

International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists Records

3 linear feet

1961-2005 (bulk 1961-1996)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written on December 18, 2008 by Troy Eller.

Accession Number: 1689

Creator: Society of Women Engineers

Acquisition: Records from the International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists were first deposited in the Walter P. Reuther Library with the Society of Women Engineers National Records in March of 2001. Additional records were deposited in 2003 by Helen Marie Chapman and in 2004 by Beverly Grossmeyer and Joan Schubert. The International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists Records were opened for research in January 2009.

Language: Material primarily in English, with additional material in French, Italian, and other languages.

Access: Papers are open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Notes: Citation style: "International Society of Women Engineers and Scientists Records, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University"

Other Access Aids: Photographic images are available online in the Society of Women Engineers Image Gallery on the Reuther's Web site (www.reuther.wayne.edu).

Related Material: Reuther Library Collections: Society of Women Engineers National Records. Photographs were transferred to the Reuther's Audiovisual Department. Guides or inventories are available.

History

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) was only 8 years old when its New York Section proposed hosting an international conference of women engineers concurrent with its national conference. Originally planned for 1963, the date of the first International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES) was changed to June 15-21, 1964, to coincide with the 1964 World's Fair in New York City, New York. To fund the conference, SWE received grants from the National Science Foundation, the Asia Foundation, the Engineers Joint Council, several companies, and donations from numerous SWE members.

Although ICWES planners originally estimated 300 participants, the conference brought together over 500 people from more than 35 countries to discuss the role of women engineers and the future of engineering. The conference featured a trip to the New York World's Fair and a Parade of States and Roll Call of Nations for ICWES delegates, professional tours, technical presentations and papers, SWE meetings and awards banquets, and other events.

Following the success of the first ICWES (later referred to as ICWES I), the Women's Engineering Society of Great Britain volunteered to host a second conference in 1967 in Cambridge, England. An International Continuing Committee with ten area representatives was formed to determine the location of each successive conference, which have generally been held triennially.

Building on a resolution passed at the 1999 UNESCO World Science Conference to create a global network of women engineers and scientists, in 2001 the Canadian Commission for UNESCO organized a founding meeting for the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES). A resolution was passed at ICWES XII in 2002 to transfer administrative functions from the International Continuing Committee to the INWES Board of Directors, and INWES is now responsible for the organization of ICWES conferences.

The ICWES conferences held thus far have been:

- 1964 – New York City, United States (hosted by SWE)
- 1967 – Cambridge, England
- 1971 – Turin, Italy
- 1975 – Krakow, Poland
- 1978 – Rouen, France
- 1981 – Bombay, India
- 1984 – Washington, D.C., United States (hosted by SWE)
- 1987 – Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 1991 – Warwick, England
- 1996 – Budapest, Hungary
- 1999 – Chiba, Japan
- 2002 – Ottawa, Canada
- 2005 – Seoul, Korea
- 2008 – Lille, France
- 2011 – Adelaide, Australia

Scope and Content

The materials in these records document the origin and development of ICWES, as well as the technical and sociological subjects discussed at the conferences. Compiled from members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), these records document the planning and execution of the the first and seventh ICWES conferences (ICWES I and ICWES VII) held in 1964 and 1984, which were hosted by SWE. The records also document SWE's involvement with ICWES conferences hosted in other countries.

Records include correspondence, reports, clippings, proceedings, and bound volumes. Photographs have been transferred to the SWE Photograph Collection.

Important Subjects

Engineering
Engineering – Societies, etc.
Engineers
International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists
Science – Societies, etc.
Scientists
Society of Women Engineers
Women Engineers
Women Engineers – Congresses
Women in engineering
Women in Science
Women Scientists
Women Scientists – Congresses

Important Names

Patricia Brown
Aileen Cavanagh
Lillian Moller Gilbreth
Beatrice Hicks
Naomi McAffe
Ruth Shafer
Barbara Wollmershauser

Arrangement

Folders in Boxes 1-4 are arranged chronologically by conference year and then alphabetically by subject. Bound volumes in Box 5 are arranged chronologically by conference year.

Box 1

- 1-2. ICWES I: Clippings, 1963-1967
- 3-5. ICWES I: Correspondence, International, 1963-1964
- 6-9. ICWES I: Correspondence, United States, 1961-1964
10. ICWES I: Directory of Delegates, 1964
11. ICWES I: NSF Grant, 1962-1965
12. ICWES I: Proceedings, 1964
13. ICWES I: Programs, 1963-1964

Box 2

1. ICWES I: Public Relations, 1963-1964
2. ICWES I: Reports, Committee, 1964, 1968
- 3-4. ICWES I: Reports, General, 1964
- 5-6. ICWES I: Reports, International Delegates, 1964
7. ICWES I: Reports, Public Relations Committee, 1965
8. ICWES II: Correspondence, 1966-1967
9. ICWES II: International Council, 1966-1967
10. ICWES II: Programs and Proceedings, 1967
11. ICWES II: Publicity, 1967

Box 3

1. ICWES III: Correspondence, 1969-1972
2. ICWES III: Proceedings, General Reports, 1971
3. ICWES III: Proceedings, Sociology Papers, 1971
- 4-7. ICWES III: Proceedings, Technical Papers, 1971
8. ICWES III: Program, 1971
9. ICWES III: Publicity, 1971
- 10-11. ICWES IV: Correspondence, 1972-1975
12. ICWES IV: Program and Proceedings, 1974-1975

Box 4

1. ICWES V: 1976-1979
2. ICWES VII: Correspondence, 1980-1984
3. ICWES VII: Planning, 1982-1984
4. ICWES VII: Program, 1984
5. ICWES VIII: 1987
6. ICWES IX: Program and Report, 1991-1992
7. ICWES X: Program and Proceedings, 1996
8. ICWES XI: Brochure, 1999
9. ICWES XIII: Brochure, 2005
10. INWES: Newsletter, 2004

Box 5

1. Proceedings of the First International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1964
2. Proceedings of the Second International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1967
3. Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1971
4. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1975
5. Programme and synopses of Sixth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1981
6. Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1984
7. Abstracts of the Ninth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1991
8. Demographics of the Ninth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1991
9. Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, 1991