



सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Science and Technology
Government of India



National Conference on Showcasing Cutting Edge Science & Technology by Women

*An initiative of the National Task Force for Women in Science
Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India*

8-9 March 2008, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi



Organised by



Confederation of Indian Industry



*International
Women's Day*

2008

Background

The percentage of women studying science in the country has increased over time. However, the number of women in science is still noticeably small, particularly in the physical sciences, engineering, and agricultural and veterinary sciences. In 2002, the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) constituted a committee to examine this issue and suggest corrective measures. In its report, this committee gave comprehensive recommendations on how best to encourage girls to take up science, and provide opportunities to working women scientists to attain greater heights. These recommendations suggest improving the status of women in science in India through carefully designed programmes that aim to attract more girl students to study science, and encourage their retention in science careers by putting in place support systems that reduce stress on women scientists. As a follow up, the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology, constituted a Task Force for Women in Science in 2005, to study the report and the feasibility of its implementation. The Task Force since its inception has met several times and has had intensive interactions with women scientists all over the country. The Task Force felt that there is a need to showcase cutting edge science and technology by leading women scientists; this would go a long way in encouraging younger women.

The conference Showcasing Cutting Edge Science and Technology by Women is being organised by the Department of Science and Technology with an aim to provide an opportunity to women scientists to present their work in select areas such as biology of infectious diseases, advances in non-communicable diseases, aerospace and defense technologies, climate change, nanotechnology and nanomaterials, and plant biotechnology. This conference aims to bring greater visibility to the achievements of women scientists working in different areas of science. Leading women scientists from the country will present keynote papers followed by parallel sessions covering identified areas wherein women scientists will present their research work. A session will be devoted to policy issues pertaining to the participation of women in science and technology. The conference will provide a platform for women scientists to interact with each other and discuss their views on policy issues relevant to increasing the participation of women in Science and Technology.

On this occasion, national awards for women scientists would also be presented.

The Hon'ble President of India has agreed to inaugurate the conference on International Women's Day, the 8th of March, 2008.

Objectives

- To present the work of women scientists who have excelled in scientific research in identified areas.
- To discuss ways to address gender issues and factors which hinder the growth of women in science.
- To create awareness regarding available government schemes for promoting science careers for women.

Themes to be discussed

- Plant Biotechnology
- Aerospace and Defense technology
- Biology of infectious diseases
- Climate change
- Non-communicable diseases
- Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials

Target Audience

Women Scientists from:

- Government and Private Research Institutes
- Universities and Colleges
- Industry R & D

Session Themes & Invited Speakers

Plenary Speakers

- Chandrima Shaha, NII, New Delhi
- Indira Narayanswamy, ADA, Bangalore
- Sandhya Rao, INM Consultants, Delhi
- Shubha Tole, TIFR, Bombay
- Sulabha Kulkarni, Dept of Physics, Pune Univ, Pune
- Usha Vijayraghavan, IISc, Bangalore

Biology of Infectious diseases

- Jaya Tyagi, AIIMS, New Delhi
- Joyoti Basu, Bose Institute, Kolkata
- Namita Surolia, JNCASR, Bangalore
- Rukhsana Chowdhury, IICB, Kolkata
- Saman Habib, CDRI, Lucknow
- Sandhya Vishwesariah, IISc, Bangalore
- Sudha Bhattacharya, JNU, New Delhi

Climate change

- Geetha Laxmi, TNAU, Coimbtore
- Indu Murthy, IISc, Bangalore
- Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Rashmi Patil, IIT, Bombay
- Sumana Bhattacharya, Winrock International, Gurgaon

CEO Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion with leading Women CEOs

Non-communicable diseases and nutrition

- A. C. Ammini, Dept of Endocrinology, AIIMS, New Delhi
- B. K. Thelma, DU South Campus, New Delhi
- Geeta Vemuganti, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
- Jyotsna Dhawan, CCMB, Hyderabad
- Shobha Rao, Agharkar Institute, Pune

Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials

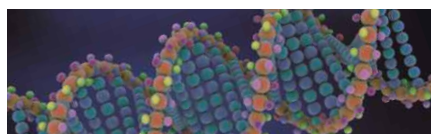
- Charusita Chakravarty, IIT Delhi
- Prabha Chatterji, GE Research, Bangalore
- Tanusri Saha-Dasgupta, SN Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata
- Yamuna Krishnan, NCBS, Bangalore

Plant biotechnology

- Paramjit Khurana, DU, South Campus, New Delhi
- R. Usha, Madurai Kamraj Univ, Madurai
- Vibha Dhawan, TERI, Habitat Place, New Delhi
- Vidya Gupta, NCL, Pune
- Viloo Morawala-Patell, Avesthagen, Bangalore

Aerospace and defence technology

- Debarati Bhattacharya, DMSRDE, Kanpur
- Hina Gokhale, DMRL, Hyderabad
- J. Lahiri, ASL, Hyderabad
- J. Manjula, DLRL [ELSEC], Hyderabad
- N. Ranjana, ASL, Hyderabad
- V. Prameela, DRDL [PJ10], Hyderabad



Patrons

- C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, SAC-PM
- Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences
- Manju Sharma, Retd. Secretary, DBT

National Advisory Committee

- Archana Bhattacharya
- Arun Nigavekar
- Indira Nath
- Kaiser Jameel
- Rohini Devi-Chairperson
- Rohini Godbole
- Vasantha
- Muthuswamy
- Vijaylakshmi
- Ravindranath

National Steering Committee

- DG (CSIR/DSIR)
- DG (ICAR)
- DG (ICMR)
- Secretary, DBT
- Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
- Secretary, Department of Space
- Secretary, DRDO
- Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- T. Ramasami, Secretary, DST Chairman

Organising Committee

- K. V. Peter
- Mahtab S. Bamji - Chairperson
- Nabonita
- P. P. Parikh
- Pratibha Jolly
- R. Saha
- Rama Swamy Bansal
- Renu Swarup
- Sudha Nair
- Vinita Sharma - Organizing Secretary

Technical Committee

- Anuradha Lohia
- Kamala Krishnaswamy
- Malathi Lakshmikumaran
- Rohini Devi
- Sandhya Rao
- Shobhana Narsimhan
- Vineeta Bal -Chairperson
- Vinita Sharma

Publication Committee

- Bakhtaver Mahajan
- Hamida Abdi
- Purnima Sharma - Chairperson

Organisers

Government Initiatives for Women Scientists - National Task Force for Women in Science, DST

The Government of India has constituted a Task force for Women in Science on December 26, 2005 under the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology with Dr Mahtab S. Bamji as its chairperson. The main purpose of the Task Force is to recommend steps to the government which would ensure that the interests of women scientists are protected, and encourage women to take up scientific careers in the government and other organisations. Since its constitution, the Task Force has had several meetings in different parts of the country. Brainstorming meetings with groups of women scientists, college teachers and post - graduate students have been an integral part of these meetings. A website exclusively for women scientists (www.indianwomenscientist.in) has been launched. Work on chronicling the achievements and life histories of successful women scientists has been started. The Task Force has also initiated a project on examining illustrations in science text books for gender biases. Measures to reduce stress on working women scientists have been forwarded to scientific departments for action.

The Department of Science and Technology has pioneered a Fellowship scheme for women scientists with an objective to utilize the potential of women scientists/technologists in the S&T - based empowerment process of the nation by providing opportunities for re-entry after a break in career. The scheme is being operated in three categories, keeping in mind the diverse aptitudes and circumstances of women scientists. Three types of fellowships - for Research in Basic and Applied Science (WOS-A), for Research in S&T based Societal Programmes (WOS-B) and a scheme for training women scientists in intellectual property rights (WOS-C) are available. Salient features of these schemes are a concession to women scientists in terms of the maximum age (which has been kept as 50 years) and regular sensitizing workshops for project development and confidence building. Up to now, over 400 women scientists have availed of the fellowship. The department has also set up a Women Scientist Cell "Protshayaki". Gender sensitization workshops are regularly organized and a manual on gender issues in technology transfer is under preparation. Awards for Women Scientists have been instituted by the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Biotechnology.

Members of Task Force

Mahtab S Bamji

Former Director Grade Sc.– National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad

Anuradha Lohia

Bose Institute, Kolkata

Arun Nigaverkar

Former Chairman UGC University of Pune, Pune

K.V. Peter

Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur

Malathi Lakshmikumaran

Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Advocates, New Delhi

P. P. Parikh

Prof. Emeritus, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai

Phoola Kaul Dhar

Former Principal/Dean Govt. Medical College, Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir

Purnima Sharma

Biotech Consortium India Ltd, New Delhi

Renu Swarup

Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi

Rohini Devi

Advanced System Laboratory, Hyderabad

Sobhana Narsimhan

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore

Sudha Nair

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

Vineeta Bal

National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi

Vinita Sharma

Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India, partnering industry and government alike through advisory and consultative processes. CII has a direct membership of over 7000 organisations from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 90,000 companies from around 362 national and regional sectoral associations. The overall objective of CII initiatives in Technology front is to enhance competitiveness of Industry through Technology. Today technology is one of the thrust areas of CII along with other key areas such as Quality, Energy and Environment. The primary focus is to bring technology to Centre stage and make technology as a movement in the Indian Industry. IPR forms a major integral part of CII initiatives in Technology. It is a sense of great pride to see that women have entered into all the disciplines of Science & Technology. CII Women Empowerment Committee commissioned a study on Gender Equality at the workplace "Understanding the levels of women empowerment in the workplace". To take initiative forward, CII is planning to organise workshops/seminars/conferences on role of women scientists in development of India.

For more details, Contact:

Dr Vinita Sharma

Director & Scientist F (Science & Society Division)
Department of Science and Technology
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110 016
Tel: +91-11-26590339, 26534738
E-mail: womenscientist@gmail.com

Vikas Kohli

Technology & IPR
Confederation of Indian Industry
Plot No. 249-F, Sector-18, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015, Haryana
Phone Direct: +91-124-4101044, Phone: +91-124-4014060-67 Extn: 330
Fax : +91-124-4014057, Email: vikas.kohli@cionline.org

Web: <http://www.indianwomenscientists.in/conferenceMarch.html>