

STEERING COMMITTEE



The 27th WiN Global Convention took place in Madrid, from June 17 to 21, at the Higher Technical School of Industrial Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

This Convention, of an international nature, takes place every year on a different continent. Previous editions have been held in Vienna-IAEA (2015), Abu Dhabi-UAE (2016), Beijing-PR of China (2017), and San Carlos de Bariloche-Argentina (2018).

The figures from this meeting held in Madrid show the success of the European call for 2019: 250 attendees, 60 countries from five continents, 26 speakers of the highest level.

The organization of the 27th WiN Global Convention was under the charge of WiN Spain, an entity founded in 1995, which is part of WiN Global and that is part of a Work Commission in the Spanish Nuclear Society.

The Organizing Committee of the Congress was composed of Matilde Pelegrí, president of WiN Spain; Carolina Ahnert, member of the WiN Global Executive Committee; María Luz Tejeda, Vice President of WiN Spain; Susana Falcón, Head of the Organizing Committee; Rosa González, Head of Institutional Relations; Amparo Soler, Head of Communications; Patricia Cuadrado, Head of the Technical Committee; Arnaldos Arnaldos, Head of European Relations and Mentoring.

In this joint interview with the Organizing Committee, there is review of the main activities of the Convention.



Matilde Pelegrí
President of WiN Spain

Why was the 2019 convention organized in Madrid?

The proposal to organize the Convention in Madrid emerged from the chairmanship of WiN Global during the Vienna Congress in 2015. The WiN Global Conferences take place every year on a different continent, and it was planned for the next one to be held in Europe, which would be in 2019.

Within WiN Global, WiN Spain is recognized for its continuous activity, for example through conferences and workshops organized at the Annual Meetings of the SNE. In addition, centers such as Ciemat, and nuclear power plants, constitute an important reference.

On the other hand, Spain in general, and Madrid in particular, are an excellent letter of introduction for a convention, due to their renowned hospitality, good weather, and their gourmet and service quality.

To advance the proposal to hold the 2019 convention in Madrid, it was nec-

essary to determine the headquarters. And this was the key element that allowed us to accept the invitation of WiN Global to be organizers of their Convention: the granting, by the UPM School of Industrial Engineering, of its facilities, in June, once the academic period of classes was over.

In this way, we guaranteed that the convention headquarters would be located at a reference training center in Spain, equipped with the necessary infrastructure, such as the Auditorium, the classrooms, and the Portrait Room, located in a central area of the city and very well connected.

Thus, at the Convention held in Abu Dhabi, WiN Spain agreed to assume the organization of the 27th Global WiN Congress in Madrid, and at the folloWiNg convention in Beijing its official presentation was made.

From there, intense activity began, which has seen its results in the week of June 17-21.

What are the fundamental challenges that WiN Spain assumed with the organization of this Convention?

It should be kept in mind that important countries such as France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, each for different reasons, did not present their candidacy. That forced us even more, if that was possible, to organize a high-quality convention, not only technical, but also as a meeting point for professionals who would come from all over the world.

When WiN Spain presented the Convention project to the Board of Directors of the SNE, the situation of the nuclear sector in our country was very different from the current one, and the debate on the timetable for the closure of plants was not expected, at least openly.

With this premise, we set out three fundamental objectives: to organize a convention of high technical level in its general and technical sessions and in the program of visits; to serve as a friendly meeting point for hundreds of professionals who would travel from different parts of the world; and, also important, to obtain good economic results without affecting the traditional activities of the SNE that are sponsored by sector entities.

Have these objectives been met?

Without a doubt, as the members of the Organizing Committee analyze in this interview, and as you can view in this special issue of NUCLEAR ESPAÑA, the convention has achieved the proposed goals.

In addition to the figures indicated by Susana Falcón regarding the number of speakers, presentations, country reports, and posters, it is noteworthy that all the participants in the general sessions represent the five continents, the main companies in the sector, and have a high technical level.

On the other hand, the high attendance at technical visits indicates the interest of these facilities. The program as a whole combined energy production (the Almaraz Nuclear Power Plant) with waste management (El Cabril), energy and environmental research (Ciemat), and radiological

protection in biomedical research (CNIC).

Finally, as Rosa González affirms, the support of the entities of the sector has been key so that the economic result has been satisfactory.

What has been the response of the sector as a whole?

Without a doubt, thanks to the support of companies and public organizations, the convention can be considered a success. It has been supported from different perspectives, either through the sponsorship of some activity, or in the important time spent by the professionals who have participated in its organization.

In this sense, I want to express from this special edition of NUCLEAR ESPAÑA, the recognition to each and every one of the members of the Organizing Committee and from the Technical, Communications, Institutional Relations, and Management Support Committees for their intense work, their good work, and their professional and human quality.

Thanks to all of them, the 27th WiN Global Madrid 2019 Convention will be remembered as a reference in the course of these meetings.



Carolina Ahnert
Polytechnic
University of
Madrid

What has it meant for the headquarters of the Convention to be at the Industrial School?

The School of Industrial Engineers is part of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, and has a Department of Energy Engineering, with a section of Nuclear Engineering, which offered to organize a general session at the Convention on OEducation and Training, Ó and as it is also located in the business center of the city of Madrid, which is very well connected and with many hotels nearby.

Therefore, we proposed to the School Directorate that the convention be held at its headquarters, and the response of the School's management has been excellent from the first moment and they have given us all the amenities so that it could be held there, offering its facilities and necessary support staff.

Holding the convention at the School has also allowed some students to be also available, for support in its organization and for presenting and attendance at the Convention.

This is remarkable because it has been a great experience for the students, and in particular for the female students. It has contributed to enhance their professional career in the nuclear sector.

How has the support of the UPM and the School itself been coordinated?

The facilities used have been those of the School itself, and the support of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, through the participation of its Vice Chancellor for Institutional Communication and External Promotion in the opening session.

As a member of the WiN Global Executive Committee, how do you rate the holding of the Convention in Madrid?

As a member of the WiN Global Executive Committee, I can say that the evaluation of the Committee has been very satisfactory, since Convention has been a success in terms of attendance and participation.

WiN Spain has done an excellent job with the organization of everything one would need: general sessions, a poster session, technical and cultural visits, social activities, and WiN awards. As well as the WiN Executive and WiN Board meetings. As well as the website specifically for the Convention for dissemination and the follow-up for the registration and check-in procedures. The response of sponsors, who have been mainly Spanish companies, has been very good, and that of the IAEA providing grants to participants from certain countries has also been very satisfactory.



Susana Falcón
CIEMAT

Organizing a convention of this nature requires many actions. How has the Organizing Committee been structured?

Indeed, the organization of an international convention of this nature is a complex issue. We must consider and address all kinds of tasks, such as logistics, scientific-technical tasks, registration, selection and invitation of speakers, technical visits of interest within and outside of the city. It is also necessary at this type of meetings to show the image of the country through visits and social events that also have a complex organization. For all this, four Committees were formed. The Organizing Committee, composed of eight people, established the main

guidelines to be followed by the rest of the Committees: the Technical, Communications, and Institutional Relations Committees. The execution has been perfect, and the final result has been very satisfactory, establishing very close relations between the various committees with great teamwork.

What are the most significant figures for the convention: the number of attendees, the number of countries represented, the level of participants, the general program?

The main update in the organization of this convention has been that we have had attendees from all five continents. It is obviously an international meeting, but we have managed to reach the whole world. WiN Global is just this, the annual meeting of the WiN groups from all countries where ionizing radiation is used in all its applications. Attending to attendees from all corners of the world entails great complexity in terms of registration, visas, payments, meals ...

The final result has been more than satisfactory and enriching result of a multicultural and multiracial congress. It had been five years ago since it was held in Europe and twenty years since it was held in Spain. A great destination that is well connected to go to in the month of June.

Finally, 250 attendees from 60 countries participated. We wanted a Convention organized by women, with women speakers, open to everyone, and it has been.

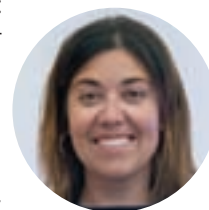
On the one hand, the general program was designed to combine the meetings of the Executive Committees composed of representatives from all

of the member countries as a place to establish common and global lines or ideas to be implemented and, on the other hand, to organize a convention with clear technical content where current issues in our sector are addressed and discussed, which could represent the different uses, developments, and applications of radiation in all countries. Five general sessions of representative topics were scheduled in round table format, with speakers from the highest national and international level. After a brief presentation by each one of them, a round of questions with the attendees began. The topics that were addressed were: Long-Term Operation and Sustainability, Innovation and Technology, Applications of Ionizing Radiation, the Presence of women in the Nuclear Sector, and Education and Training. Each general session included five national and international experts, covering all continents, international organizations, important companies, and absolutely all sectors involved. In addition, the attendees contributed a total of 150 posters in the same five thematic areas that were exhibited throughout the convention for viewing.

An important part of these meetings is the presentation of the capacities of each attending country, and in this case, there were 27 chapters presented. And there was also space for a Mentoring Session, where 32 mentors met with 32 mentees to convey their experience, resulting in a very enriching experience.

To the whole theoretical and collective part, the various technical visits

were added to the last days: the Almaraz nuclear power plant, the storage of radioactive waste at El Cabril (Córdoba), the Center for Environmental and Technological Energy Research (CIEMAT), and the National Center of Oncology Research (CNIO). And of course, cultural visits of interest: Toledo, Museo del Prado, Madrid de los Austrias. Ending with an official dinner at the Garment Museum where there was a flamenco show and the awards of honor and annual awards that recognize the successful career of professional women in this exciting field.



Amparo Soler
NFQ

What have been the actions that the Convention Communications Committee has carried out?

The actions carried out by the communications committee have been highly varied and of various types as they have included internal and external communication activities. The first efforts focused on the creation of a strategic plan of activities in parallel with the launch of the convention website and the registration process. Within the strategic plan, the enormous need to keep the RRSS alive and to provide quality content was highlighted, in order to give visibility to WiN Spain, such as the promotional video we created, and which had a great impact, increasing registrations considerably.

Social media networks have been a considerable effort for the committee throughout the pre-convention process, always with the support of different SNE commissions, as well as the support of an RRSS specialist during the convention.

Likewise, from the Communications Committee, continuous support has been given to both the attendees and the speakers in all matters related to logistics, payments, invoices, and visas. These tasks, generally quite thankless because they involve a lot of work that is not visible to the naked eye, have been carried out with great dedication by the committee, solving more than 500 inquiries in the 2 months prior to the convention.

In addition, during the convention, there were numerous incidents that the Communications Committee had to try to resolve, related to last-minute changes in the attendance for scheduled visits, registration fees, etc.



There are unforeseen events that occur, even if everything is planned, so it is better to have a positive and conciliatory attitude, and for all this, my sincere thanks to the entire communication committee, Maita, Gema, Carolina, Marina, Laura, Izaskun, MaríaLuz, and Gabriela for the excellent work done during all these months.

What data can you provide about impact in social media networks, both in Spain and WiN groups in other countries?

Our expert in RRSS, Laura, has made a very complete report on the impact in networks that will be presented at the Vigo Annual Meeting in the communication sessions, but in general, we can say that the impact in social media networks for the convention had a high impact on both Twitter and LinkedIn. For example, on Twitter, 190.2K views were obtained with the most important dates of the congress with an average of 1.9k per day, of which 96K of views were made on the days of greatest activity of the convention. In the entire convention, 112 tweets were made with around 10000 views, providing unprecedented visibility to WiN Spain.

Will this activity continue?

Of course. The convention has served to give a fantastic boost to the networks and the presence of WiN Spain in the international arena, so the entire Committee is very committed to the continuity of the project, with new ideas and hopes.



María Luz Tejada
Spanish Professional
Association of
Physicists

The convention had more than 250 participants from all continents. This has required complex management of registration, responding to the requests and needs of attendees from countries as different as China and Argentina.

What were the main steps that the organizing committee had to do?

Indeed, the management of registrations has had an important complexity, not only because of the fact that the convention registration itself had to be managed along with technical and social visits, (many of them occurring simultaneously), but also the multiculturalism that Convention had. There are attendees who have attended on an individual basis, who



have done so on behalf of and representing a local or multinational company or even a Public Administration, but extending this participation to all continents, which has meant an important effort in terms of adaptation from all procedures to the particularities of each country/type of company/ attendee. Invitation letters, visa management, travel, issuance of certificates and invoices are just some examples of issues that the organization has had to deal with.

How have the attendees responded?

In general terms, the aptitude of all participants, both congressmen and companions, has been magnificent. They have been especially aware of the complexity that the organization of the Convention required and have shown a willingness to adapt to the procedures that the Organizing Committee has established. The time difference in communications done depending on the nationality, along with the different procedures regarding the payment of the registration fee due to currency exchanges and different banking entities, have been managed satisfactorily, thanks to the positive response of the attendees.

We cannot fail to mention that when an event of this type is organized, both because of its size and its complexity, difficulties always arise that must be addressed, but it is important to note that all the setbacks have been satisfactorily managed thanks to the effort, dedication, and good work of the entire organization for the attendees.



Rosa González
Naturgy

Sponsorship acquisition is essential for any event to be profitable. How have the companies and entities from the Spanish sector responded?

The truth is that it has been a great success and we are very surprised and grateful for the great support from the most outstanding companies and entities of the Spanish sector that have collaborated with us. Thanks to them, it has been possible to hold this edition of the WIN Global meeting with a high level of quality, both for the technical program and for the cultural and social events.

Therefore, I will take advantage of this interview to thank the Spanish companies again for their involvement in the convention, both for sponsorship and for the participation of the speakers and attendees who have attended the meeting. This active presence of the Spanish nuclear sector at the event has allowed to demonstrate that it is a competitive and experienced industry, and that, at present, it serves the entire value chain, the national market, and a growing international market.

The entire committee team, Rosario Delgado, Izaskun García, Maita Morales, Matilde Pelegri, Luz Tejada, Stella Zamudio and I have worked with great effort and involvement in the committee and we hope that all have had adequate space and importance.

And the entities and sponsors from other countries?

Regarding entities from other countries, it is worth highlighting the support of the IAEA that sponsored 28 professional women, mainly from Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe.

The European Nuclear Society (ENS) also supported the dissemination and organization of various convention activities.

We have also had international sponsoring companies, for which we appreciate the trust in WiN Spain as organizers since we are aware of the few prospects currently available in the nuclear market in Spain.

What visibility has the organization provided to the sponsors?

Regarding the visibility that the organization has given to the sponsors, the committee planned the presence of the brands on social networks, in the technical sessions, in the cultural activities, and in the documentation for the attendees, as relevant.

In addition to the activities that were organized, we hope that there has been the possibility to make contacts directly with potential clients and to interact with them as part of the activities that have been conducted during the convention.



Adoración Arnaldos

GD Energy System

One of the actions at this convention that generated the most interest is the mentoring workshop, in which

WiN Global has a special interest. What did the workshop consist of?

This activity is part of the mentoring area actions carried out by WiN Global, actions that aim to promote the transfer of knowledge from the current generation of scientists, engineers, and technologists (female mentors) to future generations (female mentees).

In particular, the activity conducted was a "speed mentoring" session. This type of mentoring consists of a one-to-one interaction where each mentee rotates and encounters different mentors, spending a short time (between 15 and 20 minutes) with each of them to chat and share about their topics of interest.

The main advantage of speed mentoring is that the mentees experience more interactions than in a traditional mentoring session, being able to share

their concerns several times, obtaining more examples and points of view and, in turn, having more opportunities to establish relationships and contacts.

In the case of the session organized by WiN Spain during the conference, an additional enrichment, which is multiculturalism, is added to the above advantages. During this session, more than 60 women from 31 different nationalities had the opportunity to chat and exchange opinions on topics of common interest, not only on a professional level but also on a personal level.

How did it develop?

The session lasted an hour and a half and was presented and coordinated by Lisa Mc-Bride, Vice President of WiN Canada and me. Once the operation of the same was explained, we had a presentation entitled "The role of mentoring in overcoming the challenges of the generation change in the nuclear industry" given by Eva Gyane of WiN IAEA and then the 3 rounds of 15-minute speed mentoring.

To facilitate the development and fluidity of the rounds of speed mentoring, the mentees had done a previous reflection task from a questionnaire that was sent to them with a list of questions about their professional interests, main obstacles in the development of their professional career, the skills they would like to develop, balance of personal and professional life, etc.

What are the main lessons learned from this activity?

The realization of this activity and the subsequent feedback obtained from the attendees has confirmed two aspects. On the one hand, the importance and value that mentoring activities contribute to the development of future professionals in the nuclear sector, and on the other, the richness and potential of the network of international contacts and mentors of WiN Global in terms of experience, profiles, knowledge, etc.

The experience was valued as very positive, with the ease of dialogue, the immediate connection between partners, the assets provided by multiculturalism, and the establishment of long-term relationships and contacts as highlights.

Is it transferable to WiN Spain's own actions?

This activity is completely aligned with two of the priority objectives of

WiN Spain: to promote the transfer of knowledge and experience in the sector and promote interest in scientific-technical training, especially among women.

As an example of another WiN Spain initiative in this area, one of the activities carried out by WiN Spain in the framework of the Annual Meeting of the Spanish Nuclear Society is the "Boosting Future Leaders in Science and Technology" mentoring workshop. This activity is organized in collaboration with the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA / OECD), and this year the second edition will take place in the city of Vigo during the Annual Meeting.



Patricia Cuadrado
Empresarios Agrupados

From the early stages, WiN proposed for the program to have a high technical level, and for all of the speakers to be women. What parameters have been taken into account to structure the program (representatives from all continents, from the main companies and organizations)?

We try to have representation from all continents (North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania) and the entire nuclear sector (engineering, research centers, universities, regulators, public bodies, electricity, ...) in each of the general sessions and we had a very positive response because we were able to have women cover all the areas we proposed. All the speakers had a very high technical level and held high-level positions in companies and other organizations in the nuclear sector.

How have the speakers responded to the technical requirements of the Committee? How would you rate, in general terms, the development of the technical program?

The speakers have responded very satisfactorily. It was very easy to work with them. All have shown their enthusiasm and commitment to this event from the beginning and the public really valued the entire content of the technical program. It is necessary to highlight the additional effort of these speakers who, apart from their regular work at their companies or research centers, dedicate many hours to participate in these WiN meetings. ■