

THE FIRST AFRICAN WOMEN ENGINEERS FORUM (AWEF) HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018 IN MOMBASA, KENYA.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The First African Women Engineers Forum (AWEF) organized by the Committee for Women in Engineering (WIE) of the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO) was held on 17th September 2018 at Pride-Inn Paradise, Mombasa, Kenya during the 5th Africa Engineering Conference (AEW) hosted by the Institution of Engineers (IEK) in Mombasa.

The programme theme was **“African Women in Engineering: Innovation and Community Sustainability”**. The programme had 107 Women Engineers in attendance from Eight (8) Countries and two internationals from Lebanon and Colombia.

The Opening Ceremony had the WFEO President represented by Martin Manuhwa, WFEO Vice President & Chair CAC, and he gave the Keynote Speech. Engr. Julius Riungu FAEO President, Yashin Brijmohan, WFEO Vice President & Chair ECB, Presidents of Engineering Institutions, UNESCO representative, and many male engineers, “Our Allies”.

The focus of the committee in the next few years according to the Chair, CWIE, is to achieve its programmes on the SDGs as in the declaration approved by the WFEO General Assembly in Rome. The declaration was read and copies circulated to all delegates to enable the Women in Engineering Organizations and Institutions of Engineering to be part of the commitment.

The Chair, CWIE presented awards to the President, IEK, Eng. Collins Juma, FAEO President, Eng. Julius Riungu and WFEO President humbly represented by Chair, CAC, Eng. Martins Manuhwa.

The technical sessions had presentations by women engineers and some invited guest speakers on the following sub-themes;

- i. Building Capacity amongst Women Engineers for innovation
- ii. Developing favourable policies for the practice of Engineering by Women Engineers and the study of STEM by the Girl Child.
- iii. African Communities: Issues & Challenges and the Women Engineers
- iv. Impacting communities through the SDGs
- v. Stakeholders' support programmes for Diversity & Inclusion.

After all deliberation, the Women Engineers resolved to;

1. Work with the UN goals that will impact on Gender Equality & Poverty reduction.
2. Enhance innovation and skills by building capacity through workshops and participation in community works through mentoring & capacity building.
3. Seek funds to encourage Research and Innovation.
4. Encourage continuous communication with all semi-skilled women in technology to improve their works by capacity development.
5. Continue the conversation on diversity & inclusion with all stakeholders.

The above was included in the communique of the 3rd African Engineering Conference.

The Committee for Women in Engineering meeting was held on the 18th September with representation from 8 countries.

PHOTO SPEAKS



Fig. 1.0: A Cross Section of Women Engineers during the Conference



Fig. 2.0: Group Photo of Women Engineers after the Conference Opening

Fig. 3.0 The Chair, WIE giving the Welcome Speech



Fig. 5.0: Women Engineers at Zuma after the Conference Exercising