Activities of Women’s Committee in Korean Physical Society

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on behalf of the Women's Committee
Establishment: April 19, 2002 (50th anniversary of KPS)

The goals: Spreading women’s science culture to
- increase employment and promotion of women physicists
- improve research and work environments women-friendly
Carrying out activities for

- Fostering female workforce → **Female Graduate Student Awards**
- Career guidance for young students → **Physics Camps for high school girls**
  - Site Visits for college students
- Expansion of basic competencies in science and technology through the exchange of physics information and knowledge / Networking / Career development and leadership training of female physicists → **Special Sessions in KPS meetings, National/International Workshops for WIP**
- Improving the status of female physicists and advocating for their rights / Proposing the Government policies for female physicists → **Surveys**
1st Physics Camp in 2002

- Offer the opportunity for high-school girl students to experience the professional research environment in college or a research laboratory.
- Bring science-talented girl students into Physics and provide the leadership training.
- Establish network of future female physicists, both nationally and internationally.
- 3~4 girl students make a team and apply for a camp with the free physics topic on-their-own.
- Approximately 10 teams are selected through pre-selection process according to their study plans and possibilities.
- Each team is assigned to an available laboratory at a university or research institute related to its research topic and conducts an experiment there for 2~4 weeks.
- All teams compete presentation on site and 3~4 teams are awarded after some review process.
- One camp every year until 2019 but temporarily stopped due to COVID-19
Physics Camp for High School Girls
Physics Camp for High School Girls
21st Physics Camp in 2022

• Problem :
  ✓ limited number of students can get the benefit: 10 teams ~ max. 30
  ✓ Research topics go beyond the high-school level → discouraging participants from general high schools.

• Change the format
  ✓ Two pre-assigned physics experiments from high-school level (Imitating Galileo’s experiments & Revisiting Snell’s Law) and 1 free experiment self-designed with the suitable setup on the conducting university
  ✓ Designate 10 Universities based on regions: 1~5 teams are assigned to 1 designated university: max 50 teams and possibly expanded
  ✓ Final Get Around: poster presentation + lab tour + public lecture, introduce a peer-review process

• First attempt this year: 19 teams applied and conducted experiments during summer vacation and 17 teams made presentations. → approx. 50 students
Special Sessions in KPS Meetings

“Women in Physics” special session in the KPS Meetings since 2005

- Lectures, Panel Discussions, unofficial round table meetings
- Topics: Promoting women in Physics,
  Successful career development
  Strengthen Research Capacity for women scientists
  Reporting the activities of the Women Committee
- has been on-line for last 2 years but expecting face-to-face meeting this fall
Special Sessions in KPS Meetings 2017
Special Sessions in KPS Meetings 2023
Female Graduate Student Award

- **Initial Funding from KFAS (Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies) in 2006**
  - 10,000,000 won (~$10,000 in USD) for successful and promising female graduate
  - Produced 2 awardees every year

- **“Excellent Research Presentation Award” for female young physicists since 2015**
  - Sponsored by WISE*, WISE*, and KOFWST***
  - Produced 3~4 awardees every year until now

* Women into Science and Engineering
** Korea Foundation of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology
*** Korea Foundation of Women’s Science Technology Associations
Site Visits

Visiting-Mentoring Program since 2010

• Mentoring female undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Physics, especially with no female faculty member.
• Advising students on academic and social issues such as how to balance the family life and working, how to study abroad, how to manage the marriage and raising children
• Enhancing awareness of girls' vision and Inducing further career
• Also motivating the department to hire a female faculty
• So far 36 visits are done
• On-line for 2020-2021 and back to off-line in 2022
Site Visits for college students 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>How was the event?</th>
<th>Do you have any suggestions?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Interesting, <strong>really nice</strong> to meet the professors on this level</td>
<td>I didn’t know in advance what the meeting would be about, but I was all the more <strong>positively surprised</strong>. I think the event could have filled another 2 hours, because it was so interesting to hear the experiences of the professors. Would certainly be great if this became a repeating event. Thanks for the great organization!</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>It was <strong>really helpful</strong> especially for students, to think about how to select our job after graduation. Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet various great seniors in physics, and thank you for their very thoughtful comments for us.</td>
<td>I would like to attend the meeting next time as well!</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>It was interesting that we could meet external people/experts.</td>
<td>I was <strong>great to hear about diverse opinions on certain subjects</strong>. It was informative, and I think many people would learn many aspects.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>It was a great event and I am quite looking forward to our upcoming events :)</td>
<td>Thank you for holding this awesome event! As Priyanka already said at the last event, I also think that building a big network of female scientists, especially those who are in the same study field, is very important for our future research and for overcoming lots of difficulties while working since there will be limitations and difficulties for building a big network as a single person. And one thing I would like to give my opinion for one of the future events is sharing some big (highlights) or interesting scientific (progress) news regarding other science fields as well, such as chemistry, biology, astronomy, etc to widen our scientific sight (vision). Maybe we can have novel ideas and we may be able to study or to work with something very useful, but very new research field in the future :)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Very inspiring, encouraging, and interactive. I could feel full of energy from mentors.</td>
<td>The event was way better than what I expected. Before the meeting, it was so uncertain how the meeting would proceed. I think it was not only me who thought in that way. Once we started the meeting, I could feel <strong>full of energy from the professors</strong>. They were really encouraging and inspiring. They made me <strong>change my mindset</strong>. I could feel like all the anxiety I had in mind are not so burden anymore and I can handle all the challenges. I really appreciate having this opportunity to meet energetic mentors.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Helpful</td>
<td>would be <strong>nicer to be longer</strong>!</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The nice talk and advice from professors inspired me a lot and gave a strong motivation related to my future career!</td>
<td>It would have been nice to have a lab tour and meal together, it would have allowed more opportunity of interaction between students and scientists</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Very interesting, I hope it can be done again next year</td>
<td>It would have been nice to have a lab tour and meal together, it would have allowed more opportunity of interaction between students and scientists</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Good to hear honest and helpful advice</td>
<td>It will be good if we can have opinions from young (30-40) female scientists too</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>It was <strong>awesome</strong>!</td>
<td>This type of events are really important to stay balance between professional and personal life. I will happy to be part of this community!</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>interesting– very nice organization!!</td>
<td>For me it was a very big culture shock. I should study/ know the culture here to be more objective. Perhaps it would be interesting to hold a meeting (by zoom) with women in science from different cultures, and different points of view on the same problem. I could contact women scientists from Argentina or even from Brazil and Chile. I still haven’t been able to decide if the presence of a man at the meeting is convenient.</td>
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Site Visits for college students 2022
Surveys

4 times in 2005 and 2010, 2014, 2018

The goals

• Find the status of Women in KPS
• Collect the data on professional career development depending on the sexuality, marital status, and children.
• Suggest policies to the government to remove the social barrier based on the gender

Contents

• Basic information on the educational backgrounds, employment, professional experiences, family lives, and career developments according to their age and gender.
• Analyze the trends indicated and the relevance of the previous data collections.
• Focused on the development of respondents’ careers, and specifically on major difficulties experienced during career development
• Extended our interests into the efficiency of government policies already established and the future policies to be implemented
Number of Female members in KPS

- Starting from 238 out of 2560 (9.3%) in 2002
- Growing to 922 out of 5954 (15.5%) in 2020

- Higher ratio in young ages for female than male → leaking in young female physicists
Hosting the 3rd ICWIP in Seoul (2008)
- 317 participants from 73 countries and regions
- 64 country papers and 140 scientific papers are presented
- 6 plenary talks and 2 success stories + 5 parallel workshops

AAPPS WG in WIP
- Establish the WG in AAPPS in Osaka, in 2006, chaired by Youngah Park.
- 1st AAPPS-APCTP joint Forum on WIP in Pohang, Korea (2006)
Thank you