

26th General Assembly of IUPAP (2008)

WG 5: Working Group on Women in Physics

October 14-17, 2008, Tsukuba, Japan

Report from the Working Group on Women in Physics

The Working Group on Women (WGWIP) in Physics has been involved in the following projects:

IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics

The 3rd IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics is planned (ICWIP2008) and will be held in Seoul, Korea, October 8th to 10th, 2008 (<http://icwip2008.org>). This triennial meeting is organized by the Working Group as the International Organizing Committee and hosted by the Korean Physical Society (KPS). One member from our Working Group, Prof. Youngah Park, is the chair of the Local Organizing Committee of ICWIP2008 together with the assistance of Prof. Jin-Hee Yoon.

The Conference is dedicated to providing an opportunity to share the scientific accomplishments of participants as well as analyzing international progress in promoting women in physics. The Conference will consist of six plenary talks, workshops, and poster presentations. The plenary talks, delivered by prominent women physicists, will cover recent major achievements in each of six areas of physics research.

Contact between us

The Working Group is working hard to improve the contact with regional Working Groups by:

- assigning countries to each member of the Working Group, who will take responsibility for liaison with those countries;
- posting email addresses of contacts on the web page;
- posting webpage links, activities and news from the regional Working Groups on the WGWIP website and publicizing good practices there.

The aim of these activities is to help country working groups become more active and support them for future projects. Besides these projects, members of the WGWIP have been involved in bringing gender issues to policy building events. We have still many IUPAP member countries which do not have well organized Working Groups of Women in Physics.

Scholarship program

The Working Group is continuing the IUPAP Travel Grants program to support women in underdeveloped countries and Eastern Europe to attend conferences.

In the last years we made the fourth and fifth round of grants. Due to the limited funding, we were able to support only 25 grantees from 105 applicants in 2006 and in 2007 21 grantees from 65 applicants. We are now looking for new sources of funding to expand the program. It would be good to have a regular grant. To run the full scholarship program we need \$20K/year. Additional funding will be sought for the scholarship program (examples of possible sources are UNESCO and L'Oreal). We are already in a position to contact several funding agencies for support. Now, we are in contact with the following organizations: EPS, DPG, IOP, APS and a number of industries.

Survey

A new survey will be undertaken on the issue of women in physics, which will include both men and women and will begin in January 2009. During the ICWIP 2008 we will work out the answer to the question: "Is it possible to create one questionnaire for the whole world and have the results be comparable?" We hope to have a collection of best practice examples for all countries to help produce the common world-wide survey. Funding for the survey made available by the USA.

Status of the Working Group of Women in Physics

Since November 2006 Dr. Barbara Sandow is the Chair of the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics and there are 7 new members in the group: I. Gledhill (South Africa), E. Karule (Latvia), S. Ponce-Dawson (Argentina), Z. Ben Lakdar (Tunisia), S. Tajima (Japan), Y. Park (Korea) and Corinna Kausch (Germany). There are also 6 continuing members: Marcia Barbosa (Past Chair) (Brazil), Anne Borg (Norway), Martial Ducloy (France), Beverly Hartline (USA), Sumathi Rao (India), Ling-An Wu (Beijing); 1 Assoc. Member: Corinna Kausch (Germany); and Judy Franz as the IUPAP Liaison.



Dr. Barbara Sandow

Chair, IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics

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