



3rd Biennial International Conference on Women in Science Technology and Innovation (STI): “Innovative Solutions by Women for UN Sustainable Development Goals 2016 - 2030”

Introduction

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016-2030 were unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The SDGs build on the success of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000-2015 and seek to transform the world through addressing the pressing challenges facing the world in all aspects of economy, social, poverty, inequality, education, health under the slogan “Leave No One Behind”. Science, technology and innovation are vital in achieving all the SDGs.

Women play pivotal role in both the MGGs and the SDGs. MDG No.3 “promote gender equality and empower women” and SDG No.5 “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” highlight that health, poverty, lack of resources, limited access to education and basic services, discrimination in employment and public life all have women at the core. What is equally important is the effective mobilization of the human resources half the human population, particularly the passion and compassion of women in achieving the SDGs by 2030. This is why there is now the global political will in SDG No.5 to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030.

Many actions have been taken by international organisations, governments, women’s organisations, NGO’s and other interested bodies to address these issues. Women themselves have also taken initiatives through the support of these organisations. Hence, women’s successes in applying STI to solve these issues and concerns should be shared to expedite the achievement of the SDGs particularly in South countries.

ISTIC convened the inaugural International Conference on Women in STI as its 5th Anniversary celebration in Kuala Lumpur May 2013. The Conference was officiated by UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova. The 2nd Conference held in Kuala Lumpur May 2015 was again officiated by UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova. The resounding success of the Conference led ISTIC to institutionalise the biennial International Women in STI Conference in Kuala Lumpur. This decision received the encouragement of UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova and the support of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO.

This 3rd International Conference will build on the Resolutions of the 2nd International Conference in 2015 with the focus on practical solutions by women in STI for the SDGs.

Objectives

The conference is organised for the following objectives:

- i. To show-case successful innovations in STI by women in solving or minimising problems faced by women;
- ii. To exchange and share experiences on how to achieve SDG No.5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030.

The Conference will bring together successful STI projects and initiatives by women that are innovative and practicable that have helped address issues facing women in developing countries.

Themes

The conference will have the following themes: education, science, culture, health, engineering and technology, entrepreneurship.

Plenary Sessions and Panel Presentations

The structure will be take the form of plenary sessions and panel presentations. In plenary sessions, there will be key note speakers. There will be opportunities for young women STI professionals who have been successful to present their innovations.

Speakers will be invited from amongst women in STI who have received awards for their innovations.

Poster Exhibition

There will be a poster exhibition alongside the conference. Contributors are invited to submit posters that highlight projects or innovations they have undertaken related to solving issues related to women and based on the above themes.

Venue: Kuala Lumpur

Main Organiser: ISTIC

Duration: 2 days plus site visits to women enterprises.

Tentative Dates: 8 & 9 May or 15 & 16 May 2016

Participants: Between 100-150 participants