



ISSUE 16 - MAY 2014

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of INWES,

I would like first of all to express my sincere and deep condolences to all those affected by the tragic ferry disaster in South Korea. The death of so many, including a large number of high school students, is a sad loss and our thoughts are with those who are grieving. I dearly hope that improvements can be made to lifesaving systems, in South Korea and around the world, so that this kind of tragedy never happens again.

The end of 2013 of the beginning of 2014 has been a busy time for INWES board and executive members. We had our annual board meeting on the 16th and 17th of December in KIST-Europe, Saarbrücken, Germany with the support of the Association of Korean Woman Scientists and Engineers (KWSE) and our former board member Myung Hee Jung. Twelve of our board members and five guests participated in the two-day board meeting, where they reported back on their activities and discussed changes in the current bylaw and our preparations for ICWES16. We were very fortunate to have Caroline Belan-Ménager from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research present to give a presentation on the COST genderSTE targeted network. We also discussed ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICWES at ICWES16 in LA. It was a very productive meeting, allowing us to prepare for our activities in 2014.

2014 is a big year for INWES, not least because the triennial meeting ICWES will be held from 23rd to 25th of October in Los Angeles, USA, hosted by the Society of Woman Engineers (SWE) in the USA. We are expecting a great ICWES16, where international INWES members and American women engineers from SWE can gather together again after 50 years. The first ICWES conference (ICWES 1) was held in 1964 and was also hosted by SWE. The INWES board is planning to celebrate the half centennial of

ICWES and we are especially thankful to Secretary General Jung Sun Kim, board member Margaret Ajibode, and volunteers Jennifer Atchison of INM and Myung Hee Jung of KIST-Europe for their efforts to archive the documents of ICWES "herstory".

Our first INWES regional network, APNN (Asia and Pacific Nation Network) will be holding their 2014 meeting in Seoul, Korea on July 30th, hosted by KWSE (The Association of Korea Women Scientists and Engineers) - the first chair organization of APNN. The 2014 APNN will be held in conjunction with MAPWiST. I am very excited about this event and would like to send many thanks to Dr. Hyang Sook Yoo, Chair of APNN for 2011-2014; Dr. Sung Ok Hahn, the current President of KWSE; and all the KWSE members involved for organizing this year's meeting and preparing interesting topics. This year's APNN includes a camp for young women scientists and engineers from the Asian and Pacific Nations. With initiatives like this, I fully expect APNN to be part of a future "herstory", for its impact in advancing women engineers and scientists in the Asia and Pacific region.

Due to the changes in the law in Canada, where INWES is a legal corporation, we are going through the process of making necessary amendments to our bylaw. These changes are progressing well; however, to complete the process we will have to hold a special general meeting, and in this we will need your support and cooperation. The necessary information will be sent to you shortly. I would like to thank our Vice-President, Liette Vassuer, for all her efforts, and the executive members for supporting the process fully.

I look forward to having more of you involved in INWES activities in the year to come, and hope your organization and individuals will feel empowered to achieve the changes you want to see in the STEM field. INWES is committed to supporting you as much as we can. As always, I welcome any suggestions and ideas

CONTENTS

- President's Message **1**
- INWES Member News **2**
- Upcoming Conferences **4**
- Information for Members **4**
- About INWES **5**
- Contact INWES **5**

EVENTS

- 2014 APNN and MAPWiST
Seoul, Korea
29th July - 1st August 2014
- ICWES16 and WE14
Los Angeles, USA
23rd - 25th October 2014

at any time of the year. I look forward to another energetic and fruitful year of working together to make changes for a better world.

Wishing everyone a Happy Spring!

Kong-Joo Lee, PhD, INWES President

PHOTO COMPETITION

This issue we are kicking off a photo competition - collecting positive and inspiring images of women in science and engineering. The winning entry will be published in the next issue of the newsletter!

The theme is "Making Things Happen" so if you have any photos to share that fit that theme, send them in to inwes.secretary@gmail.com by the end of July.

Happy Snapping!

INWES MEMBER NEWS

INWES REPRESENTED AT WEP EVENT IN NEW YORK

INWES was recently represented by Yvette Ramos - on behalf of the Swiss INWES member country organisation, Swiss Engineering - at high-level events held in New York from 5th to 8th March 2014.



Yvette Ramos, as CEO of a Geneva-based company – a law firm specializing in intellectual property rights - has joined nearly 700 CEO signatories worldwide in signing the Women's Empowerment Principles' (WEPs) CEO Statement of

Support. The WEPs was developed as part of a partnership initiative by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United National Global Compact.

As part of this initiative she was invited to the 6th Annual Women's Empowerment Principles Event (WEPs) held on 5th and 6th March 2014 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This focus of the event this year was *Gender Equality and the Global Jobs Challenge*. The event drew attention to the business challenges faced, and the business strategies available, in increasing and enhancing job opportunities for women, and expanding access to decent jobs. It also provided a roadmap for companies on how to advance and empower women in the workplace, the marketplace, and the wider community.

On 6th to 7th March 2014, another key event was organized at the UN headquarters in New York. Yvette Ramos, as president of the Geneva chapter of Swiss Engineering, and Maria Laffargue, former President of the World Federation

of Engineering Organisations, attended the plenary of the high-level event – *The Role of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda* - convened by the President of the UN General Assembly.

At this event, Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, stressed the challenges confronting women's empowerment, and the need for evaluation, monitoring, and greater transparency. Above all, she emphasized the pressing need for policies to be bold, universal, ambitious, and comprehensive in supporting women.



THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL MARATHON

This is the second year that INWES has been invited to get involved with the Global Marathon - a free, virtual event uniting women in engineering and technology across the globe. This innovative, interactive event is held on an online platform and is accessible around the world. This year the event took place from the 5th to the 7th March 2014, to coincide with International Women's Day. It involved over thirty speakers from nine countries, and I was honoured to be asked by the president to represent INWES.

Each day had a different theme. My presentation was on 6th March, and the theme was *Gaining Momentum: Building Confidence and Communication – Best ways to Mentor and Network*. This was a stimulating topic that resonated with what INWES is about, and what we do well.

Presenting without seeing the audience was quite strange, but the Global Marathon platform allowed me to communicate to a wide

audience the importance of some of the things INWES does best. I was able to talk about how we as an organisation work to facilitate and encourage networking and mentoring among INWES members, and through these connections increase confidence, and improve communication among them. Indeed, the theme made me reflect on how being part of INWES had given me the opportunity to take part in this event itself.

Networking can provide so many benefits to you as an individual - It can help you identify mentors who can support you at different stages in your career, and can help boost your confidence and self-belief. So do not be afraid to ask for help and communicate your needs. I firmly believe that networking should be a way of life – something we do all the time – because it can be a powerful force for good, not just for you as an individual, but for everyone. Active networking creates new opportunities and ideas. It creates a vibrant community of professionals. It makes things happen! So expand your networks!

Margaret Ajibode

DR. SEONG OK HAN, 10TH PRESIDENT STARTS OFFICE AT KWSE

Dr. Seong Ok Han was elected as the 10th

President of KWSE and started office in January 2014. Dr. Han works at the Korea Institute of Energy Research located in the Daedeok Science Town. She previously served as the publicity committee chair at

ICWES13 and organizing committee chair of BIEN2013.

KWSE celebrated its 20th anniversary of its founding last year and is an active



member of INWES; Prof. Kong-Joo Lee, the current INWES President served as the 6th President of the organisation.

Dr. Han's term is for two years (January 2014 to December 2015) and she hopes to expand the international cooperative efforts of KWSE by supporting the INWES and APNN activities, in addition to developing the "Smart Sister program", and international policy and database projects for women in STEM.

INWES REPRESENTED AT INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS INDIA NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Institution of Engineers India (IEI) - one of the largest engineering institutions in the world - hosted the 28th Annual Engineering Congress in Chennai on 20th to the 22nd December 2013. The theme of the Congress was *Engineering*



Advancements and Accelerated Nation Building. Dr. Marlene Kanga, INWES Board member and 2013 National President of Engineers Australia, presented the 26th A. N. Khosla address on the opportunities for collaboration in innovation in engineering between Australia and India. She was the first woman engineer to deliver this address.

Importantly, the Congress included a Women Engineers Meet which was attended by women engineers based in Chennai, around India, and internationally. The Meet was an opportunity for presentations from leading women

engineers on issues relating to the attraction and retention of women in the profession. A highlight was the presentation of an award for lifetime achievement in engineering to Ms. May George - one of India's first women engineers.

The award celebrated May George's significant contribution to nation building in the State of Tamil Nadu as head of the State Housing Board. The award and meeting were an important recognition of the contribution of women engineers to India's national development.

MAY GEORGE, CIVIL ENGINEER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

May George graduated in Civil Engineering in the 1940s, from the Guindy Engineering College in what was then Madras Province – one of the first women in India to do so, and the first from Madras province. Her parents were not enthusiastic about her choice of career but her aunt, an educational officer, provided encouragement and paid her entrance fees. May recalls that, "It was tough; I did not receive any special consideration because I was a girl. Not that I expected any. I took on all the heavy practical work like anyone else. The course held me enthralled and I enjoyed it so much that all difficulties went unnoticed".

She went on to build a successful career in civil engineering. Her first role was at the newly formed City Improvement Trust which later became the State Housing Board. She spent forty years with this government body, and became an expert in the construction of low-cost housing. She was committed to transforming slums and rehousing those with low incomes, and she pioneered new housing designs and construction techniques to lower construction costs. For example, she introduced prefabrication and the use of concrete hollow blocks. Over time this became the "Zipbloc" system, which used precast concrete

panels with concrete for ribs and cellular concrete of "Celcrete" as filler.

She eventually became the Chief Engineer of the State Housing Board - the first woman in India to hold this prestigious position. In addition to her formal role, she presented papers and was a member of various expert committees on housing and construction. Later May George became the Principal of the first



May George (4th from left) with Marlene Kanga (far left) at the IEI Congress, Women Engineers Meet, Chennai, December 2013.

Woman's Polytechnic in the State of Tamil Nadu. She was responsible for setting up the institution, and even the construction of the buildings for both academic work and student accommodation. May George retired in 1983 but went on to run Gears India Pvt. Ltd. - a family owned business, which manufactures speed reducers for industrial use.

May George was an advocate for and supporter of women in need throughout her career. She established the CVG Shelter Trust to support low cost community housing and she also set up an integrated shelter for women in crisis. She was a founding member of the Zonta Club of Madras, part of a global organisation of professional and executive women working to improve the status of women worldwide. The work of the Madras club under her leadership included the establishment and management of the Zonta Resource Centre, a shelter in Chennai for women with HIV and AIDs. Her combination of engineering expertise with a concern for social needs is not unusual for women engineers, and May George's work makes her a great role model.

Like many women engineers today, May George said that she

faced opposition, discrimination, and lack of co-operation from her co-workers. She said she simply brushed this aside because she loved her job, and that made everything else seem irrelevant. Throughout her career she was known for her capacity to make decisions and executive plans on time, but she commented that, "the subservient attitude of going and standing before a supervisor never came to me naturally, and that worked against me sometimes".

Despite that, over the course of her lengthy and prolific career, she received many honours and awards for her contributions to civil engineering. She also found time to raise a family, and become a proud mother of two, and grandmother of three. She built many high-rise buildings that remain today, and her low cost housing estates can still be seen in Chennai. May George's contribution to nation building in India and her commitment to improving lives through engineering is an inspiration. She was proof that women can be extraordinary engineers and make an enormous contribution to their societies and nation.

Unfortunately she passed away on January 25th 2014 at the age of 88.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2014 APNN AND MAPWIST TO BE HELD IN KOREA

The 2014 APNN and MAPWiST (Meeting of Asia and Pacific Women in Science and Technology) will be held from July 29th to August 1st at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea.

Please keep an eye out for more information, which will be sent out via e-mail and posted on the INWES (www.inwes.org) and KWSE (www.kwse.or.kr) websites.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming ICWES16 on the 23rd to 25th October 2014 in Los Angeles, California, USA.

ICWES16 will be held jointly with WEI4, and will celebrate 50 years since the first ICWES.

For more information visit www.swe.org/we14

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

WFEO MAP OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

The World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) has created a searchable map of engineering organisations. This is an invaluable way for associations of women engineers and scientists to make themselves more visible.

Associations that wish to be listed in this directory (at no cost) should send the following information:

Website: Provide website address

Headquarters: Specify address

Description: Describe aim of organisation and main activities (max 50 words)

Type: Specify whether it is an international or national-level organisation. If national level, specify country.

Themes: Specify "Women" and any other themes

Primary membership: Specify whether the majority of members are individuals, organisations etc.

Number of members: Specify the number of members

A number of women's networks and organisations are already listed. You can check out the listing on their website (www.wfeo.net).

Please send any corrections to the INWES Secretariat (at inwes.secretary@gmail.com).

Due date is 30th June 2014.

ABOUT INWES

I. Executive Officers:

President: Kong-Joo Lee (South Korea)
President-Elect: Monique Moutaud (France)
Past President: Sue Bird (UK)
Vice President: Liette Vasseur (Canada)
Vice President: Sangeeta Wij (India)
Secretary General: Jung Sun Kim (South Korea)
Treasurer: Joan Graf (USA)

II. Other Board members:

Nageen Ainuddin (WESTIP, Pakistan)
Margaret Ajibode (WES, UK)
Marlene Kanga (Engineers Australia, Australia)
Uduakobong Okon (APAGESTE, Nigeria)
Ewa Okon-Horodyska (Individual, Poland)
Rufina Dabo Sarr (AFSTech, Senegal)
Pamela Wain (Individual, UK)
Roseni Dearden (Individual, UK)
Kayoko Sugahara (INWES Japan, Japan)

III. Committees and Chairs:

Advocacy Committee Chair: Rufina Dabo (Senegal)
By-Laws Committee Chair: Liette Vasseur (Canada)
Communications & Web Portal Committee Chair: Roseni Dearden (UK)
Conference Committee Chair: Sangeeta Wij (India)
Finance Committee Chair: Roseni Dearden (UK)
Fund Development Committee Chair: Monique Moutaud (France)
Membership Committee Chair: Kayoko Sugahara (Japan)
Nominating Committee Chair: Sue Bird (UK)
Programs Committee co-Chairs: Liette Vasseur (Canada), Margaret Ajibode (UK)

With Special Thanks to...

UNESCO, Samsung and KWSE for supporting the regional meeting in Nairobi, Kenya; TWIST and KWSE for supporting the APNN in Taipei, Taiwan; and KIST-Europe and KWSE for supporting the INWES Board meeting in Saarbrücken, Germany.

INWES SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsors: Canadian International Development Agency, Samsung

Gold Sponsors: KWSE **Silver Sponsors:** SNC LAVALIN, SWE, AAAS, WES UK

Past Sponsors: Canadian International Development Agency, IDRC, Nortel, IBM

Affiliated with: UNESCO

INWES MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Deadline for Issue No. 17: 31st July

Contact: Roseni Dearden, Communications & Newsletter Committee

Email: inwes.secretary@gmail.com OR inwes@rosenidearden.net

CONTACT INWES

www.inwes.org

General Information:

Jung Sun Kim, INWES Secretary General
Phone: ++(82)51-320-1798
Email: inwes.secretary@gmail.com

Sponsorship information:

Joan Graf, INWES Treasurer
Phone: +(1) 303 992 8811
Email: Joan.Graf@centurylink.com

INWES in social media:

www.facebook.com/groups/inwes/

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/INWES/122144834530387?ref=hl>

Twitter: @INWES_Engineers

