savings and Loans Associations, were given the necessary training to become saleswomen or cookstove "marketing supporters".

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**Upcoming Events:**

[March 1:](#) Webinar: Evaluating Fuel Pathways to Prioritize and Scale Cleaner Options - A Life Cycle-Analysis of Cooking Fuels

[March 8:](#) International Women's Day

[March 13-24:](#) 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

[March 17:](#) Empowering Women Clean Energy Entrepreneurs: The wPower Partnership

[March 21:](#) International Day of Forests

[March 29:](#) Webinar: Easier, Faster, Cleaner - and Expensive? Perspectives of Guatemalan Consumers, Employers, and Industry

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The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a United Nations Foundation-hosted public-private partnership to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's goal calls for 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance is working with over 1600 public, private, and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves and fuels in the developing world.

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