




International Network of Women  
Engineers and Scientists



**INWES 20th Anniversary:  
Celebrating two decades of  
Women in STEM Networking**

Jung Sun Kim, Ph.D.  
INWES President 2021-2023



# Greetings

- **Respect to** Founding members, Past Presidents and past members
- **Thank you to** Present members, Partners (UNESCO, WFEO, Electrifying Women International), Supporters (U Warwick, KWSE), INWES BOD 2021-2023 (Programs Committee, Conference Committee, IT team)
- **Invitation to** INWES to Future members





## Celebrating 20 years of INWES: U Warwick joint project

- “Reimagining a STEM Research Culture: Lessons learnt from 20 years of evolution for inclusive representation in science and engineering.”
- Collaboration with U Warwick (Prof. Georgia Kremmyda)
- 10 webinars, March to July
- Final webinar to celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of INWES July 20<sup>th</sup> : *Looking back 20 years for another leap forward*

# History of INWES

- 1964: the Continuing Committee for the International Conferences for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES)
- **2002: INWES established (ICWES 12)**
- 2004: Incorporated in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation
- 2008: Official NGO partner of UNESCO with consultative status
- 2017: Consultative status of UN Economic and Social Council
- 2019: Observer to UNFCC

*“As a solution to tackle the issue of gender imbalances in STEM, UNESCO aims to support and promote networks of women scientists in various scientific domains and regions, such as, among others, ... the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists.”*

*<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/gender-and-science/>*



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# Did you know...?

Some facts about INWES



## History of INWES: Why INWES?

- Needed a formal organization that overlooks ICWES
- Triggered by the Science Agenda-Framework for Action, adopted by the World Conference on Science in the 21<sup>st</sup> C (July 1999) by UNESCO & ISC: Article 90  
*“...special efforts should be made...to establish an international network of women scientists”*
- In order to develop a broader mandate and strengthen existing associations and networks



## History of INWES: Why INWES?

- Science Agenda-Framework for Action, adopted by the World Conference on Science in the 21<sup>st</sup> C (July 1999) by UNESCO & ISC:
  - Emphasis on practice of scientific research and the use of scientific knowledge to be aimed at the welfare of humankind
  - The need for an **international network**: special efforts to ensure full participation of women and girls in all aspects of science and technology

*“...special efforts should be made...to establish an international network of women scientists”*

## History of INWES: 30 Countries voted for start of INWES

- 2001: Preparation for INWES by 20 women from 10 countries and 8 organizations, Canada
- **2002: INWES established** with Canadian Commission for UNESCO support & unanimous vote from delegates from 30 countries at ICWES12 (July 30, 2002)  
Australia (Engineers Australia), Canada (ICWES host), Czech Republic, Egypt, France (FI), Germany, India, Iran, Ireland(WITS), Ivory Coast (CIFISATS), Japan(ICWES chair), Kenya, Poland (U Wroclaw), Slovenia, Switzerland (SVIN), Taiwan, Uganda (Solar Promotion & Women Engineers Technicians and Scientists), UK (WES), Ukraine, USA (SWE), Zambia / proxies by Bangladesh, Bermuda, China, Ghana (Peggy Oti-Boateng), Korea (KWSE), Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa
- 2004: Incorporated in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation





## History of INWES: Interim Board members in 2002

Susan Bird, UK

Claire Deschênes, Canada (Secretary)

Monique Frize, Canada (President)

Joanna O. Maduka, Nigeria

Sachiko Okuda, Japan

Marianne Rodot, France

Suriya Mayandi Thevar, India

Kwang Hwa (Sophia) Chung (→ Myung Hee Jung in 2003), Korea

Gloria Bonder, Argentina

Issié Yvonne Gueye, Ivory Coast

Gail Mattson, USA (Treasurer)

Mahin Rahmani, Iran

Anna Szemik-Hojniak, Poland

\* In 2003, 3 more joined (16 members from 13 countries) :

Renee Clair, UNESCO

Yolanda George, USA

Karin Durmeyer (IBM), Germany



- The Interim Board meeting (BM2) of INWES in Daejeon, Korea
- Regional Conference in Daejeon, Korea, November, 2003, organized by KWSE
- The first newsletter was published in 2004



August 2004

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**INWES INTERIM BOARD MEETINGS IN FRANCE & KOREA**

*By: Claire Deschênes & Ruth Ann B. Gonzalez*

Two INWES Interim Board meetings were held in 2003. The first was held in Paris during the month of May and the second was held in Korea during the International Women's Conference on BIEN-Technology in November. BIEN stands for Bio Technology, Information Technology, Environment Technology, Nanotechnology, and Energy Technology. Much of the major tasks were developed and discussed in Paris, while the finalizing of many of the policy manual processes and development ideas for programs were done in Korea.

The meeting in Paris was held at the IBIS Hotel in La Villette and UNESCO on May 1 and 2, 2003. UNESCO and the Association Française des Femmes Ingénieurs

(AFFI) co-sponsored this event. Topics discussed during the meeting focused on operations and communications policies; member recruitment and benefits; and nominations and election procedures. INWES 13, which will be held in Korea in 2005, was also discussed. In addition, a strategic planning and fund development session led by Gail Mattson, Society for Women Engineers (SWE), resulted in a refinement of the INWES mission, vision, objectives, and traits of distinction. The INWES action plans for 2003, which were developed at this meeting include:

- Completing the policy manual including reports from all committees.
- Identifying possible projects and prioritizing them.
- Translating bylaws, policy manual, web site, and flyers into French and Spanish.

The second INWES board meeting was held at the same time as the BIEN conference. The BIEN conference provides female scientists and engineers with opportunities to exchange their multidisciplinary expertise and research ideas.

*Continued on p. 4*

**INWES Announces New Executive Director**

*By: Monique Frize, INWES President*

The International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) is pleased to announce that Catherine Didion will be its new Executive Director. INWES is committed to building a better future worldwide through the full and effective participation of women and girls in all aspects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Dr. Monique Frize, INWES President, stated that "I am delighted to have someone of the caliber of Catherine Didion working for INWES as she brings a wealth of experience and contacts." Didion served fourteen years as the

director of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) and championed its award-winning mentoring and leadership training programs. Didion helped elevate the visibility of women in science issues within the United States and will now work to achieve similar results on a global scale. She states, "My emphasis for INWES will be on cross-cutting issues that impact science and engineering across borders, disciplines, and sectors of employment—not creating more divisions and structures but bridges and connections."

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Message from the President, pg. 2

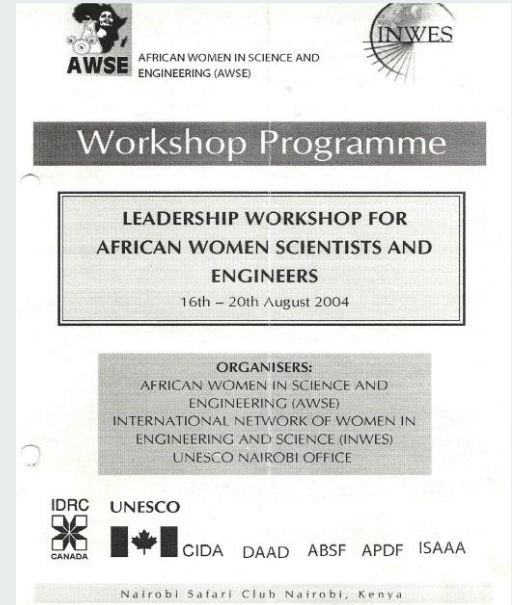
Leadership Workshop for African American Women in Engineering & Science, pg. 3

Japanese Trial to Promote Women in Science, pg. 3

2<sup>nd</sup> World Engineers Convention, pg. 6

Meet Some Board Members, pg. 7

- The Interim Board meeting 3 of INWES in Nairobi, Kenya
- Regional Conference (Regional Workshop), August 2004, organized by INWES

**AWSE** AFRICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (AWSE)

**INWES**

## Workshop Programme

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR  
AFRICAN WOMEN SCIENTISTS AND  
ENGINEERS**

16th – 20th August 2004

**ORGANISERS:**  
AFRICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND  
ENGINEERING (AWSE)  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN IN  
ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE (INWES)  
UNESCO NAIROBI OFFICE

**IDRC** **UNESCO**  
**CANADA**

**CIDA** **DAAD** **ABSF** **APDF** **ISAAA**

Nairobi Safari Club Nairobi, Kenya



- Election of 16 Board of Directors at the 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting of members, Seoul, Korea
- ICWES13: the first ICWES held organized by INWES



### New INWES Board and Executive Committee Elected

by Claire Deschênes

Sixteen individuals were elected to three year terms as INWES Board Directors during the general meeting in Seoul, Korea in August 2005. Board Directors by groups that they represent include:

#### Organizations

Sue Bird, WES (Women's Engineering Society); Claire Deschênes, AFFESTIM (Association de la francophonie à propos des femmes en sciences, technologies, ingénierie et mathématiques); Monique Frize, Pathmakers; Yolanda George, AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science); Misako Gratton, WISE-OTTAWA (Women In Science and Engineering-Ottawa); Issié Yvonne Gueye, CIFI-SATS (Cercle ivoirien des femmes ingénieurs, scientifiques et architectes et techniciennes supérieures); Durdana Habib, WESTIP (Women Engineers, Scientists and Technologists in Pakistan); Mabel Imbuga, AWSE, (African Women in Science and Engineering); Gail Mattson, SWE (Society of Women Engineers); Yvette Ramos-Aivazian,

AFFI (Association Française des Femmes Ingénieurs); Akiko Tsugawa, INWES Japan (International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists Japan); and Myung Hee Jung, KWSE (The Association of Korean Women Scientists and Engineers).

#### Corporations

Janet Higgins, NORTEL; Melody Kratsios, SNC-Lavalin; and Deborah Landers, IBM.

#### Individuals

Suriya Mayandi Thevar, Anna Szemik-hojniak, and Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu.

Executive committee members include: Monique Frize, President; Sue Bird, Vice-President Conference; Gail Mattson, Treasurer; Claire Deschenes, Secretary General; Misa Gratton, Associate Secretary General; and Maureen Lofthouse, Manager, Board of Directors.



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# After INWES.....

How far around the globe has INWES reached?



## ICWES before INWES (1964-2002)



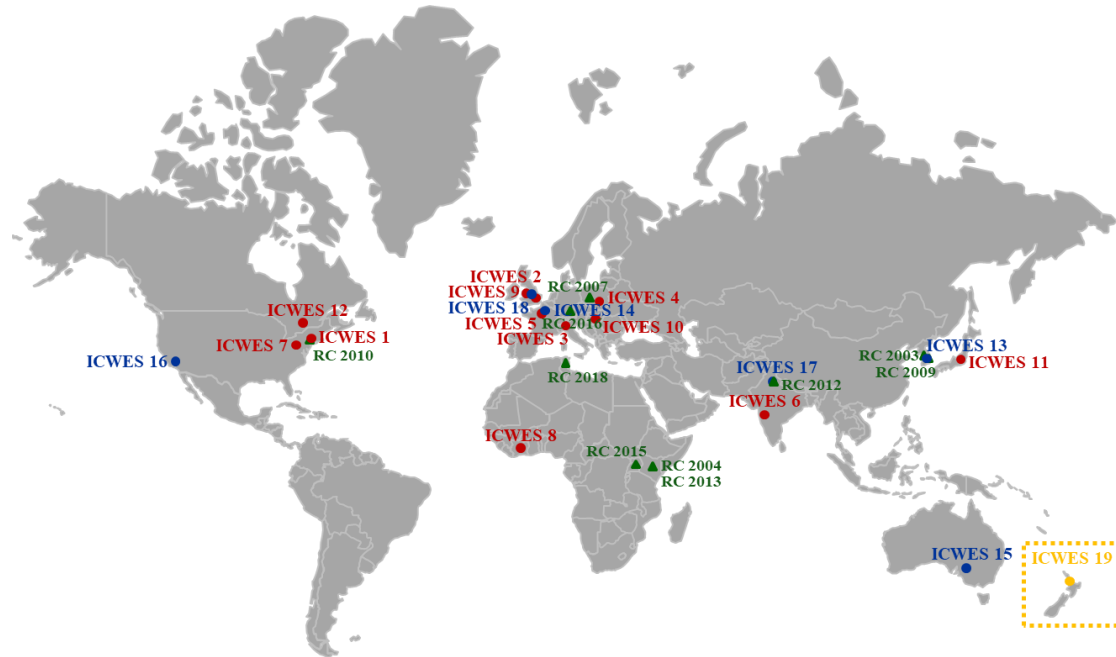


## ICWES after INWES (1964-2023)





# ICWES & RC after INWES (1964-2023)







## For the next 20 years...

- **Find Wisdom:** Link to the past
  - Record and archive the history of INWES & history of women in science and engineering worldwide
- **Act :** Improve the Present
  - Projects
  - UN activities : COP, NGO CSW
  - Regional Network Activities
  - Support new women in STEM networks
  - Collaborate with partners: WFEO, UNESCO
- **Envision:** Connect to the Future
  - Expand our network further: reach out to Latin America
  - Network with the young: WAGGS , YWSCamp



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# Thank you!

Let us continue to together fulfill the mission of  
*“building a better future worldwide through the full  
participation of women in girls in STEM”*

*<http://www.inwes.org>*