Dear Sector Partners,

Subject: Invitation to the National Clean Cookstoves and Fuels Conference

On behalf of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and the Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels, it is our pleasure to invite you to a national conference to promote **Clean Cookstoves and Fuels for all in Ghana.** The one-day Conference will be on April 9th, 2014 and the two-day Cookstoves Exhibition will be available April 9-10. The Conference and Cookstoves Technology Exhibition will be at the Best Western Hotel in Accra, Ghana. Please see the attached agenda for more detailed information.

Both the National Alliance and the Global Alliance work to catalyze the adoption of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by almost 4 million Ghanaian households by 2020 through a market-based approach that will achieve the following objectives in Ghana:

- **Reduce Household Air Pollution (HAP)** including smoke, particulate matters and other toxic gases emanating from open fires and traditional cookstoves. HAP is estimated to contribute over 19,200 impacted and 13,400 premature deaths and 3000 child deaths annually in Ghana;

- **Promote adoption of LPG and clean cookstoves to reduce environmental degradation and increase access to clean energy.** Firewood and unsustainable charcoal burning are primary drivers of reduction in Ghana’s forest cover, which now stands at less than 30%. Over 85% of the Ghanaian population relies on firewood and charcoal for cooking and other commercial activities. In rural areas, 95% of the population remains dependent on these inefficient cooking methods; and,

- **Build the capacities of existing cookstoves enterprises in order to reach scale.** Through various government and partner programs, the country has become home to a number of wood, charcoal, and LPG stove producers and importers. The cookstoves suppliers currently distribute over 300,000 units of wood and charcoal stoves annually, with LPG stoves potentially doubling that number. However, in spite of their impressive annual sales and healthy margins, the majority of the suppliers and distributors in the Ghana cookstoves market remain in the start-up phase with evident gaps in management structure, supply chain, technical support, and working capital, issues currently preventing them from entering the growth stage, becoming investor ready, and reaching scale.

- **Empower women and improve livelihoods** by increasing understanding of the gendered impacts of traditional cooking methods, particularly because fuel collection and cooking generally remain women’s responsibilities, and by realizing women’s critical role in reaching adoption of clean cooking solutions at scale – from developing designs that are user-friendly and user-appropriate to wide-scale marketing and sustained adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels.
Ghanaian clean cooking stakeholders developed and adopted a Country Action Plan (CAP) in October 2012, a process facilitated by the Global Alliance and adopted by the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The CAP’s national target of 4 million households adopting clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by the year 2020 is part of the Alliance’s global goal of facilitating the adoption of clean and efficient cookstoves by 100 million households by the year 2020. To achieve this ambitious target, the sector and implementing partners are committed to facilitating the process by offering leadership and providing critical market-enabling resources that will help ensure a thriving, sustainable market in the long run.

At the upcoming conference, we will be evaluating our progress as stakeholders – our interventions to catalyze the market this past year, challenges we encountered, and further opportunities – to enable better CAP implementation and to ensure that we remain on track to achieve our 2020 goal.

To participate in the National Clean Cookstoves and Fuels Conference please send a confirmation email with your contact details to ghana@cleancookstoves.org by March 17, 2014.

Those wishing to exhibit their cookstoves or fuels at the Technology Exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday, join the Distribution session on Thursday, or participate in the Cookstoves and Fuels Standards and Testing session on Friday, must indicate this in their email. (Please note that the Distribution and Standards and Testing sessions are limited to a certain number of participants).

For clarification and questions, please contact our Regional Market Manager for West Africa, Mr. Kwesi Sarpong at +233-20-4444-808 or ksarpong@cleancookstoves.org.

Sincerely,

Radha Muthiah
Executive Director