



BIEN 2017 Women Scientists and Engineers – Shaping The Future

by Ir. Tan Loo Yen and Pn. Najiha Bt. Nadzru

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Korean Women Scientists and Engineers (KWSE) and BIEN 2017

Biotechnology (BT), Information Technology (IT), Environment and Energy Technology (ET), and Nanotechnology (NT) called “BIEN” since 2003, the association has been striving to promote academic collaboration and leadership to capability among women scientists and engineers around the world.

The 2017 KWSE/APNN International Young Woman Scientist (YWS) Camp and Smart Sister (SS) Workshop, held in conjunction with BIEN 2017, hosted lectures by prominent speakers, oral and poster presentations, discussions on global issues related to research major, and group mentoring session. These events are expected to give the next generation of woman scientists and engineers opportunities to expand and network among the world’s most renowned woman scientists and engineers in each field, and to enhance their global research and leadership capabilities

On 31 August to 2 September 2017, two ladies engineers from Malaysia, Ir. Tan Loo Yen (Electrical) and Pn. Najiha Binti Nadzru (Civil) were selected by the IEM Women Section to represent them as per invitation by KWSE for their APNN International Young Woman Scientist Camp (YWS) and were fully sponsored by KWSE under the BIEN 2017.

Conference Program

The conference program consists of 3 plenary sessions. 5 scientific sessions on Bio, Information, Environment/ Energy/ Earth, Nano and space technologies, 3 special sessions on future society, leadership and women in industry 2017 international young women scientist camp and policy forum, Meeting of Asia and Pacific Women in science and Technology (MAPWist).

1st day of Conference, 31st August 2017

The 1st day of the conference started in the morning with registration by the participants and APNN exhibition. Malaysia representatives presented showcase Malaysian snacks, culture and also related engineering association in Malaysia (Fig.1). There were also other participants from Young Women Scientists (YWS) from various countries setting up their country's booth as well such as Mongolia, Taiwan, Myanmar, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Africa. It was a very interactive moment whereby a lot of interested delegates came over and enquired about Malaysia culture and also women engineers' progress in our country. Our Malaysian snacks and "Cuti-cuti Malaysia" brochures were also a hit and all snapped up by interested delegates who wish to know more about Malaysia.

The official opening ceremony started with a short speech by the President of KWSE, Prof. Haryoung Poo and followed by Minister of Ministry of Science and ICT, Mr. Young-Min You, preceded by the Plenary Session I and APNN Country exhibition, Plenary Session II and Poster Session I. In the Plenary Session, topic on "Zika virus and brain defects in babies" by Jae Ung Jung, Distinguished Professor and Chair, University of Southern California, USA and "Socially aware artificial intelligence: Women changing the future of computer science" by Justine Cassell, Professor and Associate Dean, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, were some interesting papers that were presented on the day.



Figure (1) APNN Country Exhibition

In the evening, a Welcome Reception banquet was held with servings of magnificent fusion Korean-western food and also traditional singing performance by Yoon Joo Hee's Microcosmic Ensemble which really gave an overwhelming and pleasant experience for the delegates. Another highlight of the dinner was an introduction of traditional costumes by the YWS participants (Fig.2) and Malaysians representative showed our multiculturalism with Baju Kurung batik and also Cheongsam. We received the heartiest applause as we spoke and introduced ourselves in Korean with "Annyeong haseyo" or its meaning is "Hello" in English. The day's event finished at 9.30pm and we headed back to our accommodation at nearby Dongdaemun Plaza (DDP) soon after.



Figure (2) Traditional costume night

2nd day of Conference, 1st September 2017

A special Cultural Tour to Gyeongbokgung Palace, 20 minutes drive away from our hotel had been arranged by KWSE for YWS participants in the early morning. Gyeongbokgung Palace built in 1395 (Fig.3), was the main royal palace of the Joseon dynasty and served as the home of Kings of the Joseon dynasty and its household. It is quite an experience looking at the royal traditional architecture of the past and the history of the royals in Korea before it became a republic country it is now. At noon, we had a traditional Korean lunch of bibimbap at Gogung Restaurant located at Myeondong, a 1 star Michelin restaurant. Next, we are sent back to Plaza Hotel for the YWS Poster presentation at 1pm. The Malaysians representative Ir. Tan Loo Yen presented on "Arc flash containment" and Pn Najihah presented "Behavior of Deep Excavation using Earth retaining Structures with Auxiliary Measures in Bangkok subsoils" (Fig.4).



Figure (3) KWSE/ APNN YWS Scientist Camp & Smart Sister Tour to Palace



Figure (4) Poster presentation

3rd day of Conference, 2nd September 2017

The MAPWiST (Meeting of Asia & Pacific Women in Science and Technology) was the last event of the conference. This policy forum is a gathering of APNN members (Asia & Pacific National Network) for information sharing, discussions and cooperative planning to build the “policy development roadmap” for women in STEM. The 2017 MAPWiST comprises of lectures and panel discussions on the balanced development of young women in science and technology, addressing issues on the future changes of society, gender policy in higher education, and awareness of gender inequality in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum intends to lay the foundation for a “SHE Figures”-like evidence base for women in STEM in Asia and the Pacific. (Fig.5)



Figure (5) MAPWiST Policy Forum