

## WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR SCIENCE & ENGINEERING IN GWANGJU-JEONNAM

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### Abstract

In June of 2004, the women scientists in Gwangju and Jeonnam area organized the Women's Network for Science & Engineering in Gwangju-Jeonnam, Co.(It is abbreviated as Network hereafter). Most of the members are female professors and the name of our organization reflects our goal, to form a regional support network for women in science and engineering. We collaborated on the Dream Tree Project to jointly give an opportunity to teenagers experience of the research laboratory and the college life in advance. We also extended our network to the Chinese Korean Yanbian women scientists and engineers.

**Keywords:** Women's Network for Science & Engineering, Network, Science Dream Tree Project, Chinese Korean Yanbian women scientist

### 1. Introduction

Encouraged by the Law issued in 2002 for the support of women scientists and engineers, the women scientists in Gwangju and Jeonnam area gathered together and organized the network. We wanted to encourage people to have a science-oriented mind and also to help the female college graduates to be trained and find job in the field of their science major.

We had the dream of extending our network abroad and our first partner was the Chinese Korean Yanbian women scientists and engineers. We are grateful for the financial support from the <National Institute for Supporting Women in Science and Technology>. We went to the foreign country, China, but we could communicate freely with the Chinese Koreans there with no language barrier. The second time we visited Yanbian, we exchanged MOU for international collaboration with the <Chinese Korean Yanbian Women's Development Committee>.

### 2. Objective

According to the provisions of the law related with the foundation and running of the public benefit corporation, the object of the corporation is to make a considerable contribution toward the development of the scientific research and its spread in the local community through the enhancement of the standard of science and technology of the women researchers in Gwangju-Jeonnam region. Followings are the more specific objectives of our organization.

1. Support of the women scientists and engineers for better opportunity.
2. Development of various training program for the women scientists and engineers.
3. Support of women scientists and engineers for their research and mutual collaboration.
4. Promotion of the rights and the welfare for the women scientists and engineers.
5. Contributions to the society through the professional expertise.
6. Cooperation and collaboration with the women scientists and engineers abroad.
7. Other necessary supports needed to fulfill the purpose of the corporation.

### 3. Organization

The organization of Network is schematically represented in figure 1. There are 6 departments beside secretariat, and board of directors which is composed of 30 board members and 2 auditors working with the chair person. Each member of the board of the directors belongs to one of the 6 departments. The major concern of each department is well described in their names. The Network Department is responsible for the construction of the homepage and maintenance of it, as well as building the database of women scientists and engineers in the area. The Scientific Research Support Program Department arranges academic seminars and regular annual meetings of the Network. Policy Development Department is responsible for managing various programs and policies. The Education and Human Resources Department operates the Science Dream Tree Project and other events to encourage scientific mind of lay people. The Local Community Service Department proactively manages public service using our scientific background and potential. The Global Cooperation Department is for the extending of our networking with women scientists and engineers abroad for the collaboration of the research beside sisterhood friendship.

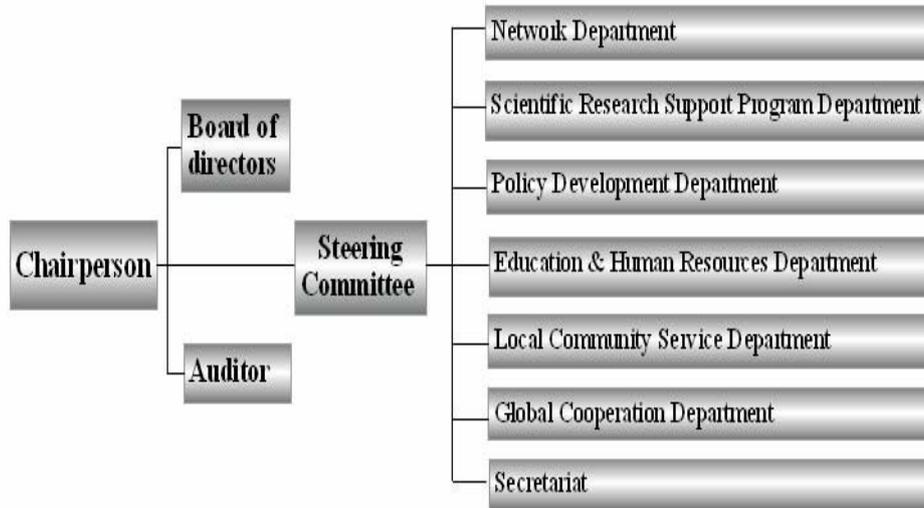


Figure 1. The organization of the Network

## 4. Major achievements

### 4.1. Network Department

The Network Department arranged the construction of homepage as shown in Figure 2. The homepage name is <http://www.wonese.or.kr/>. ‘wo’ stands for women, ‘ne’ for network, ‘se’ for science and engineering. The Korean pronunciation of ‘wonese’ is same as “(I) wanted.”

#### 4.1.1 Homepage

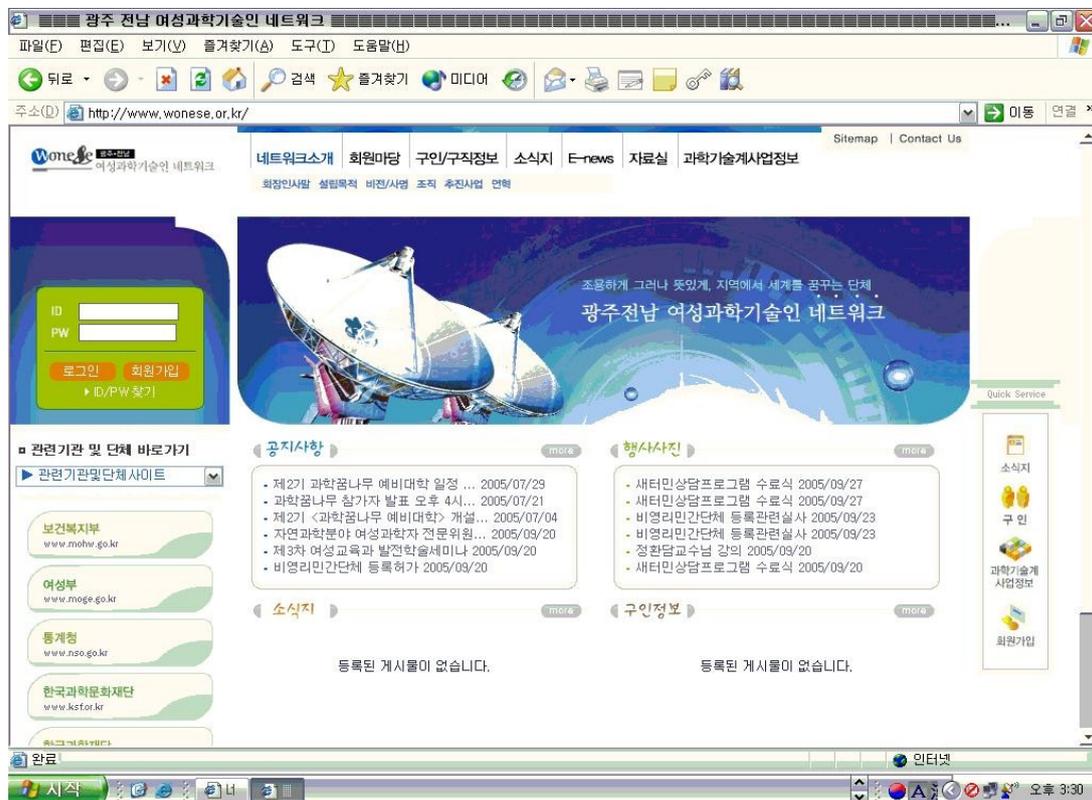


Figure 2. Homepage, <http://www.wonese.or.kr/>

#### 4.1.2 E-Newsletter

Achievements of the Network are reported twice a year to the members and other related individuals and organizations through an E-Newsletter.

## 4.2. Education & Human Resources Department

The Education & Human Resources Department, and the Policy Development Department worked together to start the Science Dream Tree project. Junior high and senior high students were invited to the laboratories of the members to have chances to listen to the lectures and do experiments related to enzyme assay, DNA manipulation and polymer synthesis, etc. Certificates were given to everybody who completed the program and the students presented their findings with Power Point. Three teams were awarded special honors, The Dream Tree Award, The Marie Curie Award, and The Jang Young Sil Award. Mr. Jang was the most distinguished scientist in the Lee Dynasty of Korea. Figures 3-6 shows some of the aspects of the project. The program was successful because the professors and graduate students made the Dream Tree students their first priority and concentrated on teaching the youngsters during that week. Further details of this project will be presented in the oral session with the title of < Science Dream Tree Project>.



Figure 3. Poor mouse, but the teens are full of curiosity



Figure 4. Presentation



Figure 5. Participants of The Dream Tree Project, 1<sup>st</sup> term



Figure 6. Participants of The Dream Tree Project, 2<sup>nd</sup> term

## 4.3 Global Cooperation Department

### 4.3.1 A consolatory gift for seismic sea waves disaster

The voluntary donation among the members was summed up to 950,000 Won as was initiated by Prof. Hyun Ei. Oh(Chosun University), the chair of the Global Cooperation Department. It was delivered to the Red Cross through Gwangju Ilbo to be used to help Indonesians struck by the seismic sea waves disaster in December of 2004 (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Professors Oh and Park(Gwangju Ilbo news paper, 2005.1.24.)

#### 4.3.2 International collaboration

The representatives of the two organizations, Prof. Soon Wha Kang(Chinese Korean Yanbian Women's Development Committee) and Prof. Haeng Soon Park(Women's Network for Science & Engineering in Gwangju Jeonnam), signed MOU at the conference held in Yanbian University, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005(Figure 8).

We agreed to have an annual International Conference alternatively between the two organizations, and strengthen each other with our science and cultural background. The Chinese Korean can truly take advantage of their Chinese upbringing and their Korean heritage, linking Korea and China because they have such a deep understanding in both countries. They are in a strategic position to help us reach out to Chinese female scientists. This collaboration could be the model for other countries as well. The details of MOU are to promote the exchange of human resources, to encourage and develop joint research projects, to foster the exchange of academic publications to participate in seminars and academic meetings, and joint cultural programs. The reception dinner of Chinese-Korean style at the local restaurant was enjoyed by all attendants(Figure 9). We visited the local Health Clinic run by Dr. Shan Yu Fang(Figure 10) and Yanbian University Hospital(Figure 11).



Figure 8. Exchange of MOU



Figure 9. Reception dinner



Figure 10. At the Dr. Fang's Health Clinic



Figure 11. Yanbian University Hospital

#### 4.4 Scientific Research Support Program Department

The 1st joint seminar of the Chinese Korean Yanbian Women's Development Committee and the Network was held in Yanbian University, Yanji, China In September 28th, 2005(Figure 12). The title of the Academic Seminar was <The 3<sup>rd</sup> Academic Seminar, Education and Development for Women>. Three presentations were given from Korean participants. Prof. Sook Young Lee(Dongshin University) gave talk about Searching & screening of the medicinal plants in Gwangju-Jeonnam area, Prof. Haeng Soon Park talked about Mammalian beta-lactamase in development of new beta-lactam antibiotics, and Prof. Gil Ja Jhon about Present and future of The National Institute for Supporting Women in Science and Technology(NISWIST, Figure 13). There were also 3 Chinese Korean participants who gave talk. Dr. Shan Yu Fang gave talk about Chronic pelvic inflammation(Figure 14). The next joint conference will be held In Gwangju, Korea, November of 2006. Total attendants at the academic seminar were over 60 people(Figure 15).



Figure 12. International joint seminar held at Yanbian University, China



Figure 13. Presentation of President Gil Ja Jhon of NISWIST



Figure 14. Presentation of Dr. Shan Yu Fang



Figure 15. Memorial photo after the academic seminar

#### 5. Closing Remarks

Half of the world population is women. The 21st century calls for the active involvement of women in various fields more than ever before in our history, but it is most prominent in the field of science. We, the women scientists, should collaborate in every way we can, domestically and internationally. But also, the women scientists should raise and encourage science dream trees and help them to pursue the field of science with clearer goals and zeal for the future. We invite everybody attending this PCST-9 to share the same vision we have and work together in hand in hand.

#### 6. Acknowledgements

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