

Women in Engineering session, WECC2015 (Kyoto, Japan, December 2015)

The World Engineering Conference and Convention will be held in Kyoto, Japan, 28 November- 4 December 2015.

One of the main theme of the conference is Engineering for Society and Engineering in Society, Women in Engineering and Society (WIE) session will be organized in this conference on Dec. 1, 2015.

The WFEO WiE committee will collaborate with Japan Women Committee to organize this Session.

WECC2015 WIE Session Program

There are remarkable female advancements in various fields in recent years, promoting female leaders in engineering have been still very difficult to proceed in the world. Engineering is a discipline to solve social problems females as half of the society is expected to be part of the active workforce, the reality is not so. To help promoting more women in Engineering, we will be hosting focused discussions on female participation and contribution in engineering in this session. A variety of leaders from around the world are invited to join us in Plenary and Invited talks. They are to discuss essential challenges of women in Engineering, and to talk about important issues needing to be addressed.

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In addition, there are two panel discussions. The panels will touch on female active involvement in the most remarkable ICT technology (Information and Communication Technology) and female most difficult social infrastructure foray into the engineering field. In this panel discussion, by involving the panelists to focus on young researchers, attended by students such as young researchers to this session, it will lead to the activation of the future of female engineers. Also throughout, and get lecture from male as well as female, attend many male to the discussion, we want to share the recognition that problem to be solved together.

Keynote Session

30th / November 17:10-18:00

Yukako Uchinaga (President and CEO Japan Women's Innovative Network) "Role and Promoting female leaders in engineering"

Moderator: Stacey M. DelVecchio (Society of Women Engineers)

9 – 1 . Promoting female leaders in engineering 1st / December 10:10-12:30

Policies and activities for Women in Engineering (WIE) will be addressed by three representatives from the Middle East, Korea and Japan; they will be sharing the common and also the regional issues for WIE.

- ① Kim Myung Ja (Korea Federation of Women's Science & Technology Associations Chair)
- ② Eng. Bashayer Ibrahim Al Awwad (WFEO WIE chair)
- ③ Hirohide Hirai (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- ④ Reiko Fujita (Japan Science and Technology Agency) Atomic Energy Society of Japan chair)

Moderator: Miyoko O. Watanabe (Japan Science and Technology Agency)

9 – 2 . 【Panel Discussion】 Promoting young women in engineering: Part 1

Information and Communication Technology

1st / December 14:00-15:10

What are the issues for young female engineers to be more active to contribute to the society and what they have to do by themselves are discussed with goals to build the strategies for the follow-up actions.

While many global ICT companies have female engineers at top-level positions, there are still many countries where we see very few women in ICT sector. In this panel, we have female engineers at mid-level positions in ICT sector with multi- cultural or multi-national experiences. They will describe how they get to their current positions and the challenges that they have experienced along the way. In addition to personal challenges, they also share on the general issues that need to be addressed when female engineers pursue a career in ICT. After that we discuss if those issues are cultural, regional, or global and how we can solve them to have more women in ICT sector in the global community.

Facilitator : Nobuko Kishi (Tsuda College Professor)

Panelists : Saeko Awata (FUJITSU LIMITED)

Junko Fujiwara (Microsoft Development Co., Ltd.) Lianzi

Wen (IBM Japan, Ltd)

Matiyani Nandini (Wipro Technologies)

9 – 2 . 【Panel Discussion】 Promoting young women in engineering: Part 2

Social Infrastructure Technology

1st / December 15:20-16:30

The perspective of women is expected to be much more important to build our social system in the future. What female engineers can do for it is discussed. 21st Century requests to create a society where diverse individuals can participate in every sector in ways that their abilities can be fully exercised for betterment of the society. The social infrastructure sector and its related technologies span a broad range, and all people, irrespective of gender, are daily benefited from the infrastructures. However, women entering into the industry of social infrastructure technology are very limited

and the gender gap still exists in some countries. The key reason is that the industry currently does not properly implement work environments for women to continue and develop their careers. Although academic and industrial associations in various countries have long been aware of this problem, and have featured this issue on their journals or have organized symposiums, there are not enough good practices and the exchange or dissemination of information among the industry. There is a fact, however, that some women engineers have initiated pioneering actions to improve the work environment themselves, and some of these actions have led to successful legal changes, for example, the item of prohibit women from working in tunnels has recently been deleted in Japan.

The panel discussion is to be organized in order to discuss ways to promote young women engineers in the field of social infrastructure technology, and share and exchange information and experiences globally. The panel discussion invites individuals with broad and extensive experiences in the field of social infrastructure from various backgrounds (country, organization, technological field, etc.). The panelists will discuss the issues, good practices, and recommendations from the perspective of fostering young women engineers as well as leaders. Young engineers with various nationalities are also expected to actively participate in the panel discussion by commenting and interacting with the panelists from the floor.

Facilitator : Osamu Hisakabe (National Institute of Technology, Ibaraki College)

Panelists :

Kikuko Yamada (Tokyo Institute of Technology)

Satoshi Imamura (TAISEI CORPORATION Executive fellow)

Reiko Abe (Oriental Consultants India Pvt. Ltd. President) Lee Ji

Hyung (Samwoo ANC)