



INWES-APNN-ICWSTEM

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

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SDG - WOMEN
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"HOW TO GET RICH - AND WHY. AN APPEAL TO WOMEN IN STEM COMMUNITIES"

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Summary of Presentation

We are living at a time when the world seems to be ruled by money, and in many cases with a brutal will for power. Business interferes in politics, politics (ab)uses business, politicians and businesses seem to be able to buy influence as they see fit. Money and Power widely do not respect ethics, and don't even bother with the construction of ideologies.

In contrast to this disappointing picture however, a broad movement for diversity and sustainability has grown throughout civil societies in many areas and regions, setting up self sustainable structures and communities in many good examples. All of these movements are visible and potentially available to the global community these days. Communication and Information has become accessible through technology to **everyone willing to listen.**

Referring to our INWES president, the question is: which are the choices in this respect we need to make as individuals, as women in Science and Engineering, and how can we choose our roles? Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are critical fields for tackling the challenges for society as well as for the pure existence of mankind and society. However, what roles do we - and others - choose to LEAD and to IMPACT - and how can we change the world to the better?

Women are to date still being underrepresented in science and engineering, worldwide. We have learned that networking needs to be more than just connecting with people; it **must involve building a community to share ideas, solve problems and create opportunities for one another.**

Moreover, **we need to be in the position to fully build and command the resources for this journey.** Let money be just a resource we can plan and command, and not limit ourselves to petitioners or not see wealth as indecency.

The contemporary way of putting this: **Let's act as Social Entrepreneurs.**

Social Entrepreneurs start a "business" for the greater social good and not mainly for the pursuit of commercial profits for an individual or group. Social entrepreneurship is a growing trend, alongside socially responsible investing (SRI) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing. We will go into examples how this approach can and will help our cause, for the good of our cause and our communities.