



INWES APNN Meeting is Back!

by Ir. Rusnida binti Talib and Ms. Choong Pooi Ying

Ir. Rusnida is currently the Chairperson of Member’s Engagement Sub-Committee and the Deputy Chairperson in Women Engineer Section and Ms. Choong Pooi Ying is an Observer in the Women Engineer Section

The Asia and Pacific Nation Network (APNN) recently held its 12th Annual General Meeting in Malaysia, hosted by the Women Engineers Section of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM). The meeting adopted a hybrid approach, with four delegates from Malaysia, one from Korea, and five from the Philippines attending in person. The remaining 23 delegates from various countries participated virtually.

APNN is a part of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES), which also includes Europe, the Africa Regional Networks (ARN), and Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). As of June 2019, INWES represents over 250,000 women in 60 different countries, while APNN comprises approximately 16 member states which include Japan, China-Taipei, New Zealand, Indonesia and Singapore.



During the 12th Annual General Meeting

During the meeting, representatives presented their respective reports highlighting their local programmes and outlining the various initiatives taken to promote the participation and engagement

of women of all age groups in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The reports focused on activities such as women's empowerment initiatives and STEM programmes targeting girls in schools. The decline in female student enrolment in STEM courses in specific locations was discussed, as well as various other issues related to empowering women and girls.

The APNN delegates further deliberated on INWES APNN's reporting template and the level of details that had to be included. Concerns were also raised over the appointment and roles of officials which were not aligned with APNN's requirements. It was also suggested that the content of future reports should focus more on proper data collection, presentation and analyses. As the United Nations Commission for Women recognizes the roles of INWES and APNN, the compilation and presentation of reliable data would aid in the formulation of action plans for endorsement at the UN forum.

Ir. Prof. Dr. Zuhaina from Malaysia presented the report on the 3rd International Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Conference (WiSET 2022). Plans for Year 2023 were also shared with the participants, including the upcoming 13th APNN Meeting scheduled to be held in Mongolia from June 30 to July 1, 2023, and the 19th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES 19) in New Zealand from September 3 to 6, 2023, which will be hosted by the Institution of Professional Engineers, New Zealand.

As Dr. Ariunbolor of Mongolia, the current Chair of APNN, will be concluding her term of office in September 2023, it was announced that the next APNN Chairperson, who will serve a three-year term from 2023 to 2026, will be Engr. Dr. Juana T. Tapel from the Philippines. The meeting ended with congratulatory messages to Dr. Juana on her election to the next APNN Chair and a group photography session to commemorate the successful conclusion of the event.



Photo of the APNN Delegates

To mark the end of the two-day conference and meeting, a farewell dinner was organized, which provided an opportunity for the guests to network with one another as well as to strengthen the camaraderie that had developed during the APNN Meeting and WiSET 2022.