

# Young Woman Scientists (YWS) Camp, Daejeon, South Korea

WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION



reported by  
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Grad. IEM

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In conjunction with the World Science & Technology Forum held on 19-23 October 2015, the Association of Korean Woman Scientists and Engineers (KWSE) organised a camp for woman scientists and engineers from around the world (but especially catering to those from Asia-Pacific nations) at the University of Science and Technology from 17-18 October 2015 at Daejeon, South Korea. It was funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of Korea (MSIP). So far three similar camps have been held since 2012.

The main objective of holding the camp was to promote global competitiveness and to encourage international cooperation among the target groups. In this particular camp, about 100 participants from 11 countries attended. They came from Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam, Taiwan and

Mongolia as well as varied disciplines of science and engineering.

The author and another Ph.D candidate from Universiti Sains Malaysia represented Malaysia under Women Engineers, IEM, at the camp.

## INTRODUCTION TO KWSE

KWSE aims to contribute to the enhancement of scientific capacity as well as to the status-uplifting of woman in industry, academy and research institutes.

KWSE is the first chair organisation of Asia and Pacific Nation Network (APNN) which is the first regional network of International Network of Woman Engineers and Scientists (INWES).

## YWS CAMP ACTIVITIES

In brief, here is a list of six main activities organised at the two-day YWS camp.

Informative booths	Oral and Poster Presentation
<p>11 booths representing each participating country.</p> <p>The Malaysian booth showcased the Petronas Twin Tower and traditional Malay house replicas, dolls wearing traditional costumes, songket, batik and Malaysian currency.</p> <p>Best Booth Awards went to Australia and Pakistan.</p>	<p>Five papers were selected for oral presentation, namely papers from Australia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Myanmar and Mongolia. They were done alongside presentations made by the guest lecturers on the first day.</p> <p>The titles were :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Power of Engineering: Attracting Girls into Engineering in an Australian Context</li> <li>2. A Study on Obesity and Related Factors: Female Undergraduates in Sri Lanka</li> <li>3. Rapid Age-Hardening of Al-Mg-Cu Alloy and Effect of Trace Addition of Ag</li> <li>4. Safety Analysis of Infant Formula Milk and Baby Food Locally Available in South Korea</li> <li>5. Static and Transient Calculation of Molten Salt Reactor Experiment using SERPENT-2/TRACE/PARCS Code</li> </ol> <p>Simultaneously, poster presentations took place over the two days. The author's poster presentation was titled Failure of Expanded Polystyrene Lightweight Concrete (EPS-LWC) Wall Panel with Different Opening Configuration Enhanced with Steel Fibre.</p>



	<p>It was a minor snapshot of her soon-to-be-completed Ph.D work at UiTM Shah Alam.</p> <p>The Best Poster Award went to a postgraduate student from Japan.</p>
Invited Lecturers	Group Work and Mentoring
<p>Three inspiring women scientists and engineers were guest lecturers at the YWS Camp.</p> <p>They were Ariunbolor Purvee, president of WESTEM Mongolia, Jun Hada, chair of WISE Nepal and Lin Jauyn Grace, professor, Center for Condensed Matter Science, National Taiwan University.</p> <p>Diverse titles presented included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experiences of Leading Woman Scientists in Mongolia</li> <li>2. Promoting Gender Inclusion in Engineering through Conductive Workforce Diversity Policy</li> <li>3. Gender Mainstreaming in Science and Technology at Taiwan</li> </ol>	<p>All participants spoke at this session to enhance their public speaking skills.</p> <p>Participants were divided into 10 groups, each provided with a topic, from challenges of women engineers and scientists in the workplace, the toll from work culture and gender equality, to the influence of global women's voice in future.</p> <p>The end of the group discussions revealed that Malaysian women scientists and engineers had better opportunities to advance in their careers compared to those from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Vietnam.</p> <p>The main limitation came from the lack of family and spousal support. Most women scientists and engineers opted to leave their chosen careers when they started their families.</p>
Dinner and Networking	K-Pop Dance
<p>An opening dinner was held on the 17 October, 2015. It was a truly unique and heart-warming experience when all 100 participants showed up, dressed in their national costumes. Each country representative exhibited and explained the customary fashion.</p> <p>The Best Traditional Costume Award went to Mongolia.</p>	<p>An enjoyable session to burn extra calories took place on the second morning of the YWS Camp. The K-Pop dance session was led by Madam Choi Mina, Director of South Korea Association of Sports.</p>

Apart from the three awards given out earlier (Best Booths, Best Poster, and Best Traditional Costume), the Best Friendly Award went to Reena Pandey from Nepal.

She was a member of The Association of South Korean Women Scientist Engineers (KWSE) and is currently pursuing Ph.D in Materials and Life Science at South Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). Her bubbly character, talkativeness, and helpful character warmed everyone to her at YWS camp.

**WORLD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FORUM**

World science experts gathered at the World Science & Technology Forum to share their findings and to formulate policies relating to science and technology in the next 10 years by focusing on sustainable economic growth and solutions to global challenges.



Nobel Prize winners, CEOs from science and technology (S&T) communities, ministers and vice ministers from OECD and ASEAN member states congregated here to chart the S&T landscape. The meeting was conducted in three sections: The OECD Ministerial Meeting Daejeon, the World Science & Technology Forum and the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye graced the opening session.

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