

WiN IAEA participates in INMM International Science Fair

On 26 March, the International Science Fair took place in the Sportshall of the American International School in Vienna, organized by the Institute of Nuclear Material Management (INMM) and WiN IAEA. Five different international schools (American, Vienna, Danube, Christian and Lycée Français) participated to compete for the best Junior and Senior Awards for scientific/technical projects of individual students or teams of students aged between 12 and 18 years in the fields of Biological and Health Sciences, Physical and Computing Sciences, Environmental and Life Sciences, and Engineering and Technology Sciences.

The judges were volunteers taken from UN organizations residing in Vienna International Center and from Permanent Missions to the UN including WiN IAEA chapter members; they evaluated about 50 projects exhibited and presented by about 80 students. The award ceremony took place on 31 March during a banquet at the Vienna International Center where the awardees were nominated and prizes were handed over to the students. The WiN IAEA chapter donated a specific award which were presented to the students below.

The judges and the visitors were impressed with the skills and enthusiasm of all students leaving them with the difficult decision whom to award: In short we would have loved to give awards to every single project and student! We congratulate all students and specifically the WiN awardees for their achievements and encourage them to continue their studies hopefully leading to a carrier in Natural Sciences.

Senior WiN IAEA Award: Ms. Dinushi Pieries (VIS)

The project REM Sleep: Lucid Dreaming and Sleep Paralysis by was presented by Ms. Dinushi Pieries. Driven by own experience and her concern that in her school students are subject to high psychological stress, she investigated how lucid dreaming and sleep paralysis affects male and female students in her class.

She specifically impressed by her deep in-sight research and personal interest of the scientific field of sleep and psychology, which goes far beyond ordinary student's knowledge, and her firmness to pursue a carrier in the field of neuroscience. She convinced that this project is close to her heart, and eloquently and professionally presented her subject.



Junior WiN IAEA Award: Ms. Anna Kullnigg (AIS)



Anna Kullnigg studied if gender and taste are related and she convinced the audience when presenting her project "Chemosenses" that females have better tastings than males. She investigated this with an experiment to explore on the senses of her female and male school mates by testing on their evaluation of different products and odors.

For her age she demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the scientific field, she conducted the experiment with care and interpreted the results professionally. She also exhibited strong communication skills and presented her study convincingly.

Seminar on Cross-Cultural Communication

On Tuesday, 21 June, cross-cultural communications expert Michael Gates gave a seminar to WiN IAEA members entitled “Leading and Working Across Cultures – an Opportunity for Women.” Mr. Gates, the Group Managing Director for Richard Lewis Communications, incorporated personal experiences with research from the field to address some of the challenges facing communication between different cultures. Attendees were encouraged to actively participate and share their own experiences and ideas. In addition to addressing general challenges and strategies for cross-cultural communication, Mr. Gates emphasized how some of the communication styles which are generally categorized as “feminine” are useful in successful cross-cultural communication.

Joint WiN IAEA—WIIS-Austria Retreat

Members of WiN IAEA and Women in International Security (WIIS-Austria) spent the weekend of 28-29 January in Altenbach to discuss 2011 activities and organizational structure and to socialize in a relaxing atmosphere.

Susan Doering led a workshop called Speaking up! Get YOUR voice heard! The workshop explored how to speak up at meetings. Susan introduced the “Triple A” Communication and gave tips for career development. She emphasized the importance of networks such as WiN and WIIS in career advancement.



Q&A with Shirley Johnson: Being a Woman in Nuclear

WiN IAEA held a luncheon on Friday 8 April in the VIC Restaurant featuring a presentation and Q&A session on “Being a Women in Nuclear” by Shirley Johnson, who—after 25 years in Safeguards at the Agency—is now running her own consulting company in her home state, Montana.

With over 40 years in nuclear behind her—and still very involved—Shirley had a tale to tell. She described some of her experiences as she made her way in her career in a predominantly man’s world. She encountered and dealt with a range of reactions to her being a woman working in this world—from encouragement and support to blind prejudice and deliberate obstruction—the whole gamut!

The luncheon was well-attended—booked out—and Shirley’s highly pertinent, insightful and entertaining talk was much appreciated.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September – December 2011: educational lunch-time sessions on diverse topics

20 September 2011: Luncheon with WiN Europe

2 December 2011: Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party

Visit to Zwentendorf NPP

On 19 May 2011, WiN IAEA organized a trip to visit the Zwentendorf Nuclear Power Plant.



International Women's Day

WiN IAEA held a stand in the rotunda of the VIC during the week of International Women's Day. Members answered questions and talked about WiN IAEA activities to interested potential new members. On International Women's Day, many WiN IAEA Members attended the musical festivities and the address by DG Amano.



WiN Japan Visits WiN IAEA

On Friday, 3 June 2011, seven members of WiN Japan, led by President Junko Ogawa, visited the IAEA. WiN IAEA organized a programme, which consisted of visits to the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC), the Safeguards Radiation Safety Unit, the International Seismic Safety Centre (ISSC) and a guided tour of the VIC.

During a luncheon at the VIC Restaurant, the members of the delegation gave presentations on the Fukushima accident, which were followed by a question and answer session. 31 IAEA and CTBTO staff members, many of them WiN IAEA members, attended the luncheon and appreciated receiving first-hand information from Japan. The WiN Japan delegation was then received by DG Amano, with whom they discussed the situation at Fukushima and the important role of WiN Japan as the provider of factual information. In the evening, Gabi Voigt invited the delegation to a traditional Austrian restaurant.