

World Nuclear University's Summer Institute 2006 – Meeting Young Generation of Women in Nuclear

You might have heard about the World Nuclear University (WNU) initiative and its first undertaking – the Summer Institute. Now let me introduce this unique course of nuclear leadership in the way I saw it, as one of its lucky fellows.

The WNU Summer Institute (WNU-SI) was conceived during a meeting of WNU stakeholders (IAEA, WANO, OECD's NEA, and the WNA) hosted by the IAEA in Vienna in June 2004. In summer 2005, the first WNU-SI took place at Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA. Based on the feedback from the 2005 WNU-SI, this year's programme was further developed.

The WNU-SI 2006 took place from 8 July to 18 August in Stockholm, Sweden, and included one-week technical tour of France's nuclear facilities. The event was hosted by Swedish Centre for Nuclear Technology (SKC), Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and France's Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA) as well as AREVA who provided generous sponsorship.



Fellows of the World Nuclear University's Summer Institute 2006

There were 89 WNU Fellows from 34 different countries. The 89 Fellows were a mixture of engineers, plant operators, regulators, academicians, material scientists, and researchers. The Summer Institute provided a truly remarkable opportunity to meet young specialists, to gain knowledge from world-class experts, and to develop insight about the whole world of nuclear technology.

There were two kinds of presenters: in the mornings, we had experts who covered a full agenda of topics, from the global nuclear safety culture, to non-proliferation issues, to strategies for waste recycling and disposal, to public opinion, to our planet's environmental problems, to future energy systems and technologies; late in the afternoon, we had a series of distinguished speakers. These were

senior industry leaders running major organizations in the nuclear world, and they offered us candid reflections on their personal experiences.

We learned from these experts, but we also learned from each other, because the Summer Institute is much more than a series of presentations. It is a participatory process. Much of the work was done in small creative groups where fellows analyzed problems and tried to envisage solutions, worked on challenging case studies, wrote reports on crucial issues that industry faces today, prepared presentations and delivered them in front of all fellows and mentors.

The technical tours included:

- A one-week field trip to several French nuclear facilities including AREVA NC's reprocessing plant at La Hague, AREVA NP's PWR primary circuit manufacturing plant at Chalon, CEA's Phenix fast breeder reactor and advanced reprocessing R&D facilities at Marcoule; AREVA NC's Melox MOX fuel manufacturing plant at Marcoule; Eurodif's enrichment Facility; CEA's Tore Supra Tokamak fusion facility and the ITER at Cadarache.
- A visit to Oskarshamn in Sweden to tour CLAB (Central Interim Storage Facility) and the Aspo Hard Rock Laboratory, where different technical solutions to final disposal are being researched.



Technical Tour to Aspo Hard Rock Deep Underground Laboratory

The SI programme was very intensive, from early mornings to late evenings, and occasionally, to very late nights, when we had to stay and work in groups to accomplish our tasks for the next day's presentation.



Nuclear Law Session in Progress

However, the biggest challenge was learning to understand everyone else's perspective, because each of us has our view of things. But this was a key benefit of the Summer Institute experience, for diversity is a fundamental aspect of the world in which the global nuclear renaissance will be occurring.

I have to say a few words of gratitude to the Mentors at the Summer Institute. Their work was very valuable to all the fellows. The mentors were distinguished personalities, well known in nuclear industry around the world for their achievements. They did not tell us what to think. They did not give us answers. They gave us guidance about how to think about a problem and how to arrive at our own solutions.

One of the mentors was Annick Carnino. There is no need for me to introduce her to WIN, as Annick is known as the president of WIN Global 2000-2004. Before her recent retirement, she held a position of the IAEA's Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, having previously achieved senior positions in Electricité de France and the French Atomic Energy Commission, conducting safety analyses for nuclear installations.

During the Summer Institute's one beautiful July evening in Stockholm, after our lectures and group works, there was a dinner booked for those interested to learn more about the "Women-in-Nuclear" organization. This was a friendly and cozy event, attended by almost all female fellows and mentors, including a few male fellows.

Some of them already had WIN membership, however for many, the talk about WIN, its members, goals and achievements, was a discovery. About a dozen new applications were signed.



Vasa Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

Another WIN-related activity took place on Friday during the Farewell Dinner on 18 August, in a very elegant location – Stockholm's most famous Vasa Museum.

This activity was not probably the most significant one, however it definitely evokes sweetest memories of the Summer Institute. I am talking about the group picture taken with Dr Hans Blix, the IAEA's Director General from 1981-1997, head of United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in 2002-2003, and since 2003, chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, an independent body funded by

the Swedish government and based in Stockholm. Dr Blix became the first man who joined WIN Global in 1996. This was a rare opportunity for our small Women-in-Nuclear group to have a picture taken with Dr Blix and two former WIN Global Presidents – Annick Carnino and Agneta Rising.

The WNU Summer Institute was an absolutely unforgettable experience. I am grateful for this experience, and I believe it represents an extremely sound investment – for those of us who participated and for the future of the nuclear industry.



Summer Institute Women-in-Nuclear Night Out



WNU Summer Institute WIN group with Dr Hans Blix, Annick Carnino and Agneta Rising

You can learn more about WNU and its next Summer Institute here www.world-nuclear-university.org

*Irina Borysova
Project Manager, World Nuclear Association*

Annual Conference of the U.S. WIN, 16-18 July 2006

The seventh annual U.S. Women in Nuclear Conference in July brought more than 350 attendees, the largest attendance ever at a U.S. WIN conference, to Pittsburgh Pennsylvania from across the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan.



Conference speakers centered their comments around the conference's theme, Leadership, Education, and Outreach in the 21st Century. The central message conveyed was that the nuclear energy industry is on the threshold of a renaissance, and women have a unique role to play in building support for it.

The conference was opened by WIN Member Angie Howard of the Nuclear Energy Institute. Westinghouse President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Tritch welcomed everyone to Pittsburgh, and introduced a videotaped address from Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell.

Keynote speakers included the following leaders in the nuclear industry and government:

- U.S. Rep. Timothy Murphy, Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee;
- Christine Todd Whitman, former Governor of New Jersey and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and current co-chair of the Clean and Safe Energy (CASE) Coalition;
- Steve Tritch, President and CEO of Westinghouse Electric Co.;
- Gary Leidich, President and Chief Nuclear Officer of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.;
- Jim Reinsch, President of Bechtel Nuclear Power Corp.;
- Gary Taylor, CEO of Entergy;
- Ross Ridenoure, Vice-President and Chief Nuclear Officer with the Omaha Public Power District;
- Marilyn Kray, Vice President, Exelon Project Development, and President, NuStart Energy Development;
- David Hill, Science and Technology Deputy Laboratory Director at Idaho National Laboratory;
- Morgan Smith, President and General Manager of Bechtel Bettis;

- Larry Foulke, President Emeritus of the American Nuclear Society;
- Karen Cyr, General Counsel NRC;
- Eva Hardy, Senior Vice-President of Dominion;
- Mimi Limbach, Senior Vice-President of Potomac Communications Group; and
- Ruth Shaw, Group Executive for Public Policy and President Duke Nuclear.

In addition nearly 30 students from U.S. Universities and 6 students from local schools participated as guests and were part of a mentoring and outreach activity by the U.S. WIN members.

A highlight was the initiation of the U.S. Women In Nuclear Patricia Bryant Leadership Award. The event was a celebration of firsts for WIN members. The first female Senior Reactor Operator in the U.S. Robbie Kankus, Exelon was the emcee. The first WiN Global President Irene Aegerter, presented a brief overview of Patricia Bryant's contribution to WIN.

Patricia followed with a few remarks on the organization and its contribution to the world.



Margie Barnes, 2006 and 1st U.S. WIN Patricia Bryant Leadership Award Honoree

Ruth Shaw then introduced the first recipient, Margie Barnes, of Duke Energy.

Margie is a long time WIN member and is a great example of someone who lives out the objectives of WIN in her day to day interactions.

Margie received a standing ovation from the attendees.

Session topics addressed license renewal; new plants; legal, political and regulatory hurdles; used fuel disposal; and industry leadership. Workshops featured discussions on safety culture, emergency preparedness, career diversity and enhancing outage management.

Tours to the Westinghouse Science & Technology hot-cell lab, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's radiation oncology department and gamma knife facility, and FirstEnergy's Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station brought to a close the conference activities. Westinghouse, FirstEnergy and Bechtel Bettis were the event's host sponsors.

Article submitted by Cheryl Boggess, Senior Project Manager and Principal Engineer, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC.

WIN Taiwan Annual Meeting, 11 August 2006

WIN Taiwan held its 2006 annual meeting jointly with the American Nuclear Society - Taiwan Section at Taipower's Northern Visitors Center on August 11, 2006. During the meeting, Shin Chang, Section Chief of the Nuclear Regulation Department at the Atomic Energy Council and Nancy Mei-Ling Tu, Inspector of Taipower's Department of Nuclear Generation, were elected, respectively, as the 7th President and Vice President for a two-year term from 2006 to 2008, taking over the relay batons from Jenny Lai and Jyi-Lan Wu.



In the picture, from left to right: Jenny Lai, Shin Chang, Nancy Tu and Jyi-Lan Wu.



While the business meetings were held separately at the Center, two assemblies totalling over 70 people joined together afterwards to listen to two special speeches. The first one was "New energy, new way of thinking" given by Mr Ding-Fu Ho, Section Head of New Energy, Taipower's Power Development Department. It served as an excellent introduction and status report for the audience on renewable energy development in Taiwan. The second speech was "Human activities in the northern coast region – from prehistoric to early historic ages", presented by Prof. I-Chang Liu, nationally renowned archaeologist and research fellow of Academia Sinica. With his tremendous passion and great sense of humor, Prof. Liu broadened the audience's views on historical and cultural aspects of the land where three of Taiwan's four NPPs are located, and built up our eagerness for further exploration of the subject.

As an extension to the morning seminar, two field visits were organized: Shihmen Wind Power Station, close to Chinshan NPP; and the Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology. Prof. Liu, one of the leading archaeologists who launched a campaign to save the Shihshanhang site, accompanied the group and made supplemental narration during the guided tour. The building of the museum was the winner of the 2003 "Far Eastern Architecture Awards".

Some participants gather around a display of artifacts and skeletons unearthed at the site of the Shihshanhang Museum of Archaeology.

Article submitted by Jessie Chiu, WIN Global Board Member for Taiwan



WIN France

Parlez-vous français? If you do speak French, check the newly launched website of WIN France! <http://win-france.fr>

WIN Canada

Following the interest in WiN generated by the successful WiN-Global Meeting in Canada in May 2006, *Susan Brissette, President of WiN Canada* is pleased to announce the creation of two new local WiN-Canada branches:

WiN-Chalk River and WiN-New Brunswick,

joining founding branches WiN-Bruce and WiN-Durham. With four branches now active in Canada, this offers our 300+ members even more opportunities to advance the goals of WiN, learn from peers, and make new friends.

Special thanks to the girls of the WNU SI-2006 for the pictures: Suely GRYNBERG, Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission, Kaisu KANNISTO, TVO Oikiluoto, Finland, and Magdeline SEGWAGWA, PBMR, South Africa.

Women in Nuclear Global, c/o World Nuclear Association
Carlton House, 22a St. James's Square
London, SW1Y 4JH, United Kingdom