

Interested in Helping Increase the Participation of Women in Physics?

Women are greatly underrepresented in physics and in other disciplines, which rely on physics understanding. In the United States, the share of Ph.D.s awarded to women has risen gradually to around 20%, while some countries do twice as well and others do worse. Among university faculty and research leadership, women remain scarce and not visible. Thus, few girls see role models that make physics an inviting career opportunity for them. In addition, the innovation capacity and competitiveness of physics-intensive organizations cannot take full advantage of the ideas, approaches, energy, and perspectives women physicists would offer, if only there were more. The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) is working towards the goal of improving this situation. **You can help by becoming a sponsor** of the Third IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP2008).

The Conference's purpose is three-fold: (i) to provide an international opportunity for analysis of the current status of and progress in promoting women in physics and related fields internationally; (ii) to provide an international arena for sharing scientific accomplishments and nucleate international research collaborations; and (iii) to build capacity in each participating country to design and implement changes that improve participation and advancement of women in physics and related fields.

The Conference is expected to attract ~300 participants (15% to 20% men) from ~70 countries, each with at least three delegates. About one-third of participants will be students, post-docs, or early-career scientists. The total cost of the conference is expected to be ~\$800 K (including travel costs), shared by numerous sponsors around the world. The success of ICWIP2008 depends on the ability to raise funds in Europe, Asia, and North America to subsidize the travel of teams from the many developing or economically disadvantaged countries in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Asia, who could not otherwise afford to participate. Outreach and dissemination, through the proceedings, follow-up sessions at numerous U.S. and international conferences, and via papers, talks, and networking by the delegates in their home countries will maximize the footprint and benefit of ICWIP2008 in the United States and around the world.

The Working Group on Status of Women in Physics chartered by IUPAP in 1999 has since organized two highly successful international conferences on women in physics (2002, 2005). These conferences have revealed the highly variable situation from country to country and have served as catalyzers of change. The series of conferences is proving to be an effective mechanism for sharing best practices internationally, empowering action in numerous countries and regions, nucleating networking in research, strengthening "peer pressure" and accountability through IUPAP, and increasing the numbers and advancement of women in the field.

Many US universities and laboratories are becoming sponsors at the \$5,000 level. A donation or grant of at least US \$1,500 entitles the donor to official sponsor designation, with recognition on the conference web site, in the program, and in the published Proceedings. Every sponsor will receive a copy of the Proceedings (in print and CD). Tax-deductible donations may be made through IUPAP, designating ICWIP2008 as the recipient. An invoice can be provided on request. IUPAP's US headquarters are located at the American Physical Society. For additional information, please contact Dr. Beverly Karplus Hartline (beverly.hartline@earthlink.net); work phone 302-857-6500.