



## International Day of Light 16 May

## World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 17 May

This weekend we celebrate the International Day of Light on Saturday 16th and the World Telecommunications and Information Society Day on Sunday 17th.

We often forget how important both aspects are for our lives, but the absence of them shows us how detrimental the consequences are. For example, in Africa **90 % of people use cell phones** as the means of payment and communication lifeline, therefore **spending about 10-20 % of their income on electricity** to charge their phones.

It does not only cost a lot of money, it also consumes a lot of time, since the next plug-in is often hours away. Therefore, people are forced to go to work to participate in the telecommunication society, including also circa 20% of children who have to work and contribute to the family income instead of attending school.

This means that electricity and education are key elements for a functioning and fair society for children and adults alike. Connecting these elements would solve 2 big problems. One of the projects tackling these issues is the **Solar Cow**, which is installed in front of schools and produces electricity. While the kids are at school the Solar Cow charges the portable batteries attached to it and the kids can take these batteries home after school for electricity.

Find out more about this project and the two International Days we celebrate this weekend:

Light . . . . . <https://www.lightday.org/>

Telecommunication & Information . . . . <https://www.un.org/en/observances/telecommunication-day>

Solar Cow . . . . . <http://yolkstation.com> . . . . <https://time.com/collection/best-inventions-2019/5733126/yolk-solar-cow/>