



# WINFO

Quarterly Newsletter of Women in Nuclear WIN

No. 2/1993

## WIN constitutional meeting January 30, 1993

Around 40 founding members: It was cold outside in Karlovy Vary when inside the Hotel Pupp close to 40 women from 22 countries gathered to constitute WIN as a formal organisation. Smiles were not only on the WIN-logo with the "smily atom" but also in the eyes and faces of the ladies, the secretary general of the European Nuclear Society (ENS), Dr. Peter Feuz, and the president of the ENS information committee, Juhani Santaholma. It was his committee that four years ago had started this venture, which had now finally grown to maturity.

**A brief look back, or how it began:** At the first PIME in 1988 – initiated by the ENS information committee – information programmes for women as target public were discussed. But only three "nuclear women" were attending. At the second PIME 1989, a round table with six ladies and one gentleman from six countries debated the subject women and nuclear energy. This was the starting point. One year later in January 1990, the ENS information committee organised a special women's meeting in Ascona. From then on, at each PIME meeting, the information committee made room for a Sunday afternoon meeting of the participating ladies. It was mainly dedicated to exchanges on the different approaches of women's work in various countries. But in fact, these women meetings were just an appendix to PIME. Only at the first special meeting in May 1992, organised by the Finnish group "energy channel" was WIN established with a leading group. At the group's first meeting in November 1992 in Zurich, the charter for a special organisation was adopted and the constitutional meeting in Karlovy Vary set up.

**European boundaries outgrown:** The constitutional meeting of Women In Nuclear showed that it had outgrown the boundaries of ENS, Europe. Not only European ladies were present to found a formal association

but also American and Canadian women attended and the newly founded Japanese women's organisation sent their best wishes. The members of the leading group were introduced and elected (see photo overleaf) and Irene Aegerter, vice president information of the Association of the Swiss Power Utilities, was elected first WIN president.

**Programme 1993 and country reports:** After adoption of the constitution and election of the leading group and the president, this year's programme was presented. A highlight will certainly be the WIN meeting in Paris. We hope that of the almost 40 ladies present at PIME, most will attend. The presentation of the work done specially for women in the different countries showed the creative solutions found to involve nuclear women in the information programmes.

Irene Aegerter, Switzerland

## Come to WIN '93 in Paris

WIN's annual international meeting will be hosted by the French nuclear society (SFEN) and its section WIN-France in Paris, July 7, 8 and 9, 1993, in conjunction with the ENS general assembly.

On the afternoon of July 7, a women's international panel on "Nuclear and high technology perception by professional women" will gather high-ranking experts from nuclear and space industries, research and regulatory bodies. There will be two round tables:

"Women and high technology: from education to professional position" (education, careers and communication) with Irene Aegerter, vice president of the Association of Swiss Power Companies, Martine Griffon-Fouco, deputy plant manager at EDF's Le Blayais NPP, and a Russian/Eastern country representative;

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"Women and nuclear technology: what is their perception of current societal issues?" (environment, safety, ethics) with Gail de Planque, US-Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner, Annick Carnino, Adviser, Nuclear and Radiation Safety, IAEA, Colette Lewiner, President of ENS and President and Chief Executive Officer of SGN, Elisabeth Lepoutre, Programs Manager at Aerospatiale.

These two round tables will be moderated by Pierre Weill, President of SOFRES, a well-known company for surveys and opinion polls.

On July 8, WIN members will report on their communication actions, targeted to women, in Europe and in North America. New projects are to be launched and experiences exchanged.

A choice of two technical visits is proposed on July 9: the new low-and medium-level waste storage facility of Soullaines, south-east of Paris, in the Champagne region, or a visit in the morning to the historic reactor ZOE.

The final program and the registration form will be sent to all WIN members in May.

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### Women's energy network launched in Japan

Women working in Japanese energy-related industries and government organisations formed the Women's Energy Network (WEN) on March 29, with 33 members. Membership in the voluntary group is open to women involved in public relations in the nuclear industry, and in other energy industries and government bodies in Japan. Leading the group is Yuki Aomi, a consumer life advisor.

WEN aims at effective communication with the public – especially women – on nuclear power and energy matters. Members will meet three to four times a year to exchange information and experience, and master communication skills. It is also expected that WEN women will participate as discussion leaders and speakers in outside meetings.

WEN will study how presentation of the facts about nuclear can be made in plainer and more familiar language, with the addition of "female sensitivity".

WEN's contact to WIN is Ms. Mio Kimuro from Japan Atomic Industrial Forum.

### How to join WIN

All women professionally involved in nuclear energy or in radiation applications, and willing to devote time to public information, can become members of WIN. If you do not have an application form, fax WIN's secretary, Ursula Zingg, at the ENS secretariat in Berne on ++41 31 22 92 03.

The result of a survey of women's status in the nuclear industries of European countries will be presented and discussed at WIN's Paris meeting in July. WIN helped Swiss consultants do the survey.

France has bestowed upon ENS president Colette Lewiner the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur.



WIN's leading group heading the constitutional meeting are left to right Roxanne Summers (Canadian Nuclear Association); Sabine Knapp (Inforum Germany); France Brès-Tutino (CEA France); Irene Aegerter, chairwoman (VSE Switzerland); Agneta Rising (Ringhals NPP, Sweden); Marke Heininen (IVO Finland); Corinne Souwer (ECN Netherlands); Pat Bryant (USCEA)