



WINFO

Quarterly Newsletter of Women in Nuclear WIN

No. 4/1993

The Lead from Lyon

Even after a dinner the night before, a long agenda kept the WIN Leading Group wide awake at its Lyon meeting December 5-6th. The meeting finalised the 1994 programme for the annual meeting in Bonn, which includes a charter revision to allow male supporters, as well as the topical session at ENC'94. A WIN stand at ENC'94 will show the WIN video together with a portrait gallery of nuclear women.

A visit by the Leading Group around the fast breeder at Creys-Malville provided an opportunity to meet the plant's female staff and learn about current work on the containment of sodium fires. WIN president, Irene Aegerter and France Brès-Tutino, president WIN France gave local radio interviews.

The Paris Reports

WIN Group activities presented at the Paris meeting of July 8th 1993, plus a few latecomers!

Expanding in Finland

The Energy Channel, the women's branch of the Finnish Nuclear Society, founded in 1990, has 44 members. In pursuit of its goal to "expand women's knowledge of energy related subjects" it talked with women politicians in 1993 in advance of parliament's, ultimately negative, decision on the country's fifth nuclear unit. A plant visit by two female ministers, parliamentarians and other decision makers led to an invitation for one Energy Channel member to provide three parliamentary sub-committees with expert advice.

Presentations on radiation, Chernobyl, nuclear waste and the environment have been made to student's and women's groups. A programme to encourage members to participate in debates and to write to newspapers was started.

The French Gender Gap

Polls report a 14% gender gap in the French attitude to nuclear power. In answer to the question "Do you agree with the French policy of 75% nuclear electricity", only 47% of women agreed compared with 61% of men. Significantly 48% of French women disagree with his policy. WIN France has now been formed. The group is active in promoting women as panelists, in technical workshops and conferences.

Nuclear Not Only Male - Say Germans

With this cry, the Informationskreis Kernenergie (IK), exhibited at Germany's major fair for women, Top'93, held in Cologne. The IK approach at Top'93 was to present objective information on nuclear issues as an antidote to the emotive arguments of the anti-nuclear lobby. To capture interest, the IK stand even held a cabaret!

WIN Germany was formed on January 31st 1993 in Karlsbad as the women's section to the German Nuclear Society.

Nuclear - Not Hungary's Main Concern

Chemical waste, deforestation and the ozone layer have a higher environmental priority than nuclear power plants, according to a 1992 poll. Nuclear waste and Chernobyl however remain the two top arguments against nuclear power.

Following the formation of the Hungarian Nuclear Society (HNS) in 1990, WIN Hungary was born on January 25th 1993 as an HNS section with 10 members. Ludmilla Kiss is WIN Hungary chairwoman and Judit Baacs the information executive.

They have a programme to start a regular newspaper column on women in nuclear, organise lectures for schools and to address working women and women in medicine. Their approach is to communicate to women as users of electricity, as opinion formers on their children and as influences on their partners.

Catching a Woman's Heart in Japan

45% of Japanese women say "No" to nuclear construction and 11% more women than men are anxious for the safety of nuclear power.

Japanese pro-nuclear public relations treads softly. Advertising in popular women's magazines, employees pamphlets and other leaflets are part of the written approach. Establishing PR centres at power stations, which grow to become places of entertainment, are part of the direct approach.

The Women's Energy Network (WEN) was formed on March 29th 1993 and has 41 members. WEN is open to all women in energy-related organisations. The International communications contact is Ms. Tezuka.

Dutch Psycho Study

WIN member and trainee at the Netherlands Energy Research Foundation (ECN), Esther van der Draal, is preparing an essay on the differences between men and women in their perception of nuclear and risk. It will make a useful WIN reference.

Romanian Women Already Involved

Women are deeply integrated in all the activities of the Romanian Nuclear Association and the industry in general. Indeed there are a great number of women who are nuclear technical specialists. Involvement by women, therefore in public information programmes is already happening.

From Russia With Love

Russia's Nuclear Society has established a 70 strong women and nuclear technologies section with its own charter. ENS president, Collette Lewiner, addressed one of their meetings in May.

The section has held several round-table discussions with the public and media. The last one was a collaboration with another group, "Women and Ecology".

Sweden Hosts Nordic Regional Meeting

On December 9-10th 17 women attended the first WIN Nordic regional meeting in Västerås with representatives from Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Leading Group members, Agneta Rising and Marke Heininen made a presentation. A regional group (including Norway) has now been formed and the next meeting will be held in Finland in April.

In Sweden itself, polls taken in June repeat the trend seen elsewhere. More women than men are anti-nuclear and 55% of women want to close all plants by 2010, compared to 43% for the group as a whole. The figure is 67% for women under the age of 30. A book called "Women about Energy" was published by utility Vattenfall as part of a special women's project. WIN will participate in a women's fair "Women Can" in May 1994.

Swiss Target Legislation

Switzerland's "Women for Energy" provided input for the country's licensing procedure for waste repositories as well as opposing a proposed compulsory law relating to domestic radon levels. It also submitted a statement to the French authorities in favour of the Creys-Malville fast breeder.

There have been some signs of success: latest surveys show that scepticism about nuclear energy is dropping in Switzerland and dropping the most among women (from 68% to 50%).

UK Promoting THORP to Women

WIN member Elizabeth Morgan-Lewis hosted at Sellafield, a women's delegation from the group, Trades Unions for Safe Nuclear Energy (TUSNE). They visited THORP and the Nirex site, which is now under evaluation as a final radwaste repository. A TUSNE weekend in June attracted 45 women.

Links with the Women's Institute (WI) may lead to the staging of an imaginative science/drama event at the WI 1995 general meeting, which will attract some 10,000 women.

WIN National Groups Around The World

WIN International now has 176 members. There are fully established national groups in five countries and existing women's energy-related groups, which may transform to national WIN groups, in four countries. WIN international members are close to establishing new national groups in a further four countries. The next WINFO will include a full list of names and contacts for each national group.

National WIN and Women's Energy Groups

WIN Group	Women's Energy Groups	Emerging WIN
Finland	Japan	Belgium
France	Sweden	Canada
Germany	Switzerland	Netherlands
Hungary	USA	UK
Russia		

Diary 1994..Diary 1994..Diary 1994..Diary 1994..Dia

Jan 29th	Leading Group	Lucerne
Jan 31st	PIME '94 Dinner	Lucerne
May 11-13th	Annual Meeting	Bonn
October 4th	ENC'94 Session	Lyon

The annual meeting in Bonn, now a few days earlier than previously notified, will be hosted by Informationskreis Kerneenergie. The invitation and programme, together with a list of outside visits, will be sent to WIN members shortly.

How You Too Can Sign up with the WINners

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, Ursula Zingg, at the ENS Secretariat for an application form.

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