



INWES-APNN-ICWSTEM

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS AND
MEETING OF ASIA-PACIFIC NATIONS NETWORK**

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WOMEN IN STEM NETWORKS IN THE ERA OF IMPACT

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Summary of Presentation

We are living at a time when the world is increasingly focused on making a positive impact to create a sustainable future. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are critical fields for tackling the challenges related to this effort. Despite the need for diverse STEM talents, women continue to be underrepresented in science and engineering. To address this issue, organized effort through formal associations have been recognized as important. However, studies have shown that networking should be more than just connecting with people; it must involve building a community to share ideas, solve problems and create opportunities for one another. Only through the meaningful activities and relationships can networking provide its full benefits.

In 2011, the Asia and Pacific Nations Network (APNN) was established as the first regional network of INWES to allow more effective communication and interaction among its members in the region. The advantage of geographical proximity and similar time zones has resulted in a well-established network for existing members through projects and collaborative programs, where information exchange is actively pursued. The next step forward for APNN is to ensure that women scientists and engineers are fully included in the sustainability efforts within each country and the region to meet the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations. To achieve this, we must create an environment that draws upon the talents of women in STEM collectively by strengthening organizations, so that individual members can pursue their roles as “effective actors” and “agents of change” in the era of impact.