



INWES Member Newsletter #6 – May 2010

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Editorial

Dear INWES Members,
dear Readers,

this Newsletter is shorter than usual but hopefully nonetheless full of interesting news for you.

Two new INWES Members are introduced: IEEE Ottawa WIE and the Fondation EPF Engineering School which manages a summer school for women engineers.

Other news concern the up-coming Regional Meeting of INWES and the Call for Papers of ICWES15.

Enjoy!

Petra Mayerhofer

News from the President

Here in the UK the spring has just exploded after a long and very cold and wet winter. We have just been reminded by the Iceland volcano that humankind cannot control everything by technology, and we are in the final week of a general election campaign where we have to make a very difficult choice over who will lead our country in the future – an election whose result is too close to call. Interesting times!

The winter months have been quiet for INWES, a welcome break after the hard work of the autumn. Last time I asked you to try to recruit members for us, and I hope you are bearing this in mind and trying to persuade your friends and colleagues to join INWES and help us achieve our goals. Remember, we also have a grade of University/Institute membership. Also, we asked all our members for their subscriptions back in January, and I would like you to check that you, or your organisation, have paid. At the moment we rely very much on our subscriptions to run the organisation, so are always very grateful when our members pay up on time. Remember, INWES is your organisation, so please support it.

ICWES15 in Adelaide, Australia, is proceeding at a pace, and the website is on line, so do look and see what is planned. The plans are well advanced.

We are to hold a Regional Meeting and Board Meeting in Washington DC in August this year – you will find further information in this newsletter –, which is being hosted by the AAAS, one of our members. We are excited about going to Washington, so please consider whether you can make it, we hope to see as many members there as possible.



On behalf of INWES, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to our Polish members for the tragic loss of the plane in Russia which carried their President, members of government, the military and other eminent citizens.

It must have been a terrible shock for the country to lose all those people at one time, and the fact that they were on their way to Katyn to com-

memorate another tragedy against the Polish people only makes the accident more poignant.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Washington, and please think now about coming to ICWES15 next year.

Sue Bird, INWES President

The 2010 INWES Regional Meeting

The 2010 International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) Regional Meeting will be held **August 26 – 27, 2010, in Washington, D.C.**, at the headquarters of the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**. The INWES Regional Meeting is hosted by the AAAS Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs and the AAAS International Office.

The overall topic for the 2010 INWES Workshop is "**Opportunities for Developing Country-Specific Women in Science and Engineering Education, Workforce and Economic Development Projects.**" Sessions will include:

- Sources for identifying prospective funding agencies;
- Understanding international funding agencies and how they work;
- Understanding how science and education ministries develop and support projects; and
- Tips for developing projects with corporate funders.

The workshop will include plenary sessions, small group working sessions, and a poster session. The small group sessions will include guided questions to (a) help participants identify

possible funding opportunities/resources and (b) develop plans for STEM projects and outreach activities in their specific country or region.

Poster abstracts will be accepted for programs and materials related to STEM education, career, and workforce development programs for girls and women. This is an opportunity for organizations to highlight projects that they have conducted in their country or region. The **abstract deadline is July 26, 2010.**

The registration fee for the conference is \$125. The registration fee covers breakfast, lunch, and a reception on Thursday, August 26th, as well as breakfast and lunch on Friday, August 27th. Registration will open June 1, 2010 and information regarding nearby hotels will be posted at this time.

The registration link for the INWES Regional Workshop can be located at <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=5622ff50-1497-4849-9e56-8ae2d7b48539/>

An **INWES Board meeting** will be held at AAAS Headquarters in Washington DC, **August 28, 29 and 30, 2010.**



ICWES15: Call for Papers

ICWES 15 - The 15th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists

19-22 July, Adelaide 2011

The National Committee for Women in Engineering, Engineers Australia and the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) have joined forces to host the 15th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES15), to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 19-22 July 2011.

The Conference is held every three years, and attracts engineers and scientists from all over the world, providing a unique opportunity to exchange information on their work and environment.

The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss innovative technology in the 21st century across the engineering, science and technological professions and network with colleagues in business, academia and government.

Over three days, the Conference will explore the following themes:

- **Attracting, developing and retaining women engineers and scientists.**
Papers highlighting outstanding practices and initiatives to attract, develop and retain women to science and engineering education and professions including work life balance, gender policy, education and management of cultural differences
- **Outstanding practice models of industry commitment to diversity and equality in the workplace.**
Papers outlining initiatives, programs and policies to encourage women into leadership and decision making roles, women in business, entrepreneurship and issues relating to professional development
- **Achievements, innovations and research in the various fields of engineering, science and technology**



Papers that discuss the achievements, innovations and research for all fields of science, engineering and technology

- **New ideas and solutions to contemporary problems including climate change, water, energy and sustainability.**

Papers considering a wide range of topics including the challenges of climate change, water management, renewable energy, sustainable practices, the ecology and the environment

The Conference will be a unique opportunity to showcase the achievements of women in engineering, scientists and technology and to lead the way towards a sustainable future.

Important Dates

Submissions will be accepted in 4 categories – full paper reviewed, full paper non-reviewed, poster presentations, workshop proposals:

- Abstract submission for review – all categories: 1 Dec 2010
- Abstract acceptance notification 10 Jan 2011
- Full paper submission for peer review 1 March 2011
- Final workshop proposal submission for inclusion in program 1 March 2011
- Acceptance notification for reviewed papers 1 May 2011
- Final reviewed paper submission for publication in proceedings 10 June 2011

For registration, more information and abstract submission go to: www.icwes15.org.



News from INWES

Appointment with the Minister of Science and High Education

by Dr. Anna Szemik-Hojniak

The date of my appointment, with professor Barbara Kudrycka, the Minister of Science and High Education of Polish Government was fixed on the 8-th March, 2010.

I was waiting a few minutes for her because she celebrated The International Women`s Day at Warsaw University. It made me happy, of course, that usually so busy Minister shows such a respect for university women and finds a bit of time to meet them in their special day.

The main purpose of my visit was concerned with presentation of INWES corporation to Polish Ministry of Science and High Education and to discuss the results of INWES presence on the global stage of "Women in science and engineering" issue. I cited the main goals and tasks of INWES, when we set down comfortably in her elegant office, although anticipating my visit I sent to the Ministry about a week earlier the description of the most important INWES global activities. In this way, the Minister knew a lot about us. Prof. Kudrycka was very interested in our work for the benefits of women and even expressed some kind of regret that her clerks did not informed her earlier about it. If she knew, she could use some times the INWES web site as a source of information on the global aspect of Gender issue and, as she mentioned, could invite me, as INWES director, to participate in few important discussions (conferences, panels...) related to this topic. A kind encouragement from here side was expressed for INWES to figure out a path for future collaboration. Since American Fulbright grants are partly co-financed by the Polish Ministry of Science and High Education, it might be a good idea to find a way for similar collaboration with INWES or with INWES-ERI Institute.

Generally in Poland the things in favour of women change slowly. Important is, however, that a good example comes from the top, especially from ministries headed by women.

Minister Kudrycka explained me, that she works personally on many legal changes in favour of women that in the future may be introduced at Polish universities. They are concerned, for example, with opening of nurseries and kindergartens (both for female students and for women scientists), with an easier access of women scientists to receive scientific grants, with transparent criteria in scientific career, prohibition of nepotism and many others.

Her government, during only the first two years of its cadence has already terminated the two important stages of a new reform undertaken recently in Polish science and high education.

The first one "We build on the knowledge-Reform of Science for Development of Poland" comprises of 5 special ordinances and the second one called "Partnership for the knowledge"-contains the precise reform assumptions for the high education in Poland. In each of them, a significant attention is focused on STEM fields and many facilities for female students and women scientists are there foreseen.

The first three ordinances that enable the women scientists to reconcile their maternal obligations with professional duties have already been signed out.

They say the following:

- 1) The time of maternal leave will not be included into the period of time that was foreseen for scientific researches in grant.
- 2) During the maternal leave, young women scientists may apply for Ministerial Scientific Stipends resulting from their eminent scientific achievements.
- 3) Women scientists with small children will also be taken into consideration while the criteria of acknowledgement and accounts of financial means for scientific projects and researches will be elaborated.

Till now, the women scientists while being on the maternal leave have usually lost the chance to get the stipend or scientific grant. A new law



enables them to suspend it and to renew it after their return to a full professional activity.

In Poland, due to a previous unreformed law, a distressing situation took place in the years 2002-2006. Despite that a number of women scientists have been raising up faster (6.3%) than that of men (3.7%), nevertheless the number of women in the age 30-39, working both at universities and in other scientific centers, drastically decreased.

Hopefully, the Polish Government and especially the Ministry of Science and High Education noticed it and quickly reacted.

In Poland, there is 44% of women scientists with the Ph.D. grade while those with the title of full professor are only 18% of the whole scientific population.

In majority of EU countries, there is a low participation of women in the science decision making bodies. An average for the whole EU is 27%, the highest indicator belongs to Sweden (49%) and the lowest to Luxembourg (4%). Poland with its 7% among the 27 countries of the European

Union, is on the penultimate place, unfortunately. Hence, there is a lot of work ahead of Polish women to change it..

The optimistic, however, fact for Polish science, in general is, as the Minister informed me, that in 2009 the Polish budget expenditure for science increased of about 23% and the contribution of the EU financial means increased about 288%.

INWES Meetings

25 February 2010 – Skype – 1st Executive meeting #2010 – Participants: Sue Bird, Monique Frize, Nadia Ghazzali, Kong-Joo Lee, Gail Mattson, Monique Moutaud, Pascale Dubé (Recorder)

Future meetings:

28-30 August 2010 – Washington D.C. – Board Meeting

Introducing INWES Members: IEEE Ottawa WIE

by Jennifer Ng

The impetus for the first IEEE's Women in Engineering Group came from the IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control Society in 1993. The IEEE Technical Activities Board passed a motion on 28 February that "IEEE actively encourage participation of women in all its activities and that TAB (Technical Activities Board) request that the IEEE Board of Directors establish mechanisms to encourage greater participation of women, especially students, in engineering." This decision led to an inquiry into this issue. Funds were allocated for a project to increase the number of women in IEEE and to establish an ad-hoc committee to be known as the Women in Engineering program. In 1997, the WIE group was



formally elevated from an ad-hoc committee to a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors.

In February 2005, the IEEE Board of Directors approved the updating of the WIE's scope to include voting representatives on Educational Activities, Regional Activities and Technical Activities Boards; and increase student involvement in the group.

Now in 2010, IEEE Women in Engineering counts over 12000 members (students and professionals) worldwide.

The WIE Ottawa chapter was founded in 2006. This group conducts different activities to promote the WIEC vision locally. WIE scopes of interest include facilitation of the development of





programs and activities that promote the entry into and retention of women in engineering programs, promotion of IEEE membership and retention of IEEE women members and enhancement the career advancement of women in the profession.

For more details on our chapter as well as our events, please go to <http://ieee.org/go/ottawa-wie>

IEEE Ottawa WIE joined INWES in 2010 as an organizational member and intends to join forces in order to achieve our common goals. The 2010 IEEE WIE Ottawa Chair is Jennifer Ng Ain Kin jng@ieee.org

Introducing INWES Members: Fondation EPF Engineering School

Fondation EPF Engineering school which manages IIWE, a summer time seminar, has just joined INWES as a University member.

Dear INWES Readers,

The International Institute of Women in Engineering is entering its tenth year as a Summer School and conference event, actively promoting the role and voice of women engineers and scientists worldwide.

All information on this Summer's conference and activities can be found on the IIWE website: www.iiwe-yes.org

Let us know of your own activities and we will make every effort to promote your event via our website and future newsletters.

Meeting each other's needs is a great opportunity to stay in tune with businesses, universities, institutions and professionals and might result in common projects and future cooperation.

If established networks of women engineers are active— so is network information! These initiatives deserve our special attention and encouragement. Furthermore, IIWE actively seeks close contacts with companies, universities and professionals, fostering an exchange of ideas, experiences, good (and bad) practices as well as offering the possibility to young students of an access to the professional world.

IIWE feels honored that Dr. Hélène Langevin-Joliot has accepted to be the IIWE President for



the 2010 edition. IIWE also presented a paper to the Oxford University Round Forum on Sustainability held at Lincoln College, Oxford from the 26th -29th March, 2010. The paper will be published later this year.

IIWE is also continuously acquiring partners. We look forward in the near future to being chaired by UNESCO, and will keep you updated with developments in the IIWE Summer issue, due in July 2010. Whether you already run a network or plan to create or found a network, whether you are looking for new networking partners or want to tap on others' experience – contact us and let us know your goals and activities. We would like to spread your news and we are here to act on it if needed.

Molly Malone,
Director
International Institute of Women
In Engineering



Conferences, Workshops & Events

10-11 June | Brussels, Belgium
Annual Conference and General Assembly of European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS)
www.epws.org

25-27 June | Bochum, Germany
RUHR.2010: Education of girls and women in the field of intercultural tension
Annual meeting of the University Women of Europe (UWE)
www.dab-ev.org/index.php?id=477

2-7 July | Torino, Italy
ESOF – Euroscience Open Forum
www.esof2010.org

5-9 August | Mexico City, Mexico
30th IFUW Triennial Conference: Education, Empowerment & Development
International Federation of University Women
www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/index.shtml

26-27 August | Washington, D.C., USA
INWES Regional Meeting 2010
(INWES Board Meeting 28-30 August)
www.inwes.org

17-20 October | Buenos Aires, Argentina
Engineering 2010 – Argentina
World Engineering Congress and Exhibition
incl. Forum "Women in Engineering and Business" on 17 October
www.ingenieria2010.com.ar

4-6 November | Orlando, Florida, USA
SWE10: The Annual Conference for Women Engineers
we10.swe.org

19-22 July 2011 | Adelaide, Australia
15th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES15)
www.icwes15.org

4-9 September 2011 | Geneva, Switzerland
World Engineer's Convention 2011 (WEC 2011)
www.wec2011.ch

INWES Member Newsletter

Deadline for Issue #7: 31 July 2010

Contact: Petra Mayerhofer, Chair Communications & Newsletter Committee
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INWES Board

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