



Organizing Regional Conferences

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The Mexican Physical Society (SMF) approved the creation of the Working Group (WG) on Women in Physics on October 30th, 2002

WHAT DO WE NEED FOR A WORKING GROUP?

1. Human Resources
2. Ideas (goals)
3. Funds

OBSTACLES LIMITING OUR WORK

1. **No time** for extra duties (salaries strongly depending on productivity bonus, excessive paperwork)
2. Lack of **administrative** support
3. Insufficient **funds**
4. **Changes** in government/policies/executives/...
5. Centralism (More than half of scientific community lives in Mexico City ...)

How to overcome them?

We have to **optimize** everything

Time, duties, resources ...

Concentrate on **a few goals: e. g., Organization of Conferences**

To give visibility to female scientists
To attract women to science

**Participation of
Women in Science**

To develop at local/regional
level strategies, involving
more scientists –not only
physicists

**2nd Conference Latin
American *Women in
Exact and Natural
Sciences***



Annual Meeting



Participation of Women in Science

Organized in Centro de Investigaciones en Optica, at Leon, Guanajuato,

- To draw attention to the work of women in diverse scientific and technological fields
- To publicize their contributions to the economical development and modernization of Mexico
- Since 2004
- All of the sciences, including social sciences.
- 600 participants in last meetings

Since 2007, the WG co-sponsors this meeting and Amalia Martinez, one the organizers, became an active member of the group –our Team Leader



Find the right place for everybody!



A meeting was organized to form the WG but ... we could not provide financial support
Most of attendees were students

We organized a survey but ... our community does not like surveys



THEREFORE

- Develop a nucleus (small, active group)
- Ask colleagues who could join the group
- Talk to as many as you can
- Find out what kind of activities they would support
- Make a roster –keep in mind feasible participations

As for funds ...

Find out which **agencies** (local, national and international) can provide funds and what they support (**not only money!**)

- Scientific agencies
- Scientific societies
- Gender-related institutions
- Universities –women at key positions
- Foundations



- **Submit** (and **lobby**, if possible) proposals to all of them
- Ask for an **interview** to explain the purpose, relevance, etc. of the project
- Mention what it is already done is some other places



Latin American Conference on Women in Exact and Life Sciences

First Conference: Brazilian Team, Rio de Janeiro 2004

<http://www.cbpf.br/~mulher/>

GOALS OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE

- To analyze the situation of Latin American women in science and find solution to common problems
- To increase the visibility of female scientists
- To identify the problems faced by young scientists
- To create a data base of women in Exact and Life Sciences

Getting organized

Participant areas

- **Astronomy**
- **Biology**
- **Biotechnology**
- **Computer Science**
- **Gender-Science Studies**
- **Health**
- **Mathematics**
- **Physics**
- **Chemistry**



Organizing Committee

- One member for each area
- As many as possible institutions
- Members of gender-related institutions
- Tasks among the members
- Monthly meetings
- Each area suggested a speaker
- Three panel sessions on gender issues
- Scientific Committee
- Submitted several proposals for funding

Get sponsors!

Registration fee: 40 USD





More than **230 participants**

- 18 Mexican states + Mexico City
- 19 Latin American participants
Argentina (3), Bolivia (2), Brazil (3),
Chile (1), Colombia (3), Cuba (5), El
Salvador (1), and Guatemala (1).

- 37 previous popularization lectures and 2 panel sessions in 7 cities
- Plenary talks were available on line
- Remote participation of three speakers
- Discussion groups
- Proceedings book (two volumes)

Valuable information on resources

- The Latin American computer network (CLARA, Consorcio Latinoamericano de Redes Académicas)
- Hemispherical agreements on science and gender issues



Invita a la comunidad universitaria, que con motivo de que en marzo se celebró el día internacional de la mujer, a su

"Seminario de Física" titulado:

Econofísica y Estadística
Dra. Miriam Álvarez Suárez
Investigadora del CIAI

Resumen:
La econofísica es un novedoso campo de investigación científica que aplica teorías y métodos originariamente desarrollados por físicos para entender y resolver problemas en la economía, especialmente aquellos que involucran aspectos estocásticos y de Dinámica no Lineal.



Fecha: viernes 24 de marzo, 13:00 hrs
Lugar: Sala audiovisual del edificio A "Ing. Luis Francisco Espinosa"

sa Redonda
s en la Ciencia

Ciencias Físico-Matemáticas
Edificio "B" del UMSNH
del 20 de marzo de 2006 a las 12:00 hrs

Agullera Ríos
Vega (UMSNH)
Soboron
(UNAM)
Ruiz Vega
(I)
Kasinac

Físico Técnico (IITEE, UMSNH)
Moderadora
Dra. Yolanda Gómez Castellanos
Astrónoma (CRA, UNAM)

MUJER EN LA CIENCIA
2006

Logo of the organizing institution.

Conclusions I

The Conferences organized in Mexico accomplish the following goals

- give visibility to female scientists
- allow collaborations and networking
- share experience with young female scientists
- detect common obstacles at different sciences
- a multidisciplinary group has been formed, which is developing programs and strategies to improve the condition of women in science in the whole Latin American region.

Conclusions II

As for the Mexican working Group, little by little we are

- growing
- achieving goals and getting involved in more diverse activities
- developing contacts and programs to increase the support for women, not only in Physics but all the sciences

and what is next

- **Follow up:** Many tasks were pointed out by the discussion groups
- **Popularization lectures** becoming a permanent activity
- **Next Conference**

November 27-29

La Paz, Bolivia