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are allowed to have a say in determining what that value should be....An equitable partnership of men and women scientists can surely achieve this goal.¹

Currently, more than 4,000 women from some 90 developing countries (113 countries in total) are OWSDW members.

Recently OWSDW held its Fourth General Assembly (GA) and International Conference in Beijing, China, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on June 27-30, 2010. Six hundred participants attended from 55 countries to present papers and hold discussions on the scientific contributions of women in four areas: Women Scientists and Frontiers of Sciences; Women Scientists and Global Change; Women, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Leadership Capacity; and Gender Mainstreaming in the Global Scientific Community. A Young Women Scientists' Forum was also featured as part of the Conference. The Conference was opened by Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, and leading scientists and dignitaries from around the world including Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa; Sharon Hrynkow, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science, US State Department; Yongxiang Lu, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Mohamed Hassan, Executive Director of TWAS and co Chair of the Global Network of Academies of Science (IAP).

world. A revised set of statutes was presented and approved by the General Assembly.

A new President was elected for 2010-2014: Prof. Fang Xin is a research professor and member of the Presidium of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Supporting her on the Board are:

- Africa: Dolly Ahbor Ighoroje, Associate Professor, University of Benin, Nigeria, Vice

To support these goals, OWSDW has also opened up its structure to promote collaboration between women and men scientists in North and South. Women scientists from developed countries are now eligible for full membership in the organization, as are social scientists working in areas relevant to STI for development³. As well, developed countries are now invited to establish OWSDW National Chapters. OWSDW is in discussion with the American

- With funding from the Elsevier Foundation and TWAS, **OWSDW Awards for Young Women Scientists** were awarded to 12 women scientists from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean for their research excellence. Awards were given for three

- support understanding of the gender dimensions of science and innovation for development in the areas of emphasis of Para 90;
- highlight women's role in development and how it can be supported using science and technology;
- recognize and highlight women's role and contribution to national science and innovation systems; and
- develop and disseminate strategies and models for action.

The next steps are to undertake a series of regional surveys of decision makers and stakeholders on perceptions of the importance of gender and STI issues in their region and a campaign launch meeting in early 2011, potentially hosted by the Department of S&T of South Africa.

3) Promote collaboration and communication among women scientists and technologists in developing countries and with the international scientific community as a whole

- **TWAS-OWSDW Advisory Panel.** The Advisory Panel acts as a liaison between OWSDW and TWAS, developing recommendations for TWAS on actions to take to

launched June 2010⁵. OWSDW is a member of the Working Group, which is developing a 5 year Plan of Action for activities with academies in the region.

- **The Elsevier Foundation** is collaborating with OWSDW for the period 2010- 2011, committing its entire New Scholars Fund budget for 2011 to OWSDW for the Young Women Scientists' Awards and a joint OWSDW-TWOWS project on developing national benchmarking of gender and STI in Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.
 - Through its website and listservs, OWSDW communicates with its members and affiliated networks. It is also supporting the development and management of the IANAS Women for Science website.
- 4) Increase access of women in developing countries to the socio-economic benefits of science and technology and 6) Increase understanding of the role of science and technology in supporting women's development activities.**

OWSDW takes seriously the importance of prom

- Promoting the participation of women and science in S&T in South Africa and the SADC region
- Promoting scientific and technological development of South Africa and the SADC region
- Facilitating access to educational and training opportunities for women in S&T in South Africa and the SADC region
- Popularising and promoting S&T for the general welfare of South Africa and the SADC region
- Creating linkages between science and society in South Africa and the SADC region.

Its activities include development of a website linked to the ASSAf and OWSDW websites, disseminating information to research offices at South African academic institutions, encouraging recipients of women in science awards to join OWSDW, promoting OWSDW fellowships, encouraging senior OWSDW members to mentor young women scientists, organising capacity building workshops and seminars, including encouraging young women scientists to attend the ASSAf annual young scientists conference, establishing linkages with women scientists organisations in the country, and encouraging collaboration between OWSDW South African members and women scientists in the SADC region. The chapter also works with the Department of Science and Technology in the country on various initiatives promoting women in science and technology in the country and is part of the DST-hosted SADC Women in Science Platform. The Chapter was officially launched by the Minister of S&T in October 2009 at the TWAS General Conference in Durban.

National chapters have also been established in Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Cuba, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Yemen, with focal points and emerging chapters in many more countries.

Through these national level initiatives as well as collaboration with like-minded and supportive organizations at the regional and international levels, OWSDW will continue to support and encourage women scientists to build their capacity, share their knowledge and technology, and work to reduce and even eliminate the divide between developed and developing countries.⁶

⁶ Fang Xin, Presidential Address to the TWOWS Assembly, June 2010, Beijing, China.

Appendix 1

Beijing Statement

As we close the 4th General Assembly and International Conference of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSDW), gathered here at the Beijing International Conference Centre, China, we hereby affirm that it is strategically important for all countries to promote the participation of women in national scientific, technological and innovation systems. Only with the full participation of women will we be able to create more integrated, sustainable, economically advanced and equitable societies.

Considering:

The statement of the Beijing Platform for Action of the 1995 Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women, that countries should recognize and encourage the contribution of research by women scientists and technologists

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- Document, highlight and collect data on the scientific and technological contributions and knowledge of women;
- Improve conditions for recruitment, retention and advancement of women in all fields of research;
- Work towards equitable representation of women in national, regional and international policy- and decision-making bodies and forums; and
- Recognize and help women implement and improve their local scientific knowledge.

We furthermore acknowledge our need for personal and collective networking and action at local, national chapter, regional and international levels and pledge our best efforts to work with those committed to implementing the goals outlined here.

29 June 2010