

World Forum for Women in Science (WFWS)

The 6th (Sixth) International Conference for Women in Science Without Borders (WISWB), Nairobi Kenya 2021 (for Men and Women)

Building a Gender Inclusive Sustainable Future through Science, Technology and Innovation.

Introduction:

The University of Embu will host the 6th International Conference for Women in Science Without Borders from November 3rd to 5th 2021 in Nairobi. This is a conference series held annually under the World Forum for Women in Science (WFWS). The conference will be an opportunity to highlight the role of science in building a sustainable future for all through science, technology and innovation. The conference targets scientists, students, practitioners, industrialists, journalists, and policy makers, among other key stakeholders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Participants will be drawn from across Africa and other parts of the world. As basic science drives innovation and development, the discussions will endeavor to highlight gender equity in STEM as a driver for sustainable development. The conference will also provide an opportunity for capacity building in Social Entrepreneurship, Science Communication and Negotiation Skills. The Conference theme and sub-themes are as follows:

Theme:

“Building a Gender Inclusive Sustainable Future Through Science, Technology and Innovation”.

Sub-Themes:

1. Gender responsive strategies for school to work transition in STEM
2. Circular economy for a sustainable future
3. Sustainable food systems
4. Post-Covid-19 resilience strategies
5. Innovation and entrepreneurship in STEM
6. Big data and artificial intelligence
7. Automation and robotics
8. Climate change and green energy
9. STEM fields related to SDGs including medicine (Water, food, energy, health, environment, education)

Brief on Women in Science Without Borders Initiative (WISWB)

Women in Science Without Borders (WISWB) is a gender inclusive initiative and network of scientists from over 60 countries world-wide. The aim is to integrate scientists, in the development of the society by encouraging inclusion of both males and females in scientific collaborations and projects, making scientific merit and excellence the only criteria of evaluation of scientists. This initiative was mainly founded to help in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including gender equality. The network has regular and interactive meetings open for scientists, industrialists, practitioners, students, journalists, etc, where its main theme is **SCIENCE FOR ALL**. In this community of scientists, we chose science as a common language to change the world across borders away from any considerations, whether political, religious or cultural to reach to the world. This community of scientists believe as Brain Greene said that ‘When kids look up to great scientists the way they do to great musicians and actors, civilization will jump to the next level’ WISWB was founded in 2017 with its first meeting held in Egypt under the supervision of young and senior Egyptian academics. In 2018, the second event was held in South Africa at the University of Johannesburg. In 2019, the meeting was held in Egypt and co-organized with the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) under the name - World Forum for Women in Science with the theme of Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development. From the beginning, WISWB was supported by industry, and international organizations such as Sanofi, Welcome Trust, L’Oreal, Johnson & Johnson, International Science Council (ISC), Global Young Academy (GYA), Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST), Bosch Foundation, Next Einstein Forum (NEF), Brazilian Academy of Sciences, TWAS Young Affiliates Network (TYAN), African Academy of Sciences (AAS), etc. In February 2020, the meeting was held in Brazil. Now, WISWB has regular meetings called Saturday science webinars.

Structure of the Conference

Capacity building workshop: November, 3rd 2021

Main International conference: November, 4th-5th 2021

Expected Number of Participants: 300

International Advisory Committee:

- Dr. Alice Ochanda, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Headquarters, France.
- Prof. Catherine Ngila: Ag. Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences, Kenya.
- Prof. Ann Lopez, Teaching Provostial Advisor, Access Programs, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada.
- Dr Margaret Karembu: Director, The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) Africenter / Chair, African Women for Biosciences/ Chair, Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB- Kenya).
- Dr Akanimo Odon: Africa Strategy Adviser for Lancaster University and African Regional Adviser for the University of London.
- Prof Caroline Thoruwa: Director, Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL), Kenyatta University and Chairperson, Association of African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE).

Conference Planning Committee:

Chairperson – Prof. Eucharia Kenya, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Administration and Finance and Professor of Biotechnology), University of Embu, Kenya.

Honorary Chair: Prof. Amal Amin: Founding Chairperson of WISWB & WFWS, National Research Center, Egypt.

Members:

- Dr. Alix Dehayem-Massop: Department of Physics, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Dr. Margaret Muturi: Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Kenyatta University, Kenya.
- Ms. Mary Mwangi: Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Kenyatta University; and Secretary, Association of African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE), Kenya.
- Dr. Rehema Ndeda: Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya.
- Ms. Sicelo Dube: Founder/Director Elevate Trust, Zimbabwe.
- Prof. Elizabeth Njenga: University of Eldoret, Kenya.
- Ms. Mildred Mugambi: National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Nairobi, Kenya.
- Mr. Peter Shinga: ICT Officer, University of Embu, Kenya.