



World Nuclear Association Annual Symposium
5-7 September 2001 - London

Women in Nuclear: Engaging Pro-actively with the Public

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The foundation of Women in Nuclear (WIN) took place in the Czech Republic in January 1993. WIN meetings and the WIN membership open a door for communicating nuclear facts in their own countries. Now, with the 9th WIN Meeting in May 2001 in Korea, we have bridged the communication gap between East and West and between women working in nuclear and women interested in nuclear!

Better understanding of the benefits of nuclear science and technology can be gained through more awareness of how nuclear activities are contributing to our daily lives: how it helps improve health in medical use; how it helps in agriculture by avoiding deterioration of food products or improving seed quality; and how it provides safe electricity, heating or potable water to our houses.

From the first meeting in 1993, WIN has grown from 145 to more than 2000 members in 56 countries!

The 9th WIN Meeting in Seoul, Korea in May 2001, opened the door to communicating nuclear issues through those who have a major role in the family and a supporting role in the social, educational or working environment. The support from women interested in nuclear, especially in their role as mothers, teachers or professionals in areas related to nuclear, is of crucial importance.

During this year the President of WIN has had the opportunity to meet with very active national WIN groups, such as WIN Spain, US, France and Korea. Conferences/exhibits have been organized by professional women in France, Spain and at the Texas A&M University, USA on many topics, such as: food irradiation; 'Nuclear Techniques & Art'; 'Astrophysics: Stars & Galaxies'; 'Environment: Climate Change'; 'A Woman and Nuclear Safety'; 'Two Women and Waste Management'; 'Women & Science'; 'Women in Discovery: Celebrating The Legacy of Marie Curie'; 'Life and Radioactivity'; and 'Health: Nuclear Medicine'. This is only a small sample of the activities that WIN members have performed nationally. All WIN members, women and men, are really proactive.

The network of women and men working or interested in nuclear is important at national and global level to bring to the public attention factual information and an understanding of the benefits of nuclear energy and applications to mankind. The nuclear community is already achieving the goal of maintaining excellence in safety, economics and reliability.

Women remain under-represented in scientific and technological occupations. Root causes of this under-representation are difficult to find due to the fact that they differ from country to country, but among the causes are a combination of cultural conditioning, parental influence, teacher and counsellor advice and social traditions governing career openings. The qualities of professional women usually include the following: a good mindset for organization; a reliable and direct way of expressing themselves when things go wrong; good team work; good relationships with other colleagues; and good management skills.

Although in some countries the representation of women in nuclear is significant, in the nuclear industry as a whole, women's involvement is still very limited. In order to change the image of our industry in the public mind, we must have more women scientists with the necessary and recognized background on the front line of communication!

The role of WIN will be crucial in the coming years in public information, in attracting the younger generation to join and keep the nuclear option alive, and in providing role models for young and prospective team leaders!

Nuclear power seems to be approaching a revival in some countries. It is time for the whole nuclear community, and specially WIN members, to speak up for the industry.

WIN is proud to be the first affiliate Member of WNA, and will contribute to WNA's objective "to speak pro-actively on behalf of the nuclear industry amongst policy makers, opinion leaders, the media and the public."

Appendix

WIN Presentation



The slide features a dark blue background with yellow and white text. At the top, the title "who we are" is written in yellow. Below it, a white diamond symbol precedes the text "Association of women and men working professionally in the fields of". This is followed by three bullet points in white: "nuclear energy", "nuclear applications", and "and communication". The WIN logo, consisting of the letters "WIN" in a stylized blue font with a small graphic above the "I", is positioned to the right of the bullet points. At the bottom left, the text "Women in Nuclear" is written in white, and at the bottom center, the website "www.win-global.org" is displayed in white. A small white number "2" is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

who we are

◆ Association of **women and men** working professionally in the fields of

- nuclear energy
- nuclear applications
- and communication

WIN

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Our numbers

- ◆ Established in 1993
- ◆ About 2,000 members in 54 countries
- ◆ 22 national WIN groups
- ◆ 10,000 associate members and organizations such as the *Korean Women Interested in Nuclear (WIIN)*



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Our Goals

- ◆ to inform the public objectively on the use of nuclear energy and application on national and international levels
- ◆ to develop a dialogue with the public



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Our goals

- ◆ to emphasize and support the role that women can and do have in addressing the public's concerns about nuclear energy, nuclear application and nuclear technology



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Working the goals

- ◆ **Through**
 - Seminars, symposia and meetings
 - Lectures, campaigns, contests
 - Cultural events, technical visits for children, and many more...
- ◆ **Target audience**
 - Public, Female leaders
 - Local policy makers
 - Health professionals
 - Academic's and women's associations



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Working the goals

- ◆ **Platforms chosen are:**
 - University fora
 - School activities
 - Conferences
 - Radio or TV broadcast



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Examples of activities of WIN members

- ◆ **France, Spain and Texas University - 1999-2000**
 - Food Irradiation
 - Nuclear Techniques & Art
 - Astrophysics: Stars & Galaxies
 - Environment: Climate Change
 - A Woman and Nuclear Safety, Two Women and Waste Management
 - Women & Science: Women in Discovery celebrating "The Legacy of Marie Curie, Life and Radioactivity"
 - Health: Nuclear Medicine



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Examples of activities of WIN members

◆ France, 1998-1997

- Reviving Undersea Mysteries, Titanic, Colossus of Alexandria, and others
- Conference on Nuclear Imagery: “How the Child’s Brain Develops”



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Examples of activities of WIN members

◆ Korea, 2000-1999

- Establishment of WIN-Korea with more than 80 nuclear professionals
- Two international conferences on nuclear energy
- Meeting of WIIN, WIN-Korea and WIN-Japan

◆ Korea, 1998-1997

- 3rd WIN International Award given to president of WIIN Korea, also president of the Shin General Hospital



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Examples of activities of WIN members

◆ Romania, 2000

- Visits to the Cernavoda NPP for children and female members of the Romanian parliament

◆ Romania, 1999- 1998

- “Romanian Nuclear Energy Days”, the fourth International Symposium on Nuclear Energy - SIEN '99
- and a contest and exhibition of drawings made by children up to 17 years old



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Examples of activities of WIN members

♦ Japan, 2000-1999

- Establishment of WIN-Japan in April 2000
- Investigation of the most effective PR method for young women (20' s and 30' s) and many other Public Acceptance (PA) activities

♦ Japan, 1999- 1997

- a panel of WIN members at the "International Energy Forum in Kashiwazaki-Kariwa"
- a talk about "Women's Images" to the mass media



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Next future

- ♦ **9th WIN Annual Meeting** May 2001, Seoul, Korea with participants from around the world
- ♦ **10th WIN Annual Meeting** will be held in France
- ♦ **Set up a database of WIN good practices on communication**
- ♦ **Continue to work towards a better understanding of nuclear and radiation matters to the general public**



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To finish

Fostering direct and indirect communication is a two way thing.

It does not have anything to do with lecturing but with questions and answers , listening and offering information.



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