

WINFO

Newsletter of Women in Nuclear WIN No. 9 (1/95)

Enlarged Leading Group Meets in Lucerne

At the last annual meeting in Bonn, the WIN Charter was amended to make for better contacts between national WIN groups. A new, enlarged Leading Group was formed, comprising all presidents and liaison officers of the national groups. The Leading Group meets twice a year, before PIME and before the WIN annual meeting. The first meeting of the new, enlarged group was on January 29, in Lucerne. The most important item on the agenda was presentation and discussion of the various activities of the national WIN groups.

The meeting approved over 60 new members, which means WIN now has 382 members worldwide. Most of the new applications followed the WIN meeting at ENC 94 in Lyon, which boosted the organisation's image.

The WIN exhibition at Lyon was a great success and was shown in photo poster form at the Winter meeting of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) in Washington in November. The posters were also shown at PIME. Additional copies can be ordered from: **Agneta Rising, Vattenfall, Ringhals Nuclear Power Plant, 43022 Väröbacka, Sweden (fax: ++46 340 66 5390).**

The next meeting of the Leading Group will be held in Gothenburg on Wednesday, June 14, on the eve of the WIN General Assembly and annual meeting (see article below).

Irene Aegerter

Welcome to WIN Annual Meeting in Sweden!

The third annual international WIN meeting and General Assembly will take place on June 15 at the Panorama Hotel, Gothenburg, Sweden. The meeting will mainly consist of country reports for the exchange of experiences and a series of varied and interesting lectures on themes relating to nuclear power.

The day after the meeting, there will be an excursion to Ringhals nuclear power plant, during which participants can watch preparations for the steam generator replacement.

Above all, though, the meeting aims to renew and deepen contacts between WIN members from different countries. For further details, contact: **Ms Hella Krook, Ringhals (Fax: ++46 340 665437; Tel: 667339).**

PIME '95 - Building Trust

The PIME workshop for nuclear information professionals in Lucerne brought together 130 participants from 30 countries. 28% of them were women. For the first time, West European countries were outnumbered by Central and East European nations (9 and 11 respectively). In addition, there were participants from 10 overseas countries.

The main conclusions were summarised by general chairman Colin Duncan:

1. We have the moral high ground. If we manage to get the message across, the public will accept it.
2. We must treat the public as competent participants.
3. We must be international in both active and reactive campaigns - like Greenpeace.
4. The way we communicate is as important as what we communicate. Above all, we must talk to people face to face - like the WINNERS do.
5. Our greatest public allies can be people living near to, and dependent on, nuclear installations.
6. Communication campaigns are increasing in professionalism.
7. To gain the respect of the media, be open and honest and show professional respect.
8. The same goes for teachers, pupils and the general public. Just present the facts; avoid propaganda.
9. Make nuclear a "non-issue". Allay public doubts by emphasising the benefits - like airlines do.
10. On siting issues, money makes a difference, but you can't buy support. Trust is essential.

Order your copy of the PIME transactions (price SFR. 70 + postage) from: **ENS, P.O. Box 5032, CH 3001 Berne. Fax: ++41 31 382 4466 - direct to Iris Dornbierer).**

Next year's PIME will be held in Bruges, Belgium, from February 4-7.

WIN Belgium is Up and Running!

The Belgian branch of WIN was founded in October 1993. It already has 33 members, and is continuing to increase in size. Now, its aims and itinerary have been officially presented to the country's nuclear community. The presentation took place at an Information Session at the Hotel Ravenstein, Brussels, on September 28. The event was honoured by the presence of Corinne Souwer, communications specialist at ECN Petten in the Netherlands and a member of the WIN Leading Group.

Cécile Bruwier, the president of WIN Belgium, presented the group's objectives. She said it aimed to contribute to objective public information, especially for women, by regular meetings with both the public and WIN International, to exchange ideas and experiences. A working group will be created soon to help with public information projects.

Vice-president An Wertelaers then presented the group's itinerary, which started with a visit to ISOTOPOLIS, an exhibition to explain radiation and nuclear waste to pupils and teachers. A series of conferences is also planned.

"Cherchez la Femme" in Russia

Until recently, not many people in Russia knew that the Moscow-based Nuclear Society also has its women's section. That is why one of the section's main tasks is simply to publicize its own existence, and the fact that it unites and supports women working in nuclear technologies. It has been doing that very effectively over the past year, and membership increased from 160 at the end of 1993 to 188 a year later.

In February 1994, members of the section took part in a round table session organised by Russia's Women's Union. In March, members participated in a discussion on the theme "Women in a changing world." In May, a seminar was held on nuclear power and public opinion, in which the section also put forward its views on women and nuclear. Highlights of the session were featured on Russian radio, on a programme called "Cherchez la femme." In October, section members were back in the limelight, as part of a conference conducted by the international organisation "Women for International Safety".

The publicity campaign is still going strong. On March 8 of this year, the weekly newspaper of the nuclear power industry in Russia was wholly dedicated to the theme of women in nuclear.

On a related note, pollsters in Russia say the political movement "Women in Russia" is one of the three parties for which the electorate currently says it is prepared to vote.

New national WIN group in Ukraine

Nuclear in Ukraine employs a large number of women, but a women's group – under the umbrella of the Ukrainian Nuclear Society – has only just been formed. It represents women working at all five of the country's nuclear power stations – Zaporozhe, Khmelnytsky, Rovno, Chernobyl and South Ukraine. The president of the new group is Svetlana Kiyashko, the head of information at the South Ukraine NPP.

Next year will see the 10th anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl's block 4. This will certainly spark huge anti-nuclear campaigns, both in Ukraine and abroad. Both the anniversary and the general economic and political situation in Ukraine mean women working in the nuclear field must show their compatriots that nuclear energy is not only needed – up to half of national electricity is supplied by NPP's – but safe and ecologically friendly.

WIN Starts Up in Romania

Another newly-formed WIN group is in Romania. The group currently has 21 members, and plans to elect its first chair-

woman at the General Assembly of AREN (the Romanian Nuclear Energy Association).

There are many female nuclear specialists in Romania, employed in fields such as construction of the Cernavoda NPP, nuclear safety, commissioning, public information and civil works. The new group wants to do what it can to ensure their knowledge and expertise is brought to a wider public, so as to increase public confidence in nuclear.

Hungarian WIN – Progress Report

1994 was a very successful year for WIN in Hungary. At the November meeting of the Hungarian Nuclear Society (HNS), it was praised for being the most active group within the society. WIN's information officer was elected to the HNS board of governors.

The group, most of whom work for Paks NPP, organised three meetings with members of the public last year. The meetings, which included site visits, helped explain to participants why nuclear is clean, safe and economic.

An opinion poll carried out last year showed that most Hungarians are not well informed about nuclear. That is why WIN is determined to improve public understanding. This year, it plans to start a discussion with women members of the Hungarian parliament and to hold meetings with women living in the neighbourhood of Paks NPP.

Finns Attract More Women

The Energy Channel of Finland's Nuclear Society is gradually making progress in its bid to increase female membership, with 50 women now signed up. Following the parliamentary elections in March, the Channel is preparing to reap the benefits of renewed political interest in energy issues.

In 1994, the Channel organised a series of public relations activities, including lectures, seminars, fairs, exhibitions, visits and press conferences. It also participated in a number of international activities, including the PIME conference in Lucerne.

An equally busy programme is scheduled for this year, including regular meetings and lectures and continuation of a series of visits to companies and research institutes in the energy field.

For outsiders, there are lectures by Energy Channel members organised through direct contacts and through the National Council of Women of Finland. The Council continues to maintain contact with teacher organisations and political decision-makers. Talks are also being held with members of the utility TVO's Nuclear Waste Management section, with a view to organising public meetings to discuss radwaste issues.

Taiwan Fund-Raising Sale

WIN's Taipei branch held a mini fund-raising sale on January 20, raising about \$US 4000. The money raised will be used to sponsor a series of public speeches with panel discussions on topics related to uses of nuclear energy and radiation protection.
