

WINFO

Newsletter of Women in Nuclear WIN No. 5 (1/94)

WIN at ENC'94



Maura Devine helps to commission Sizewell B. She will speak at ENC'94.

The theme of the WIN embedded topical meeting at ENC'94 (October 4th) is public acceptance and risk communication. These two topics split into morning and afternoon sessions. The full programme (with abbreviated titles) follows:

■ A morning of public acceptance

Dr. Irene Aegerter WIN International	Welcome
Dr. Renate Köcher Germany	National mentality and nuclear energy
Françoise Guenette Canada	How to fashion messages for women
Irene Currie Scotland	Bridging the gender gap in Britain
Philippe Ansel, Jean-Pierre Pages France	Systemic analysis of French public opinions

■ An afternoon of risk communication

Dr. Ann Bisconti USA	Waste and radiation – a new model
Agneta Rising Sweden	I say risk – you say risk. Why don't we mean the same?
Corinne Souwer Netherlands	Non-verbal communication as a tool.

For a full programme and application to attend ENC'94 please write to:

ENC'94, c/o ENS Secretariat, POB 5032, CH-3001 Berne, Switzerland, Fax +41 31 3824466.

Pictures at an Exhibition

The centre of the WIN stand at ENC'94 will be the video surrounded by photographs of women in nuclear from all over the world. Everyone coming to Bonn is asked to bring suitable photographs of minimum 8 x 12 inches (20 x 30 cm).

Bonn Preview

A little insight into what to expect at the WIN Annual Meeting in Bonn (May 12-13th)

Hosted by Informationskreis Kernergie, the morning session will start with the WIN general assembly and country reports. In the afternoon, lectures followed by discussion will be given by Dr. Renate Köcher, Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach and Prof. Dr. Hans Mathias Kepplinger, Universität Mainz.

The next day there is a visit to the Mülheim-Kärlich nuclear plant and the Koblenz-Gondorf solar research station. There will be a Leading Group meeting on May 11th. Official invitations for Bonn will be posted to WIN members shortly.

Russian Roundtable

The Nuclear Society Moscow, together with the Interdepartmental Council on PR, is holding the third seminar on nuclear energy and public opinion at the Nakhabino Centre near Moscow, May 24-27.

The meeting will attract delegates from all over the former Soviet Union as well as from Western Europe. Besides discussion of political and social aspects of nuclear, of special interest to WIN members is the roundtable organised by the women's section of the Nuclear Society Moscow on "Women and Nuclear Technology". Contact Irina Gagarinski: Fax: +7095 1964828.

Pime is on My Side

There was a more than respectable representation at the public information meeting, PIME'94, held in Lucerne at the beginning of February. Out of 150 in total, 45 attendees or around 30 per cent, were women.

Topics of special interest included a presentation on WIN itself by president international, Irene Aegerter. The balance between emotion and reason was stressed, together with the importance in using personal information to win over the souls of the public before their minds. Next France Brès-Tutino, president WIN France, talked of the successful rôle-model trip she and five other women made to Canada, in which they met with young women considering or already in scientific careers.

This was followed by Marke Heininen's talk on the training of Finnish female research scientists to become ambassadors for nuclear energy. A series of meetings has led to a broadening of the knowledge base by a group who previously had only a good depth of knowledge in their own field. These meetings were followed by specific training sessions in presentation and communication skills. The result is increased credibility for the Finns in getting over their message to the target groups. And that sort of thing is exactly what PIME is all about!

All attending women at PIME'94 plus three token men attended a dinner on the first evening in the old town hall in Lucerne. And just when everyone thought they could relax after the day's conference Corinne Souwer gets the whole room to play a condensed version of Trilemma – the energy-politics game. In the space of ten minutes we had, in groups, to assess our given world region's main energy problems and think of solutions. Did we have enough coal and gas reserves? Was nuclear power our long-term solution? What of pollution levels? And the result? Well, there were many rather condensed analyses of energy problems and a lot of realisation that there is no simple answer!

PIME conclusions of special relevance to WIN

- Women have an important rôle to play in the work of information specialists
- Each programme should carefully consider each target group
- Openness and dialogue bring dividends
- Ethical arguments should be enhanced

How You Too Can Be a WINner

Membership of WIN is open to all women working professionally in the fields of nuclear energy and radiation and who are willing to devote time to public information. New members are recommended by either one Leading Group member or two ordinary members. There is no membership fee for the time being. Fax WIN secretary, Christina Trachsel, at the ENS Secretariat for an application form.

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In WINFO4 we omitted the name of **Bulgaria** as one of the established national WIN groups.

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Dixy Lee Ray

The US has just said a sad goodbye to a former chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Dixy Lee Ray who died in January. She was 79. Dixy Ray, appointed to the AEC in 1973 by Richard Nixon, later became Washington State's only female governor serving from 1977-81.

Meanwhile, Canada says hello to Dr. Agnes Bishop, who will be the next president and CEO of the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB). She will be the first woman to hold this position. Dr. Bishop is professor and head of the Department of Pediatrics at Manitoba University as well as holding two other pediatric posts. In his announcement, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said, "By appointing a highly respected physician to this position, the government is emphasizing its commitment to health and safety." Dr. Bishop is currently an AECB director and will take up the presidency on September 1st this year.



Agnes Bishop

Support Your Local Video

Under the working title "Primroses and Poppies – Two Women in Nuclear", the project to finance and produce the WIN video was launched at PIME'94. Its importance was stressed in the conference opening remarks and by the end of PIME three firm pledges had been made from sponsors willing to back the project. Subsequently, ENS has sent a mail shot to likely partners who attended PIME'94. Stars of the video, who have agreed to be filmed in action in their daily lives, are Martine Griffon-Fouco, manager units three and four at Le Blayais NPP and Carina Karlsson, reactor operator at Ringhals unit 4.

The essence of the video will be to leave the viewer comfortable with the idea of nuclear power by showing the women for whom nuclear is just another job. Creative use of edits, music and camera work will make it a unique public relations tool for the nuclear community.

Action now

If your organisation has not yet pledged funds then please get them to do so right away. Contact Philip Sheppard at ENS for a full information pack.

Yes, please send me information on the WIN video

Name _____
Position _____
Organisation _____
Address _____

Send to: Philip Sheppard, ENS, POB 5032, Berne CH-3001 Switzerland Tel +41 31 320 6505 Fax +41 31 382 4466
