Room G

Round Table/Symposia.
Two presentations were made.

Session 2
Dr Karin: Teaching gender to students of engineering

Introductory feminist theories (focus on women and female society, power structures and equity, industries and issues)

The initial approach revealed some discrepancies and led to a reviewed strategy using a pedagogy based on the students' own experiences of gender, more dialogue, written group examination, presenting gendered power structure as an explanation not as a fact, stress on involvement and recognition and a relaxed atmosphere brought about a dramatic change.

POINT FOR FURTHER ACTION

The chairperson agreed with the presenter that a memorandum of understanding would contribute to collaboration between GASAT and INWES to benefit women and wide.

Room G
Session 1.
Gill Ekirkup presented "Using communities of practice and social capital theory to challenge the gendering of SET"

Social, emotional and communication skills are very important for scientists and technologists. A community of practice is a group or network where members use a shared repertoire of skills, discourses and artefacts. It develops self and gender identity and builds social capital to increase individual and collective productivity.

Session 2. Dr M Anderson-Roland
Assessing the WISE INVESTMENTS Summer institute gender equity awareness training.

The project aim was to provide specific strategies for teachers, heighten their awareness of gender issues and present findings from current research.

Three components of the strategies were

1. use of hands on engineering activities
2. use of female role models to dispel myths
3. modelling practice for teachers and school counsellors.

Use of teaching and mentoring teams and a technical coach enabled the smooth operation of the project.

Dr Ved Goel; Mrs J Naugah; Mr D Ramroop; Dr Y Ramma; Mr H Bessoondyal;Mr A Ramful; Mrs A Ramdinny; Mr P Parmessur; Miss S Saddul

Developing gender friendly resource materials and strategies in science, mathematics and technology

The overall goal is to promote a culture of science and enable teachers to develop

Pedagogical approaches. Translating school textbook content into suitable learning

Experiences makes science related to real life of students and leads to popularisation

of science.

Teachers as well as students especially girls in the 12 pilot schools have been greatly

motivated and enthusiastic use of local context, gender friendly examples was

integrated with cooperative learning and hands on experiences.

The noted constraints are lack of time, suitable resources and some abstract topics

that are difficult to translate through active resource based strategies.

The team is proactive in proposing a nationwide use of the strategies to enhance

Learning in science, maths and technology.

POINT TO PONDER
I now realise the difficulties persons, in particular women, face when they have special needs. The conference participants should also consider the plight of such persons ***vis à vis*** science and Technology.

Khemraj Sooknah

Project Coordinator, Mauritian Wild Life Club.