

IYNCWIN18

Over 400 participants from 39 countries gathered in the city of San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, from March 11th to 17th, 2018, for the 26th Women in Nuclear (WiN) Annual Conference and the 10th International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC) -IYNCWIN18-.

The event was hosted by WIN Global and IYNC, together with their local counterparts: Women in Nuclear Argentina - Mujeres del Sector Nuclear - and Argentine Youth Nuclear Generation - Asociación Argentina de Jóvenes Nucleares It is the first time that these non-profit organizations collaborate on a joint conference and the first time it takes place in Latin America.

This unique event had the support of several national and international organizations and featured a wide variety of speakers and experts from the global nuclear industry, academia and government, as the Undersecretary of Nuclear Energy from Argentina, Mr. Julián Gadano; the Director General of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (NEA-OECD), Mr. William Magwood; the Deputy Director General of the Department of Management of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ms. Mary Alice Hayward; among others.

With the theme "Challenge the present, empower the future", IYNCWIN18 provided a forum for young professionals and women around the world to discuss relevant nuclear topics. In particular, this joint conference aimed at strengthening the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, endorsing the active involvement of young generations and women in the field, and boosting the development of professional global networks.

The IAEA's Department of Technical Cooperation (TC) has sponsored the participation of female nuclear professionals in WiN conferences for several years. On this occasion, sixteen women from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and Caribbean received this support and their positive feedback (below) demonstrates the

relevance of their involvement in such an event which provides women working in the field with concrete empowerment tools. In this sense, they had the opportunity not only to share their knowledge and experiences with peers and industry leaders about several nuclear aspects, including research and development, communication, gender equality, career development, but also to join technical tours to nuclear facilities both in Argentina and Brazil.



Fatma Riahi, Algeria

"This event allowed me to meet women working in the nuclear field who willingly shared with me, and all the other participants in this scientific event, their knowledge and experience. It was also an opportunity to receive advice and encouragement in order to persevere in our work, and to go ahead to accomplish this by taking up the challenge of women working in the scientific field, in general, and in the nuclear field, in particular.

In this same spirit of ideas, I dare to set the first steps of the WIN Algeria project and hope to make it concrete, under the aegis of my country and the support of the IAEA, in a close

perspective. This hope is allowed because our country is full of competent women ready to take up this challenge.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all these women and offer my warmest thanks to the IAEA for sparing no effort for the success of the program of this scientific event".

Danila Carrijo da Silva Dias, Brazil

"It is a privilege to be part of the Latin American group of supported women by the IAEA in this exceptionally enriching event. A conference that promotes the gathering of females and young people from the nuclear field in our region is undoubtedly a very special opportunity for us on this side of the planet. It was so rich in content with opportunities at workshops, technical presentations, discussions and networking moments that it was a challenge to manage them all and try not to miss each second of it!

I am part of a small group of Brazilian WiNners who are working hard today to revitalize WiN Brazil and transform it into an exemplary chapter in the likes of WiN Argentina and WiN IAEA. I personally made contact with professionals from Nicaragua, Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina and made the commitment to be in closer contact with the new Latin American Chapters, so we can help each other.

I also made the best out of the event by bringing two summaries – one presented in poster (in the field of communication) and a technical study presented orally within the Technical Tracks. Through the latter I got awarded with the Best Oral Presentation of IYNCWIN18. I was very surprised and humbled by this honor and I will absolutely cherish this moment and this WiN edition for many years to come".

Daniele de Azevedo Baeta, Brazil

"I would like to thank the IAEA TC Programme for supporting my participation in IYNCWIN18, which allowed me to exchange experiences and learnings with different professionals, companies and countries. WiN is a great way to encourage women to enter

this enthralling area. I hope that the IAEA TC Programme will continue to help more and more people to know and to talk about Nuclear Energy and its importance today and for the future".

Mariela Adelaida Porras Chaverri, Costa Rica

"IYNCWiN18 was a preview of the benefits of having a more inclusive field for people of all genders, ages and origins. An outstanding experience that will shape my vision of the future for many years to come. Thank you to the organizers for coordinating such a unique conference and to the IAEA TC Programme for making my participation possible".

Barbara Evelyn García Moreno, Cuba

"I would like to share my experience and kindly thank first of all the IAEA TC programme for giving me the opportunity to participate in this conference. It was an injection of energy, knowledge and experience to continue working on the development of nuclear sciences for the welfare of humanity. It turned out to be my first trip out of my country; I firmly believe that a first time is never forgotten. The work during the Mentoring Program was excellent, for me it was a unique source of new ideas. It was also a pleasure to meet these professionals with a successful and vast career, who were keen on sharing their experience with us, young people.

I also want to thank WiN Global for letting me live this experience and be part of this lovely human team. We will continue working for the good of humanity, the development of nuclear sciences and the union of women around the world. I would also like to extend a special thanks to the women of WiN Argentina for their support and example".

Mina Torabi Shahriyar, Iran.

"At the first, I need to thank you for your support. This was my first experience at a World Conference and it was great for me: I had the chance to meet a lot of people who are working in my field and this can certainly help me to find a vacancy for a PhD positon..."

Raquel Heredia, Mexico

"It was a unique experience both for me and for the WiN Mexican Chapter. Bringing together women and young people in the field nourished the views about the paths which we, as a community, need to take in order to remain a relevant and competent industry. Nuclear energy is a key component of debate on climate change; and it is our duty as members of the industry to make sure it is considered as such. In this sense, this event was a great opportunity for stakeholders around the world to meet and expand their visions on the current challenges of nuclear energy.

I cannot express the gratitude to all the support provided by the IAEA for developing countries such as Mexico, and I was very pleased to meet colleagues from several Latin American countries joining together as a region for knowledge exchange. It is also important to highlight the great job done by the team of WiN Argentina to make the conference possible and all the support received from its staff.

Joselin Meza, Nicaragua

"The congress INYWIN2018 was a great experience for me. Firstly, because I had the opportunity to learn more about how nuclear reactors work, climate change, nuclear policies, economics and social aspects. Secondly, because I could meet and hear the experience of several women in the nuclear field. I think that the message that most caught my attention was as follows: 'Be yourself and do not limit yourself'. I want to thank the IAEA TC Programme for all the support and for giving".

Simona Zaharov, Romania

"IYNCWiN18 was a great opportunity for me to meet people from all over the world believing in nuclear and to share my experience as a mentor for young and motivated professionals and to encourage young women to believe that nuclear is the solution for a better life. Thank IAEA TC for all the support!"

