Report from the Third IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics

E. Freeland (Wisconsin), N. Murphy (Wisconsin), H. Jang-Condell (Maryland/NASA-GSFC), Y. Gómez Maqueo Chew (Vanderbilt/Villanova)

Resolutions from the 2008 Conference

1. Promote through the IUPAP (International Union of Pure and Applied Physics) Liaison Committees and physical societies the formation of additional regional or national working groups for women in physics. These working groups would assist worldwide in the efforts to increase the participation of women, while being a resource to attract, retain, and advance women in physics.

2. Publicize site visits as an effective tool for improving the climate of physics workplaces, and encourage their implementation to help the workplaces become more supportive of both women and men. For a site visit, an institution or physics department invites a team of physicists to assess the work environment for women and to give advice for improvements in gender equity.

3. Actively encourage organizers of IUPAP-sponsored conferences to provide, associated with the conference program, (a) professional development workshops for attendees and (b) outreach activities aimed at the public and to engage both girls and boys from an early age in the excitement of physics.

4. Charge the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics (a) to oversee the administration of a global survey of physicists in 2009, (b) to continue to assess the progress of women in physics, (c) to make useful resources available globally through the Internet, (d) to organize the 4th International Conference on Women in Physics in 2011, and (e) to report at the 27th IUPAP General Assembly in 2011.

5. Urge IUPAP Liaison Committees and physical societies to take the leadership in their countries to encourage broad participation of their members in the global survey of physicists.

First Conference (2002)

Resolutions were directed toward:

- schools
- universities
- research institutes
- industries
- scientific societies
- national governments
- granting agencies
- the IUPAP itself

These resolutions stressed:

- equal access to education and opportunities
- encouragement and mentoring
- equity in recruitment and promotion
- family-friendly policies and practices
- women’s inclusion as speakers at meetings, on boards, and committees

Second Conference (2005)

Resolutions focused on specific actions for IUPAP including:

- Require organizers of the conferences it sponsors to improve their inclusion and encouragement of women, and request its member societies and other scientific unions to do the same.
- Model exemplary institutional transparency in its policies, procedures, practices, and activities and increase the presence of women among its leadership.
- Co-sponsor the development and encourage the use and translation of training modules on gender and race equity in physics, on physics education pedagogies and curricula, and on the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women.