

Reflections from the Chair



In June, we saw the publication of the 2024 edition of Solar Heat Worldwide. This flagship publication has been made available to the public since 2005, in a great effort from our Austrian colleagues led by Werner Weiss and Monika Spörk-Dürk from AEE Intec. This year's edition, reflecting basic market data for 2023 and detailed data for 2022, brings a mixed bag of news. The bad news is

that the market saw a decline of 7% in new installed collector area, mostly due to a drop in activity in the world's largest solar heating market, China, caused by a slowdown in the real estate sector. Despite that, we saw a global 3% growth in net installed capacity (newly installed minus decommissioning) and a good level of activity accompanied by a growing pipeline of projects in the industrial and district heating markets. We also saw strong growth in PV for heating applications, as in South Africa.

Heating represents 50% of energy end-use, and it is going to take an array of technologies and solutions to decarbonize the heating sector at the required speed. Our sector and our Programme are ready to meet this challenge with reliable and cost-effective solutions.

Last, we had a very busy ExCo meeting this past June in Oslo. I want to thank our colleagues from Norway again, particularly Michaela Meir, for the warm welcome and great job organizing the meeting, which included a very interesting tour of Inaventa Solar's manufacturing facility. The meeting in Oslo saw the departure due to retirement of two professionals that have had a significant impact on SHC. Prof Maria Wall, from Sweden, has contributed not only as an expert on solar neighborhoods and buildings but also as a very effective Task Manager, the last time for the recently finished Task 63 - Solar Neighborhood Planning. Werner Weiss had many roles within SHC, from Task expert to Austrian ExCo member. Werner always brought not only knowledge, but also a profound commitment to the development of the solar heating and cooling sector. He created and led our Solar Heat Worldwide publication and has been instrumental in growing our Solar Academy activities. To Maria and Werner, our most sincere thank you, and we wish you the best of luck in this next chapter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucio Mesquita', written in a cursive style.

Lucio Mesquita
SHC Executive Committee Chair