

News from Women in Nuclear — IAEA Chapter



January-March 2016, Issue #16

<http://www.winiaeachapter.org/>

Contents

- WiN Retreat 2016
- VIC Clubs Day
- Communicating Nuclear to Sceptics
- Women Without Borders
- INMM Science Fair 2016
- WiN Global Executive and Board Member Meeting
- Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: Why Should I Care?
- Upcoming Events in 2Q 2016

WiN Retreat 2016

It was fun and we had a great weekend together!!



The first event in 2016 was our annual WiN Retreat combining fun, relaxation and work. On 22–24 January some WiNners gathered in the Falkenstein Spa Hotel in Bad Leonfelden and enjoyed the service offered there: good food, drink, spa, outdoor and indoor pool, sauna and fitness. We also took a horse-sled ride in the cold winter wonderland of Oberösterreich.

During our working meeting, we discussed the schedule for this year, considered upcoming and future events and organized the next pending issues. We reflected on the financing and an audit due towards end of the year to be done by an independent auditor. And finally: everybody was looking forward to the Abu Dhabi Annual Conference in 2016!!!!

VIC Clubs Day

Vienna, 20-21 January 2016

WiN IAEA presented itself in the VIC Rotunda during the VIC Clubs' Day with a booth decorated with pictures of WiNners from the 2015 WiN Global Conference, side by side with the VIC health club and the VIC tennis club. We provided lots of information material about WiN and copies of our latest WiN IAEA newsletters and informed people about our activities. Several persons put their names on a list to receive more information about WiN and some expressed interest in joining and becoming active members. Let's hope that we also acquire some active new members from other VIC based UN organizations and missions.



Communicating Nuclear to Sceptics

Vienna, 28 January 2016



How can we convey the benefits and risks of nuclear power in a balanced way to a public who are often ill-informed and mistrustful? This hot topic attracted an interested and participative audience of around 40 people with a variety of attitudes from inside and outside the IAEA.

The event was triggered in August 2015, when Eileen Langeegger — an Austrian engineer working in radioactive waste management at Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf and president of the Young Nuclear Generation Network — reported during her presentation at the WiN Global Conference in Vienna about being subjected to verbal abuse from her compatriots when she 'confessed' she was a nuclear engineer. Taking up the challenge, on 28 January 2016, WiN IAEA held a presentation and discussion on how to communicate 'nuclear' to sceptics. The discussion leaders were Eileen, Yanko Yanev (former IAEA head of Nuclear Knowledge Management now CEO of the International Institute for Nuclear Knowledge Management), and Peter Rickwood (former IAEA press officer, now running an NGO he founded, Atomic Reporters). They briefly presented their views and then the floor was open for questions, comments and discussion, which lasted over an hour, moderated graciously and competently by Susan Cohen-Unger.

Eileen described a study conducted to evaluate the perception of nuclear issues in Austria. Although at first, 95% of the subjects surveyed indicated fear of nuclear, after they had been informed about nuclear applications a change of opinions was recorded. This indicates that unsubstantiated fear can often be turned into minimum understanding when proper information is provided. There was a long discussion about whom to address in communicating on nuclear issues.

Yanko was of the opinion that particularly the older population representing authorities and decision makers need to be well informed whereas some of the audience felt that also younger persons who are our future leaders and managers need to be properly educated. In fact, all agreed that public awareness and involvement at all age levels is needed.

One of the major points raised was also the deep-rooted mistrust towards authorities and governments. Nuclear science had been a rather 'dark' issue, stemming from the nuclear weapon programmes. Electricity producers and scientists in their ivory towers regarded it as too complicated to be understood by the general



public, which led to fear and mistrust. The accidents at Chernobyl and, more recently, at Fukushima and their management by authorities have further exacerbated this perception. It is of upmost importance for the public to have an independent source of information. Peter strongly recommended the use of private measurement devices for cross checking official information. An interesting comparison was brought up by Prof. Helmuth Böck between nuclear science and genetic engineering, which faces similar acceptance problems.

Yanko indicated how strongly safety, weapons and politics were linked and how pervasively economics was intertwined into the perception of nuclear energy and nuclear science in general. He claimed that energy was a political playfield influenced by governments, press and economics and mentioned the current lack of leadership. It is important to liaise strongly with opinion makers and to provide information in an understandable language, focusing on the benefits of nuclear science without denying the associated risks.

In summary, we need to change how we talk about nuclear and go out and communicate its importance in a clear and balanced way.

Women Without Borders

Vienna, 3 February 2016

Dr. Edith Schlaffer, one of Austria's famous advocate for peace, the founder and executive Director of Women without Borders, gave WiN an enlightening insight about her career as a social psychologist, and how she started her profession and passion on the empowerment of women. She first got involved at the university when working to stop violence against women, and then vehemently started to draw the attention to the oppression of women during the Bosnia conflict, when more than 90 % of the women refugees had been raped. This fact finally led to Austrian legislation introducing rape as a legal cause for granting asylum to female refugees.



In 2008 she founded SAVE (Sisters Against Violent Extremism) the World's first female counterterrorism platform supporting and mentoring women in security functions worldwide. Women without Borders — a small, efficient team of only four permanent staff — that has been running dozens of projects in Afghanistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh, Palestine, Niger and many more countries with local teams making full use of national existing infrastructure and people, with a focus on education and training of mothers, often with full support of male family members.

In another project, for the first time, women of many different religions and nationalities — mothers of victims and perpetrators — were talking to each other, about their fears, experiences and pain. Dr. Schlaffer created a forum of open exchange for mothers of Jihadists or of children vulnerable to radicalization, and she reflected on how ONLY mothers might still be able to reach their own sons and daughters in a vacuum of disorientation and seduction by extremist leaders. This is impressively demonstrated in a film which was later distributed to the audience by Eva Gyane, the WiN IAEA president (please contact her if you want to have a copy for your private use).

WiN Executives will meet with Edith Schlaffer in the near future to discuss and agree on how we can work together and support her important work in the future.

INMM Science Fair 2016

Vienna, 12 March 2016



The annual INMM Science Fair 2016 was held in the Lycée Française on Saturday 12 March and was attended by several international schools from Vienna, Prague, and Bratislava. Altogether, 21 projects were submitted and presented in the Junior category, and 27 projects in the Senior category.

The judges had a hard time to decide which projects and who would be awarded with the gold, blue and red ribbons and the best in the Junior and Senior category. As in the past, also WiNners served as judges and coordinators and provided help before and during the fair.

As usual, also at this year's Science Fair a special WiN award was given for each category. The attending WiNners decided to give the WiN Junior award to Viviana Pokluda and Catalina Taylor from the Riverside School, Prague, for their study *Air to Water*, which was designed to help refugees to have access to potable water in a polluted desert environment. The students hit on a current problem related to the refugee and migration problem the world is facing and brought a social human touch using scientific tools for their investigations without losing the bigger picture. Both presented their work nicely and provided evidence of their scientific quality and approach.

The WiN award in the Senior category was given to Melissa Sirotkova. She studied transmission of alarm signals from car to car, specifically important during the ambulance transport of patients in heavy traffic. Implementation of her approach would simultaneously save lives and enable other drivers to proceed safely. The project impressively combined a technical scientific approach and knowledge with a social aspect, and is applicable worldwide. Melisa prepared and conducted the experiment nicely, basing it on sound literature research and presenting her results well.



WiN Global Executive and Board Member Meeting

London, 16 March 2016

WiN Global executives and board members — hosted by Agneta Rising, former WiN Global President and WNA President — gathered in the office of the World Nuclear Association (WNA), Tower House, 10 Southampton Street, London. For WiN IAEA Chapter, Gabi Voigt attended as a board member and as proxy for Eva Gyane, President. WiN Global President Se-Moon welcomed the participants and made a round of introductions. Following the agenda, WiN Global governance items were discussed, including an important decision on new executives.

Due to the expiration/termination of terms of four executives, the decision needs to be made soon, and the election of the new WiN Global President and Vice-President is coming up — all to be confirmed during the General Assembly 2016 in Abu Dhabi. An election committee was established (Jessie Chiu, Nelida del Maes-

tro, Ludmilla Kis, Olga Ernandes and Gaby Flannery) sending out the call for nominations until end of April with voting until end of June.

The 24th General Assembly will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The website is working and registration is open. Se-Moon distributed the preliminary programme with associated costs. No registration fee will be charged and the reception and conference dinner are free. The 26th General Assembly will be held in Beijing, China, in August 2017. The venue for 2018 is still to be decided, pending confirmation by the Argentina WiN chapter, who offered to organize it — potentially

Spain. Gaby Flannery

presented the results of the questionnaire (benefits of WiN), which will be further handled by the strategic committee, scheduled to meet in Vienna on 20 April.

In the afternoon, WiN UK hosted a workshop in the Pinsent Masons facility in London. Different working groups reflected on how to attract and retain female staff, interaction with authorities and industry, and outreach. The workshop included a presentation about UK governance, UK speed mentoring and public–press interaction. The evening ended with a dinner hosted by Agneta, WNA.



Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: Why Should I Care?

Explore new concepts and career opportunities on peace and development at the Women Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum, an annual event aimed at encouraging more women, particularly from the global south, to enter the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and development.

The first Vienna Forum will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) on 5-6 July 2016 and will bring together professionals from international organizations, the private sector and think tanks actively working in these areas, including the IAEA, CTBTO, OSCE, OPCW, a great number of participants and speakers from academia, the scientific community, and also the civil society.

The highlight of the Forum will be a Job Fair, showcasing new and promising peace-related tools and professional opportunities, building bridges between the relevant actors.

A total of 30 full scholarships will be made available for early career professionals from the global south to travel to Vienna in order to encourage more women to attend the Forum.

A wide range of skills, knowledge and experience will be considered in order to select a pool of diverse professionals representing various areas of expertise: including academia, the media, national/international civil servants and science — working in human health, food production, geology, environmental protection and a host of other professions related to peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Application for scholarship will open in March 2016. For details on scholarship application requirements and on the Vienna Forum please contact UNODA Office at Vienna dnpe@unvienna.org



Upcoming Events in 2Q 2016

Presentation by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Learn about MSF's humanitarian work: its medical aid and technical work in war-torn and epidemic-affected regions and, in particular, current assistance to refugees from the Middle East.

At the invitation of Women in Nuclear (WiN, IAEA Chapter), the President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Austria, Margaretha Maleh, and some of her team will present their organization's work. External guests are welcome.

The presentation — after a background description of MSF's history, principles and activities — will focus on examples of MSF's:

- Medical work: humanitarian aid for refugees with case studies from Syria, Jordan and Iraq
- Technical projects: remote sensing/GIS for environmental, drought and population monitoring

It will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

WHEN: 18 April, 12:00–13:30

WHERE: VIC, M6

REGISTRATION: <http://goo.gl/forms/xTMuLFElrU>

What is MSF?

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors without Borders) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare.

Founded in 1971, MSF offers people assistance based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. A private, international, non-profit association, MSF observes strict neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance, and is not affiliated to any government or political, religious or economic power.

MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 and today thousands of health professionals, logistical and administrative staff provide medical and humanitarian assistance in more than 65 countries across the globe.

Who is Margaretha Maleh?

MSF's President Margaretha Maleh is a psychotherapist with more than 20 years' experience and president of the Austrian association for spastic integration (ÖVSE). After her children grew up she decided to offer her help to people in other countries and started going on mission with MSF — so far, to Papua New Guinea, Jordan, Iraq and Bangladesh. Her life experience has often helped her to see the bigger picture when working in the field. In 2011 she was elected to the Board of MSF-Austria and, in 2015, she became the organization's first female president.



Margaretha Maleh at work. Credit: MSF

Expanding Horizons — Meet Pari Namazie

WiN IAEA is inviting an expert on professional skills development and intercultural relations to share her expertise with us at several events this year.



Dr. Pari Namazie has over 20 years' experience in human resource management, talent development, training and advancement. She is a trainer/facilitator for staff and management to help improve team work and communication, and to build trust and self-leadership skills. She also works with groups going through change and helps them understand the impact this has on the individual, team and organization.

WIN EVENTS IN 2016 WITH PARI NAMIZIE

Lunchtime presentation on the Iranian diaspora: 20 May

Pari is the founder of Simorgh, a non-profit organization based in Vienna with the aim of developing closer ties and mutual understanding between Iranians, with each other and with people everywhere. Recently, she organized a photography competition called *Being Iranian*, open to Iranians and non-Iranians, asking what it meant to be Iranian and bringing together some 250 participants from all over the world. The jury comprised Iranians and non-Iranians involved in the arts, photography, intercultural communication, business and film. Three main winners were chosen and the top 50 photographs were issued in a book.

Through photography, this project shows how Iranian society and its diaspora are changing, what values exist within and outside Iran, how non-Iranians perceive Iranians and how photography can capture the spirit of a people and culture. Interestingly, we can extrapolate ideas from it to apply to our own cultures, which Pari will elucidate in her presentation. Please join us for a fascinating encounter. There is a small fee for non-WiN members, payable at the event.

WHEN: 20 May 2016, 12:00–13:30

WHERE: VIC, M0E79

REGISTRATION: <http://www.winiaeachapter.org>

FEE: WiN members — free; non-members € 5

Skill building workshops: June, September, October

Pari will hold three two-hour workshops at the VIC. They will provide participants with a hands-on approach to learning, using examples and exercises to test and re-learn concepts useful in the work environment. The objective is to provide a useful approach to enhancing skills and competencies, to learn and also to have fun. With interactive exercises, group discussion, individual assessments, theory and case studies, the training is not only useful but also very enjoyable.

Survival Skills, Conflict Resolution, Communication

20 June, M0E03, 16:30–18:30: *Surviving in an uncertain environment*

5 September, M0E75, 16:30–18:30: *Conflict resolution style and assessment*

24 October, M0E03, 16:30–18:30: *Developing intercultural sensitivity in a multicultural environment*

REGISTRATION: <http://www.winiaeachapter.org>

FEE: WiN members: €20 per workshop/€50 for all three; non-members, €30 per workshop/€80 for all three

Sue Pearce talks about her work in a male-skewed world

After more than 30 years in the British criminal justice sector, initially as a probation officer, Sue Pearce left at Director level and now works in the public, private and not-for-profit sector as a workplace mediator and management consultant, typically in the areas of criminal justice, substance misuse, and community safety, including domestic abuse and probation practice. She has specialized in work with female offenders and with perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse. This work has facilitated working alongside other jurisdictions including the USA, Sweden, the Netherlands and Albania.

Sue has seen many changes to the British criminal justice system, including the role of women in the workplace. She will share some of these experiences, reflecting on how women were/are perceived in this sector and the challenges faced by women working in several jurisdictions. In addition, Sue will describe past and current treatment of women in prison and on probation and how that relates to constructs of gender.



WHEN: 13 June 2016, 12–13:30

WHERE: VIC, MOE100

REGISTRATION: <http://www.winiaechapter.org>

FEE: WiN members — free; non-members € 5

Miscellaneous

- Registration for the [WiN Global Conference 2016](#) in Abu Dhabi is now open!
- Consider applying for the [FEM' Energia Awards 2016](#)! Deadline 22 April 2016.
- As WiN IAEA thrives from active members, please consider becoming engaged in one of the working groups. Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. We need more volunteers urgently.
- WiN IAEA offers free memberships to interns and encourages them to join.

Welcome New Members!

Jasmina HODZIC, Intern

Minji KO, Intern

Sara KOUCHEHBAGH, Intern

Yuliya LYAMZINA, Consultant

Elke MEYER, Archives Assistant

News from Women in Nuclear—IAEA Chapter
Special Issue WiN Global Annual Conference 2015

Disclaimer:
Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Committee.
All photos unless otherwise noted are credited to WiN IAEA Chapter.

Editorial Committee:
Gabi Voigt
Susan Cohen-Unger
Luisa Milani
Amy Amenu-Zotter

Design and layout:
Luisa Milani, Arno Weldert