

A Successful Wrap-Up of the 5th Edition of the S-@ccess Conference: Key Takeaways and Future Plans

The 5th edition of the International Conference on Solar Technologies and Hybrid Mini-Grids to Improve Energy Access has concluded! Held from September 4-6, 2024, at the Universitat de les Illes Balears in Palma, Spain, this event brought together an impressive and diverse array of participants from around the globe. On behalf of the Partner Organizations and the Organizing Committee, we extend our sincere thanks to all media partners, sponsors, collaborators, and participants for their unwavering support and active engagement throughout the conference sessions and side activities.

As with previous editions, our primary objective was to create a platform for meaningful exchanges among practitioners from industry, academia, and development institutions dedicated to decentralized energy access and local development. The conference explored a wide range of topics, including technical, social, and environmental aspects, as well as business and management considerations, all with the aim of sharing experiences, fostering learning, and encouraging collaboration.

Key Outcomes:

- **Strong Global Presence:** The conference was held in person, attracting **138** participants from **39** countries across 6 continents, showcasing the global commitment to improving energy access.
- **Diverse and Comprehensive Program:** The event featured over 70 oral presentations, over 25 poster presentations, and 7 round-table discussions. Highlights included insightful sessions on technical aspects like design and product features, business models, regulatory and financing schemes, social integration and integrated planning methods.
- **Interactive Side-Events:** Three side-events added depth to the conference: the Energy Access Innovation Lab organized by WISE/RLI; an interactive workshop on Sustainable Cooling to Unlock Food Security hosted by Efficiency for Access; and the World Bank's ESMAP workshop on Electricity Access for Underserved Customers: The Case for Undergrid Mini-Grids.
- **Unique Solar Cooking Event:** A "Solar Lunch" showcased meals cooked using solar cookers, highlighting the potential of solar technology in daily life. Enthusiasm from participants underscored the value of hands-on demonstrations in raising awareness about clean cooking technologies.

Participant Reflections:

Participant reflections highlighted the conference's pivotal role in driving critical discussions on major challenges, such as the urgent need for significantly increased financial resources to achieve universal energy access, the evolving importance of solar heat in meeting SDG7, and the complexities involved in integrating e-cooking solutions in last-mile communities. Attendees commended the engaging presentations, which underscored real-world applications, such as the use of IoT (Internet of Things) in solar thermal systems to enhance reliability and build trust in the technology.

Participants also appreciated the inclusive and collaborative atmosphere of the conference. The event's informal, family-like feel and its light-hearted tone set it apart, making it not just a forum for serious discussions but also a vibrant space for building the bonds essential to advancing our shared mission of universal energy access.



Presentations, Photos and Outcome Notes:

To access all session presentations, conference photos and outcome notes from the various side events and round tables visit [our conference website](#).

Looking Ahead:

Given the success and positive feedback from this year's conference, the Partner Organizations, together with the Scientific and Organizing Committees, are excited to announce plans for a 6th edition of the conference in the spring of 2026 (details to be defined)!

To stay updated, please follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) or visit our website at www.energy-access-conferences.com.

Thank you once again for making the S-@ccess' 5th edition a memorable and impactful event. We welcome your [continued feedback](#) and look forward to seeing you at the next conference!

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Conference Chairs

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