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## EPF/IIWE WOMEN AND ENGINEERING: PUSHING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

*About 90 students and faculty members from all corners of the world came to Paris (France) in July 2006 to attend a three week summer seminar for women engineers. Organized for the sixth time by the International Institute of Women in Engineering (IIWE) of the EPF Ecole d'Ingénieurs and with the support of the French Ministry of Education, this year's seminar was entitled "Pushing For Sustainability" and focused on the topic of Sustainable Development.*

### IIWE's objectives

Globalization does not stop at the horizon and engineers are now practicing engineering internationally. Woman engineers are especially challenged as they are asked to design the future world while continuing to operate in a so-called "male-dominated domain".

The International Institute of Women in Engineering (IIWE), an absolutely unique project of the EPF Ecole d'Ingénieurs, was launched in 2001 to address this issue. "Our objective is to encourage young girls to study engineering, to motivate women students currently studying engineering to stay in this field and to provide a professional network forum for active women engineers", confirms Molly Malone, the director of the IIWE.

Every year, the IIWE seminar attracts about 100 students and faculty members from all parts of the world to attend a three week summer seminar for engineers in Paris. This success is due to the IIWE's unique approach of setting non-technical subjects in the centre of discussions. During the seminar, which is formally open to both women and men, participants create their own lifelong international engineering network. As the IIWE is an international seminar promoting women in engineering worldwide, all sessions take place in English.

### IIWE 2006 program

The IIWE 2006 seminar took place from June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>, and put particular emphasis on the woman engineer's role in sustainable development including sessions on:

- Women and Sustainable Development
- The History of Engineering
- Engineering Education Worldwide
- Women in Management
- Managing Women Engineers
- Ethics/Project Management/Standards
- The important skill of networking

This year's seminar was enhanced with industrial visits (EADS, IBM, Schlumberger) and round table sessions on family and career. Discussions centered on women and leadership in a global workplace and the challenges and rewards of being a woman in engineering.

For information on the IIWE in general, the application process for the 2007 summer seminar, as well as on further IIWE projects, please consult our website <http://www.iiwe.epf.fr> or contact directly the IIWE director, Molly Malone.