



# International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists

*...building a better future worldwide*

## The International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) was established to:

*“Strengthen the capacity of individuals, organisations, and corporations through education and professional development to encourage the participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) worldwide through an international network of organisations and experts.”*

### With the goal of:

*“Building a better future worldwide through full and effective participation of women and girls in all aspects of STEM.”*

## Primary Objectives of INWES

The goal of INWES will be accomplished by:

1. Becoming an influential voice on STEM issues for the benefit of women, gender equity, and society
2. Increasing the presence of women in mainstream STEM decision-making bodies.
3. Promoting exchange of information, networking, advocacy and a wide range of projects.
4. Expanding opportunities for education through the INWES Educational and Research Institute.

## What is INWES?

INWES is:

- an international network specifically focused on supporting women in STEM.
- an international organisation founded as a legal entity through the collaboration of numerous organizations, individuals and corporations.
- an inclusive organisation that is multilingual and multinational.

At the World Conference on Science for the 21st Century, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council for Science in Budapest, Article 90 was adopted encouraging special efforts to be made toward the establishment of an international network of women scientists and engineers. Through the support and encouragement of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and a successful grant from UNESCO, 20 women representing 10 countries and 8 organisations met in Canada, May 2001, to explore the creation of such a network.

In July 2002, the International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES12) delegates supported the creation of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES). The vote from representatives of 30 countries was unanimous. The following April 2003, INWES was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Canada.

In November 2007, the INWES Educational and Research Institute was formed to advance education in the fields of STEM and to expand the reach of INWES through funding of special projects.

In April 2008, INWES became an official NGO partner of the operational type with UNESCO. This partnership involves a dynamic cooperation to help women and girls worldwide to have access to education, especially in Science and Engineering.

As of October 2008, INWES has 30 Organizational Members, 2 Corporate Members, 4 University/Institute Members, and 101 Individual Members, representing over 250,000 women from 60 countries around the globe.

## Who Can Join INWES?

- Organisational Members: Not-for-profit organisations and associations supporting women in STEM.
- Corporate Members: Businesses and corporations interested in or employing women in STEM.
- Individual Members: Students or professionals interested or engaged in STEM.
- University/Institutes: Universities or educational institutes who teach and support women in STEM.

**Application forms to join INWES are available on the website at [www.inwes.org](http://www.inwes.org).**

## Functions of INWES

### Networking Events

- Provide a solid forum for international events and conferences for women in STEM.
- Oversee triennial International Conferences (ICWES).
- Co-host Regional Conferences for Professional Development.
- Work with host organisation/country on logistics, announcements, and publicity.

### Exchange of information

- Establish a worldwide web portal for information on women in STEM.
- Encourage all countries to collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data.
- Collect and disseminate information, including a newsletter.
- Maintain a database of international events.
- Reach people in different languages.
- Post information about INWES and relevant networked associations.
- Provide links to websites of Organisational and Corporate Members.
- Establish links to relevant databases about STEM careers, education, and research.

### Advocacy

- Provide an international voice for women in STEM careers.
- Collaborate with UNESCO and UNIFEM on international campaigns to raise awareness about STEM issues.
- Ensure appropriate representation of women on international policy, decision-making fora, and panels.
- Document and publicize the contributions of women in STEM worldwide.

### Programs/Projects

- Increase awareness, access to education, and career opportunities for girls and women.
- Support the development of educational tools, training of teachers, and mentoring.
- Share good practices among members by providing resources for professional development, and distribution of these materials.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate with organisations and corporations in providing programs, projects, and events.

### INWES Educational and Research Institute

- Scholarship Competition in Developing Countries
- Collection of Best Practices
- Gender Resource Tool

## More About INWES

### “Strength is in Unity”

If women are to have a significant voice, one that is heard by mainstream science and engineering on issues such as the environment, sustainable development, gender equity, and many other critical issues, then we must strive to state clearly and consistently our position and views in a united effort.

These objectives will be achieved through the collaboration between Organisational, Corporate, and Individual Members of INWES. By becoming a member you can help to create a better future for everyone, and participate in worldwide discussions on how to increase the impact of women's voices in mainstream organisations.

## How Does INWES Operate?

- A triennial meeting of Members to elect Directors to the Board and transact business.
- An elected Board of Directors of organisations, corporations, and individuals, representing all regions of the world.
- The INWES Educational and Research Institute provides funding for Special Projects.
- Activities developed and conducted through committees:

Executive	Conference	Membership
Fund Development	By-Laws	Nominations
Communications	Programs	Web Portal

**To learn more about INWES and how to become member,  
call ++ 1 (418) 656 2131 poste 2517 or e-mail [inwes@mat.ulaval.ca](mailto:inwes@mat.ulaval.ca)  
You may also visit us online at [www.inwes.org](http://www.inwes.org)**