WIN GLOBAL – FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

LONG WAY TO GO
The world’s nuclear industry has long been a man’s world where it comes to job opportunities and advancement. However, times are changing.
Women are breaking through preconceived “glass ceilings”, and rising to top positions.
Seven of the nuclear industry’s most powerful women head Nuclear Regulatory Authorities in Argentina, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Canada, Spain, Slovenia and South Africa. They are responsible for overseeing the use of radiation and nuclear energy in their countries and enforcing safety regulations. However, there is still a long way to go.
Men outnumber women at the IAEA when it comes to professional jobs. 82% of all professional and higher posts are held by men, with the percentage even higher, 87%, in scientific and engineering positions. All told, about 66 women and 430 men hold jobs as chemists, life scientists, engineers, physicians, safeguards inspectors, or technical specialists at IAEA.
(July 2003)
Sources: www.iaea.org/Resources/Women

DON’T BE INVISIBLE
“Due to the recession, contacts between the industry and the universities have deteriorated. Now in time they improve.” This message was relayed by the presidents of the five students’ unions, representing approximately 40,000 students studying at Swiss universities.

- Technology companies in Sweden have not been successful in explaining what type of job a science degree could lead to, says Zenral Biederer, union chair of Chalmers institute of Technology in Gothenburg. Carl Runsold, union chairman at the Royal Institute Technology in Stockholm continues:

- Many still believe it’s all about heavy industry and hardware, and don’t realize that a science degree asks for a more varied job.
- The interest for science studies has declined in general and amongst women in particular. The number of women studying engineering and natural sciences has decreased from 32 to 23 percent over the past five years at the Chalmers Institute of Technology.
- Women working in technological companies have to make themselves known in order to attract more women into science studies, says David Bading.

Women in Nuclear Global – WIN Global – is a worldwide association of professional women working in the fields of nuclear energy and radiation applications. WIN is a non-profit organisation devoted to public information. WIN Global currently has around 2,000 members in 57 countries.

GOALS
WIN aims to contribute to objectively informing the public, especially women, on nuclear energy and radiation, in particular by:
- Establishing country WIN groups as widely as practicable;
- meeting regularly to exchange ideas and experience between WIN groups;
- supporting each other across the borders;
- working out shared information techniques and information materials for international use.

WIN is open to women nuclear and radiation professionals and academics, as well as women communications specialists from all over the world, pledged to adhere to the goals of their Charter. Men who support WIN goals are welcome.
Delegates of the Board WIN can accept associate members and associate organisations, which have similar goals as WIN but have other charters and require other professional qualifications.

For more information: www.win-global.org

HELLO,
BARBO KREUTZ, President of WIN Sweden

It was quite natural for me to become a member of WIN when I was an information officer at OECD/NEA, a nuclear power company in Gorinchem in Sweden.

When I work with young women and see, almost to my surprise, how women want to do the same kind of work as men. They want to take the work seriously.

How can you as a WIN member contribute to making the nuclear industry more attractive for women?

Are there specific issues or problem areas in the nuclear industry that you feel would benefit from being approached from a woman’s perspective?

- The role of WIN is to contribute to objectively informing the public, especially women, on nuclear energy and radiation. It is as important for men as for women.
- We know from experience that women are more inclined to put questions to a female informant rather than a male one.
- It is also a known fact that if you have a mixed group, the men will “take over the show.”
- They are interested in the nuclear field and to see the possibility to work in this field is unfortunately not only a Swedish problem.
- From different polls one can draw the conclusion that women in general are much more hesitant to question the nuclear industry.
- It exists worldwide. WIN Sweden is making an attempt to solve the problem by presenting role models on our own website, which is under construction, says Babro Kreutz.

For more information: www.win-sweden.org

HELLO, JUNKO OGAWA from Japan, the new president of WIN Global

In your role as a member of WIN Board of Directors and for your new role as a President of WIN:

1) How can you contribute to making the nuclear industry (in country and worldwide) more attractive for women?

- WIN Japan has several ways to contribute to women’s young students understanding of the current status of the nuclear industry.

2) Do you think it is important to have women role models and did you have one in the beginning of your career?

- From my point of view, there are few role models in Japan, especially in the nuclear industry. You may be surprised to find that only two past or present female members of the Nuclear Society of Japan are women.

3) Are there specific issues or problem areas in the nuclear industry that you feel would benefit from being approached from a woman’s perspective?

- I think that women have a common way of thinking and feeling, because most of us share domestic experiences such as housekeeping, cooking and shopping, etc. Women and their families have to look after their families, and this often involves things that the nuclear field is very successful. The ability to create a friendly atmosphere is very important to promote a positive image of the nuclear industry.

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