

Third International Conference on Women In Physics

October 8-11, 2008

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Working Group on Women in Physics is organizing the Third International Conference on Women in Physics, to be held in Seoul, South Korea, from October 8 to 11, 2008. The Conference organizers expect that it will attract about 300 participants from ~70 countries. Based on the results of the previous two conferences, this meeting seeks to view and analyze the severe under-representation and to develop strategies to increase participation of women in physics worldwide. The conference will further focus on catalyzing international research partnerships and collaborations, as well as on sharing best practices and building capacity for the participants to return home equipped to take specific actions that will further increase and advance the participation of women in physics and related fields in their countries. For these reasons, the Conference organizers aim to include approximately 15% to 20% men and to have country teams of at least three delegates. To further support the overall goals of the Conference, the U.S. delegation is planned to include 20 members, from a racially/ethnically diverse group of students, post-docs, faculty, educators, researchers, administrators, women and men from a variety of fields, including physics, engineering, and social sciences. The inclusion of engineers and educators in the U.S. delegation is particularly important to create a more diverse and well-rounded team that is better prepared to understand and analyze the issues at hand as well as share the knowledge and experience within the team.

The overarching purpose of the third International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP2008) 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. By bringing together delegations from across the globe, the Conference organizers plan to:

- *Review the international status of women in physics country by country;*
- *Share success stories and identify persistent barriers impeding women in physics;*
- *Propose ways to improve women's participation in physics worldwide;*
- *Help teams refine and accelerate appropriate strategies to improve the status of women in physics in their home countries, regionally, and internationally;*
- *Share research progress and results; and*
- *Seed collaborations in physics research, education, and outreach involving participants from multiple countries.*

Per the Conference announcement, "ICWIP2008 is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the latest developments and ideas regarding the status of women physicists in world-communities." At this Conference each country team will report on the actions

and progress in its country/region since the Rio de Janeiro Conference of 2005, as well as learn from the experiences of other countries. An additional specific focus at ICWIP2008 will be on the development of a knowledge base and skill set for writing successful proposals, leading projects, performing fund-raising, and organizing national women-in-physics working groups. It is the goal of the Conference organizers to foster successful international exchanges among the teams about their work, progress, and experiences in improving the status of women in physics. Thus, workshops on how to do so will be offered to guide and empower the international community of women physicists and social scientists in several ways.

Through participation in the Conference, the teams will be able to return home with a renewed focus on specific actions to initiate or continue changes that will lead to increasing the participation and advancement of women in physics. Another specific goal of ICWIP2008 is to further revitalize and strengthen the robust international support network nucleated at the two previous international conferences, which is helping catalyze systemic change. Finally, ICWIP2008 will also increase the scientific visibility of women doing physics research and thereby shine a spotlight on women's contributions to physics internationally.

The First International Conference was held in Paris in 2002, with 300 participants from 60 countries. The Second was in Rio de Janeiro in 2005. Each conference stimulated considerable progress nationally, regionally, and globally. The Proceedings from both conferences are available free of charge at www.aip.org (conference proceedings #628 and #795). Further information about the Third Conference may be found at <http://icwip2008.org>, while the U.S. delegation specific information is located at <http://uswip.org>. The U.S. Delegation is co-led by Beverly Hartline (Delaware State University, IUPAP Women In Physics Group member), Renee Horton (University of Alabama), Luz Miranda-Martínez (University of Maryland, College Park), and Yevgeniya V. Zastavker (Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering).

At this time, the U.S. delegation leaders are soliciting applications to join the U.S. team for a fully funded opportunity to represent the United States at this Conference. The application process requires applicants to write two 250-word (maximum) essays, submit an abstract of a research poster they would present at the conference (whether it is physics, physics education, sociology, etc.), and submit a bio, not to exceed two pages. The essays must address the following questions: "What has been your previous engagement and activity to advance women in physics/science/engineering and how do you plan to contribute to the success and follow-up of the Conference in the United States?" and "How do you expect your participation in this Conference will contribute to your future career success?" The poster abstract must be in the format required by the Conference, and will show the applicant's area of research specialty. Selected individuals will be expected to contribute to the U.S. Conference paper and poster, provide a poster presentation on their research, and participate in the post-conference outreach and dissemination activities, as well as efforts to improve the status of women in physics in the U.S. Applications are due by May 15, 2008. Further information about the Conference and application process may be found at <http://uswip.org>

For more information, please email questions@uswip.org.