



AGENDA

WFEO Committee on Women in Engineering (WIE)

10th of September, 2013

9:00 am to 18:00 pm

Place: Marina Bay Sands hotel, Singapore

9:00 Welcome – Bashayer Al-Awwad, Chair

1. Approval of the meeting agenda/other new items

The agenda was approved after the addition of a few presentations under item 4.

2. Introduction of Participants

The meeting was attended by 37 participants representing Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. A list of all participants is attached (Excel sheet). Emily Tan is the new representative for the Institute of Singapore society of Engineers.

3. Participant update on WiE activities for their region/country

a. Work environment and diversity publication, Engineers Canada (S. Barrington)

- Presentation of the new WiE committee structure within Eng Canada and the two publication on improving work place environments.

b. Women in Engineering Cameroon, Africa Region, Reine Essobpmadie

- Reine presented a power point pertaining to the situation of women engineers in Africa and the benefits for Africa of gender diversity in addition to technology usage for inclusive development of the region.

c. Policies and Activities on Gender, Science and Technology, Rose Ganendra, Malaysia

Rose presented a power point on the situation of women engineers in Malaysia whereby a greater enrollment of women could help solve some of the engineer shortage.

d. ICWES, Betty Shanahan

Betty presented the ICWES conference to be held in Los Angelis, USA, in November 2014, just before the WFEO meeting in Nigeria.

e. Italian project on the endorsement of women engineers, Ania Lopez.

- Ania Lopez presented a power point about Italian Women Engineers and the Ingenio al Femminile project, endorsing the professional role of women engineers.

f. Kuwait by Athari Al-Otaibi

Athari presented a power point on the activities of the Kuwait WiE organization.

g. Engineers Australia and New Zealand, Marlene Kanga, Australia

Marlene presented reported on developments and statistics for WiE for both Australia and New Zealand.

h. Women in Engineering Key Conferences, Yvette Ramos, Switzerland.

Yvette reported on the various meetings held for WiE since the 2012 WFEO meeting, with a special focus on concrete recommendations to break the Glass ceiling, avoid Glass cliff and help Glass escalator, based on the last WSIS Wokshop held in May 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland « Women Leaders 4MDGs: Women leadership as a strategic and key asset to achieve the MDGs”, and a proposed concept of “Connect2Lead” for women engineers to stay online through social networks.

i. Bridge of Women, Lidia Zakowska, Poland.

Lidia reported on an upcoming WiE meeting to be held in Krakow and on the European objective of reaching a 40% women representation by 2040 for top management positions.

j. Arab Women Engineers Committee, Fadwa Abu Ghaida.

Fadwa presented a power point on the activities of the Arab WiE organization.

k. United Arab Emirates (UAE) Women in Engineering, Maryan Al-Thani

Maryan presented a power point on the activities of the Kuwait WiE organization.

l. Report on WiE for the Federation of African Engineering Organization (FAEO), Valerie Ifueko Agberagba, Nigeria

Valerie invited the committee membes to Nigerai for the 2014 WFEO annual meeting after presenting a report on the development and growth of the African WiE. She emphasised on the need for capacity building and regional meetings.

4. WFEO Ad Hoc advisory team report

The following comments were presented by the WFEO Ad Hoc Advisory group on assessing Standing Committee work and objectives.

a. If this committee did not exist, why would we create it?

How strong is the purpose? WFEO feels that there is an important issue in diversity in engineering. WFEO committees suffer from a low WiE participation from many member countries.

b. What is the unique role of the committee, which is not performed by national members alone and not performed by another national agency?

WFEO feels that the Standing Committee on WiE (SCWiE) needs to go further than storytelling, and needs to identify practices which work and do not work. The STWiE needs to provide more information on its activities to WFEO Executive, and provide information for the new website format which was recently introduced.

c. What is the delivery performance of this committee?

The SCWiE needs to develop a tool such as the guide book developed by the Standing Committee on Capacity Building, which includes some impact in terms of culture. Some of the conclusions which can be drawn from the reported storytelling can be leveraged as a body of knowledge.

It was pointed out by one of the participant that storytelling and sharing is a feminine trait which works in the world of women to sort out issues and it should be considered as strength.

5. Strategic planning for the SCWiE

It was agreed that the SCWiE should meet before the other technical committees from now on so that women participants can take part in such Standing Committee of WFEO and achieve the original goal of increasing women participation in such SC. This action item needs to be implemented as of the upcoming WFEO 2014 meeting to be held in Nigeria.

5.1 Standing Committee participation: the following list of SC membership was drawn up:

a. Anti-corruption:

Yvette Ramos, Switzerland
Lidia Zakowska, Poland

b. Engineering and the Environment

Suzelle Barrington, Canada

Emily Tan, Singapore
Rita Ohene Sarfoh, Ghana
Maria Teresa Dalenz, Bolivia

c. Capacity Building

Betty Shanahan, USA
Valerie Agberagba, Nigeria
Fadwa Abu Ghaida, Federation of Arab Engineers

d. Energy

Suzelle Barrington, Canada
Ania Lopez, Italy

e. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Reine Essobpmadie

f. Disaster Risk Management

Marlene Kanga, Australia

g. Education

Lidia Zakowska, Poland.

h. United Nation group

Suzelle Barrington, Canada

Other available WiE members:

Rosealine Ganendra, Malaysia
Wen Jean Hsueh, Taiwan
Ini Usoro, Nigeria
Farai Mavhiya, Zimbabwe
Athari Al-Otaibi

5.2 Synergy development

Betty Shanahan will collaborate with the SC on Capacity Building to share resources; Suzelle Barrington will collaborate with the UN group to represent WFEO on women issues.

6. WiE page on WFEO website:

Betty Shanahan reports on new process to build SCWiE web page, whereby a specific structure and submission procedure needs to be followed.

7. WIE Development and subcommittees:

To move forward, the building procedure for the Capacity Building guide book was presented with a discussion on how to capture the knowledge and describe the knowhow. The book was developed by the SC during a 2 day session where main ideas were developed, and then written up by an assigned member and reviewed. Each chapter was kept short. Measurement and tracking progress is important. The guide book is available in electronic form for easy updating.

8. Presentation pertaining to international relations

- a. ITU: WSIS workshop
- b. INWES
- c. IEEE Women in Engineering
- d. UNESCO: 1st Forum of NGO in official partnership with UNESCO, Paris on 23 September on the theme “What Education Goals for Tomorrow’s Citizens of the world: is quality enough?”

9. WiE Future Event:

- a. Women's Day March 2014 by UNESCO – Suzelle to follow up.
- b. ICT Days Initiative: 14- 16 November 2013, Cameroon, by Reine Essobmadje
- c. WEC 2015 Women Forum in Kyoto, Japan. By Japan Women Engineers

10. Website themes for the SCWiE

Three themes were agreed upon each with their respective leader:

- a) Workforce Diversity – Suzelle
- b) Leadership and Empowerment, Yvette Ramos
- c) Strategic indicators for WiE, Rosaline Ganendra

These themes are to be developed by the end of October and sent to Betty Shanahan for website inclusion.

The SCWiE will also add a tool box and pool of experts.

11. Proud Of You Woman Award

Congrats Marlene Kanga-Engineers Australia President, U are the Star of this meeting

Action item

1. Web site

Betty Shanahan will send information to rebuild the web site. The present information needs to be improved. Themes will be added. Resource publications will be built under each theme. Members will be contacted and asked to provide documents.

2. SCWiE theme development

Recall the main objective: increase women participation in WFEO
Provide knowledge to members countries to increase their own women membership and thus, participation in WFEO.

3. Synergy development

Betty Shanahan and Suzelle Barrington to report on their respective activities at the 2014 meeting in Nigeria.