

Report of the Gender Champion on Conferences sponsored by IUPAP, held between October 2015 and September 2016.

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The IUPAP 27th General Assembly, London, UK, 2-4 November 2011, has among its resolutions :

That IUPAP will appoint a gender champion from the Executive Council. A Vice-President will act as gender champion. The chair, or other representative, of the Women in Physics Group is requested to liaise with the Gender Champion.

In the period October 2015 and October 2016 the number of conferences which received IUPAP sponsorship is 41. From these 41 conferences we could gather partial information on 17. The attached Excel file gives the numbers that could be extracted from the conference reports or from information given by conference chairs.

The relevant information from the Gender Champion's point of view are:

Number of women attendees/total number of attendees, in percentage : mean value is 22(3)% (was 17(2)% in 2015), and varies between 4,9% and 52% (the conference with such a massive female participation was in Iran, sponsored by C10, however the ratio of female invited speakers was much lower, 10,3%) only 2 conferences where this value is below 10% (in 2015 there were 5 conferences with this value below 10%), 7 conferences between 10% and 20% and 8 conferences with value larger than 20 (in 2015 this number was 4). One sees an improvement in female participation in the reduced universe of 17 conferences.

Number of female invited speakers/total number of invited speakers, in percentage : mean value is 22(4)% (this number was 12.6(1.4) in 2015), and varies between 2.2% and 63% (a conference on physics education in Brazil), with 3 conferences where this value is below 10%, 7 conferences between 10% and 20% and 6 conferences with value larger or equal to 20%. Again there is a clear improvement when compared to 2015.

Number of female members of international organizing committee/ total number of members of international organizing committee, in percentage : mean value is 17.5(3)% (it was 16(2)% in 2015), and varies between 0% and 33%, with 5 conferences where this value is below 10%, 7 conferences between 10% and 20% and 5 conferences with value larger than 20%.

We can observe an improvement in the number of female participants and invited speakers when compared to the last year. The improvement in participation is 5(3.6)% and in percentage of invited speakers is 9(3)% , which is more significant. This makes sense since the female participation in attendees is not directly influenced by the organizers, while the proportion of female speakers is a clear decision of the organizers. The good evolution of this number is a very promising sign indicating the compromise of the conference organizers with gender equality. This same tendency can be seen in the following: several conferences present female participation and speaker proportions higher than 20% with organizing/advisory committees with proportion lower than 20%. Examples: (22%, 27%, 18%) "28th Texas symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics" (C-19) in Switzerland; (26% 36% 15%) "14th Conference on Integral Methods in Science and Engineering" (C-18) Italy; (15% 40% 6%) "International Nuclear Physics Conference (C12) Australia. Counter examples are where even a high number of women in the organization do not yield a large number of female speakers: (13% 13% 50%) SUSY2016 (C-11) Australia.

Example with the lowest numbers : "International Conference on precision Physics of Simple Atomic Systems (PSAS) Workshop on the determination of the fundamental constants" (C2): 4.9%, 2%, 7%, realized in Israel. Examples with highest numbers: "Contemporary Science

Education and Challenges in the Present Society: Perspectives in Physics Teaching and Learning” (C-14) Brazil (40%, 63%, 32%).

Conclusions: For a quite limited number (17) of conferences between October 2015 and October 2016 a clear improvement is observed in proportion of female invited speakers and female participation in conferences, when compared to the previous year (20 reports available). This year we have sponsored 41 conferences and only 17 have sent reports. It is very important that Commission chairs contact the organizers of conferences they are sponsoring to ask for the reports. With 41 reports we would have much better means to evaluate evolutions, correlations (field of physics, country where the conference is realized etc.)

Suggestions:

The Commissions have the possibility to influence and demand for larger female participation in the Local Organizing Committees and the International Advisory Committees of the recommended conferences.