Dear SWE Friends and Colleagues from Around the World,

Welcome to the fourth and final edition of our International Member (IM) Newsletter for FY11.

As the fiscal year is drawing to a close, I would like to thank all of the members of the IM Team for their support and leadership throughout the year. As SWE’s international membership continues to grow, the support of our volunteers helps us to advance SWE’s mission throughout the world. Members of the IM Team help to plan and lead events in our pilot group countries, participate in society governance, and help to communicate events and information through this newsletter, the SWE website, and social media. You will read more about some of these activities in this newsletter. If you are interested in getting involved with SWE’s IM Team for FY12, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This issue also continues a new feature we have added to the IM newsletter – profiles of SWE members who have had international work experience. In the previous issue, we highlighted members who have worked in Germany, Switzerland, and Singapore. In this issue, members who have worked in Vietnam and Germany describe their experiences. For those of you working abroad or considering working abroad, we hope these personal accounts might prove inspiring … or at least demonstrate that we all face similar challenges when moving outside our native country.

As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, I’d like to call your attention to two upcoming conferences. The 15th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES) will be held July 19-22, 2011, in Adelaide, Australia. For more information and to register for this conference, please see the website: http://www.icwes15.org/. Additionally, registration for SWE’s annual conference, WE11, has just opened. WE11 will take place October 13-15, 2011, in Chicago, IL, USA, and registration and additional information can be found at http://we11.swe.org/. With more than 5,000 women engineers expected to attend, WE11 offers many professional development sessions and networking opportunities as well as a career fair with over 250 exhibitors.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that SWE has appointed a new special director for international for FY12. Her role will be to help SWE to develop a strategic plan for international activities. I am personally excited by this commitment SWE has shown to supporting women engineers around the world and look forward to exciting new developments in the upcoming year.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the IM Newsletter and encourage you to submit news and stories for future newsletters. If you have an article or a suggestion for a topic to feature, don’t hesitate to send it to imt.newsletter@swe.org.

Best regards,

Jennifer Patterson
International Member Coordinator
Greetings from Germany!

Summer is fast approaching in Germany. In the north in Hannover, we are having unseasonably warm and dry weather.

Unfortunately due to lack of availability of volunteers, the planned joint event between SWE and Girls Scouts Overseas had to be cancelled. But all is not lost, we will look to have an event with Girl Scouts separately in late fall. As usual volunteers for planning and the event itself are needed. Please contact Katie Herta if you are interested in getting involved.

SWE Germany got together once again to hold a day of workshops and exchanges of experience. Here are some pictures of the events including one of where SWE Member Molly is holding what I believe is her first full presentation in German on Daimlers electrical cars. Thanks again to the team in Mannheim for organizing everything and the wonderful hospitality.

Please feel free to contact me via kherta@googlemail.com if you have further questions, comments or want to get involved.

~Katie Herta
Japan is in the rainy season that the flower is beautifully in full bloom now. Everyone devises a variety of methods to conserve energy as much as possible in hot summer that will come soon!

It has been three months since the massive earthquake attacked one of the J-Win member companies, East Japan Railway “Shinkansen” (bullet train) were damaged in 1200 places or more, that extended to 536 km of railway ground equipments. However, there was no fatal damage of the structure because the Great Hanshin Earthquake etc. were assumed to be a lesson, and it had sped up the earthquake strengthening construction. In addition, the recovery was so quick by the cooperative relationship among the related companies across the enterprise boundaries. It took only 49 days! Also, none out of 27 Shinkansen running has been off the track when the earthquake has struck because the emergency brake has been activated by the early earthquake detection system. Some of the local lines are still far from recovery. About 100,000 people have not yet regained daily life. People are advancing step by step for the revival. We really appreciate a lot of support from many foreign countries.

NEW MEMBERS TEAM

We welcomed dozens of new face engineers to the team in April, and have discussed on a target of activities at J-Win camp training.

Goals discussed were
☆ I would like to have a good networking relationship inside and outside the country.
☆ I will be a role model for young engineers.
☆ Women engineers become majority of society.

New team is being formed soon. New members and Old Girls team will start to work together regarding participation of SWE11.

OLD GIRLS TEAM

We realized natural threats again by this earthquake, and we are considering what we can do more now as engineers. At starting a new activity, we put our records of two year activities on a single CD, including data/meeting minutes/material/photos asset. Our new social network “e-lady” GP has built on “Facebook”. The kick-off meeting will be held soon to elect our new team leader!

We were so encouraged by a lot of thoughtful mails sent from sisters indebted by SWE10 immediately after the earthquake. They made us very energetic. Thank you so much, Sisters!

For more information on J-Win, contact Azusa Ishida at ishida_azusa@cat.com or Michele Plattenberger at mplatten1999@gmail.com
Joining SWE has been a major boost to my career as an engineer. It has helped me a great deal in realizing my potentials as an engineer and most importantly in the discovery of my leadership qualities. Among many benefits which this great organization has granted me, is the successful establishment of a charity organization, James Ogunbor Education Foundation, (www.joefng.com) in my country. An organization which supports children and youths in Africa in achieving their careers in education.

Since I joined SWE in 2007, I have always volunteered as an international member, carrying out several projects that meet the mission of the organization in Nigeria, through SWE’s Program Development Grants. This gradually helped me develop more interest in reaching out to my community in everyway that I can to improve the situation, especially as it concerns education.

The beauty of finding myself playing major roles in helping young girls in Nigeria find and follow their dreams in becoming engineers, is unexplainable. The joy on the faces of the girls at the end of the events and how much they express their gratitude to the organizers and sponsors of the event has always been overwhelming. An experience I never want to put an end to as far as I remain a SWE member.

I am immensely grateful to SWE and hope to keep volunteering for the organization and contributing in achieving its mission in Nigeria.

- Odegua Ogunbor
**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

**WES & ONCWIC**

Report by Shelly Gould (michelle.gould@swe.org)

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**Women’s Engineering Society Conference 2011**

WES Conference in 2011 will be taking place on 7th October 2011 starting at 8 am and will continue all day. The conference will be held at IET London, 2 Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, United Kingdom. Registration is open to all members, affiliates and non-members. Early bird discounted rates will apply until 31 August 2011. Visit [http://conference.wes.org.uk/](http://conference.wes.org.uk/) for more information and to register.

WES has a history of topical and relevant events to connect and inspire women working in engineering, technology and allied sciences stretching back to 1919 when they were first founded. This year’s theme is road and rail transportation. The event will provide a forum to showcase policy drivers, technological development, sustainability and engineering innovations in all aspects of road and rail transportation.

The event will feature submitted and invited papers and career development in leadership. Expressions of interest for sponsorship and a call for papers is now open. Abstracts of 200 words should be submitted to conference@wes.org.uk with ‘Getting there’, ‘abstract’ and the author’s name in the subject line. Papers should be presented with topical content in an accessible way for an informed general audience.

By taking part in ‘Getting there’ you will be connecting with other technical professionals working in road and rail. Whether you are senior or junior you will have the chance to meet with and inspire others as well as raising awareness of the current topical issues and policy drivers, sharing good practice and showcasing women at their best.

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**Ontario Celebration of Women In Computing (ONCWIC)**

This year, the Ontario Celebration of Women in Computing (ONCWIC) will take place on October 21/22, 2011 at the University of Toronto. The conference is being organized by the Women in Computing Science Group at the University of Toronto.

The Ontario Regional conference is modeled after the well-known Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) held annually in the USA. The goal of ONCWIC is to provide students, faculty and professional women in Ontario opportunities for networking, sharing and mentoring, similar to those provided by the GHC. It is hoped that ONCWIC will help build the computer science community within Ontario, with significant benefits to the attendees and their associated organizations.

The ONCWIC program focuses on research, academic and industry opportunities and networking. A combination of plenary presentations delivered by CS leaders, plus interactive group discussions, poster sessions and great social events make this event a must for women involved in computer science in both industry and academia.

There is a call for posters to enable informal discussions on each presenter's research or computing project, call for presentations on cutting-edge technical issues, original research and on social issues of relevance to undergraduate and graduate women in computing and call for panels and workshops on technical topics, outreach and/or career-related topics. Visit [http://www.oncwic.ca/](http://www.oncwic.ca/) for information on submission deadlines and to register.
Congratulations to the IEEE Canada Women in Engineering (WIE) Toronto Section for hosting a very successful first IEEE Canada WIE National Conference. This one day symposium on Future Friendly Technologies was held in Toronto on April 30, 2011, and was attended by over 80 delegates including professional engineers, students, and members of industry.

The conference program included keynote speakers Dr. Tom Rand, Lead Cleantech Advisor at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, “Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit: 10 Clean Technologies to Save Our World”, and Dr. Cindy Gordon and Alex Blom, Helix Commerce International Inc., “Innovation and Social Media (Future Friendly Technologies With Tremendous Depth and Credibility).”

The morning program included an informative workshop on financial planning for female engineers presented by Zoe Adrian, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., and a presentation about real-time monitoring for the industrial and commercial sector presented by Scott Rouse, Energy @ Work Inc. The morning concluded with a networking lunch and student poster session that provided delegates with the opportunity to network and view sponsor booths.

The afternoon program included a round table discussion in which participants predicted what engineering would be like “50 Years From Now...” The panel was moderated by Dr. Carolyn McGregor, Canada Research Chair in Health Informatics, University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

Participants included Dr. Ladan Tahvildari, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo; Dr. David Hill, Scientific Director, Lawson Health Research Institute; and Dr. Regina Lee, York University Space Engineering. In order to predict what engineering may be like in 2061, delegates were encouraged to examine the engineering accomplishments of the last 50 years, and what engineers may have predicted in 1961.

Proceedings of the conference can be found at: http://www.ieee.ca/wie/wienc11/proceedings.html
The SWE Region Programming Excellence Award for 2011 challenged SWE regions to develop a presentation on “Shaping Our Global Community”. In response, Region H presented a session on working and studying abroad at the 2011 Region H Conference held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on February 5, 2011. The session began with an icebreaker lead by Sainab Ninalowo, a Bradley University student from Nigeria, who demonstrated traditional tribal greetings. Participant's international knowledge was then challenged with a cultural fun facts quiz – which included questions such as “Which country has the highest percentage of elected female lawmakers in the world? *”

The professional portion of the session, presented by Halle Brooks of BP and Shelly Gould of Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, provided an overview of managing global teams, how collegiates can position themselves for international opportunities after graduation, how professional members can build their network globally, and tips for safe business travel for women. The opportunity to utilize the existing SWE International network was highlighted as an invaluable resource for SWE members.

Bethany Junke, and Samantha Spiering, Iowa University students, presented the collegiate portion, which included personal accounts from female engineering students that had participated in international service learning projects with Engineers Without Borders, and Engineers for a Sustainable World. Ms. Spiering, who had spent a term studying in Australia, provided an overview of how to find opportunities to study abroad and obtain a degree overseas.

Sainab Ninalowo concluded the presentation by sharing her experiences studying in the U.S., and providing insight into gaining a degree in another culture and overcoming the associated challenges. Ms. Ninalowo reminded us that colleges around the world include people from many different cultural backgrounds, all pursuing similar goals of education and success. Sainab challenged us to “see with brave eyes”, stressing the importance of capturing lessons from every experience, and remembering the overall common goal of obtaining an education.

* The answer to the quiz question is Rwanda with 56% in parliament after a Sept 2008 election. Women also hold the posts of foreign minister, education minister, Supreme Court chief, parliament speaker, and police commissioner general.
I am a born and raised Michigander; specifically from the Flint area. In 2005 I took a job offer with Continental AG, a German automotive firm as part of their Conti Explore Trainee Program directly in Hannover. Today I am a group leader within the Commercial Tire Technology department. What may be different compared to others that are on temporary assignments outside of the US, my contract is German and therefore I get both the ups (6 weeks of vacation) and the downs (40+% of my paycheck goes directly to taxes).

Working in Germany is different to working in the US. First of all, there is a strict separation between work and private life. This in general makes finding German friends at work quite difficult. Secondly, Germans don’t give positive feedback. No feedback should be good enough. This makes it hard as an American to know if the work that you delivered was on a good level or not. If it is not, you will definitely hear it in a blunt and honest manner, which I have come to appreciate in my times here. Sometimes things don’t need to be sugarcoated.

I learned since being here more or less what it means to be American. I understand when Germans hit a personal boundary for me (such as going with friends of another gender to a sauna where clothing is not allowed) that it is my Americaanness. I have learned a large amount of patience and the ability to deal with frustrations. I have learned importantly the ability to slow down and smell the roses. Take out time for myself and relax, its not necessary to always be on the run. Most importantly I met and married my husband here even though we grew up one hour from another in the Michigan.
Tips before you move abroad are really go through your contract with a fine tooth comb. Know what the options for a school or trailing spouse are before you sign. Is your income going to change with the currency rate or is it fixed? Get the Culture Shock books and any other books that you can find on the culture. Most importantly have patience and roll with it. Share your culture and I am sure that your new friends in your host country will share you theirs.

- Katie Herta
About three months have passed since I have worked here in Hanoi as an expatriate. It is my first experience to work abroad however I could have a chance to go to foreign country on a business trip.

Currently I work for Panasonic R&D center Vietnam, it has been built just four years ago. I am in charge of software development process improvement here, which includes training people on how to manage the project and assure the quality of our product.

For several years I have been working for a similar purpose from Japan side to organize the Asian development branch, but there were difficulties to manage the jobs remotely. Off course we could have utilized the TV conference system, telephone and IT facilities, but it has been difficult to collaborate especially to train the local engineers.

People have different customs, culture, sense of value for work even when we share the unique company philosophy. Additionally, we communicate in English as a operating language though both Japanese and Vietnamese are non native English speakers, sometimes we had misunderstanding in business. Knowing facts like those we couldn't see remotely in Japan is the start I have to do coming here.

When I came here, I am so impressed that everyone is so earnest and ambitious for everything, sometimes they are to rush all too quickly which seems to be due to the country's booming economy. Land prices have skyrocketed in Vietnam both in metropolitan areas and in rural ones.

On the other hand, I sometimes find similar traditional culture in Vietnam as Japan: visiting the temples to pray for happiness and health in the new year, food culture - eating rice, using chopsticks, etc.
In my private life, I traveled to Angkor Wat during the company holidays and enjoyed seeing a lot of ancient monuments, eating local food, and shopping there. Around here in Vietnam, there are many tourist spots. I am going to plan to visit many more attractive places during my stay here.

Something stimulating is happening every day, it was beyond my imagination.

I am sometimes nearly run over by motorbikes running on the sidewalk to commute to work. My stomach frequently gives me trouble by local food which is very delicious, though...

I would like to not only get a deeper understanding of another culture but also exchange experience in my work which is just getting started.

And I would like to introduce the activities of SWE here in Vietnam to the local members, too. I found there are so many hard-working and reliable women here.

I would say it should be a good experience to work abroad for me. You have to see it to believe it!

- Rieko Asai
Q. WHAT IS MY SWE COMMUNITIES?
A - SWE Communities in an online community with tools designed to facilitate discussion and information sharing among SWE members.

Q. HOW DO I ACCESS SWE COMMUNITIES?
A - Simply log onto www.swe.org and click on “My SWE Communities”. After entering your username and password, click on “Join Communities” at the top of the page. Search for and select “International Members” from the list of options.

SWE Communities

Q. WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS?
A – International members have their own community within SWE Communities. The community includes the following sub-communities:

- **International Members** - This is an open community for any and all SWE members. Use this community as an International resource for business or travel. Find out how many of our SWE members are living in different areas of the world and make contact! Information on upcoming professional development events, conferences, and the IMT newsletter are posted here.

- **International Member Business** - This is a private community for all International Team working business.

- **International Member Team Meetings** - This is a public community used for meeting planning and public business. Check here for meeting times, agendas, and summaries.

- **Pilot Group Pages** – These are open communities for each of the pilot groups.
Submitted by Jennifer Patterson – International Member Coordinator (jennifer.patterson@epfl.ch)

An important reminder that the next deadline for SWE's Professional Development Grant Program is coming up – 1st of Every Month.

Are you interested in putting on events but are unsure about how to obtain funding? One possibility is a SWE Program Development Grant. Any international member can apply for grant funds, even if you are not affiliated with one of the pilot groups. You can obtain information on Program Development Grants through the SWE Communities at http://communities.swe.org/COP/ProgramDevelopmentGrant/. If you would like to apply for a Program Development Grant and have questions, please contact me at jennifer.patterson@epfl.ch.

What are Program Development Grants and how do you apply? Funds can be used for outreach activities, for professional development activities, or for diversity issues and training, and the proposal should address one of SWE’s strategic goals. Program Development Grant proposals should include an executive summary; project description, benefits, and costs and resources; deliverables; metrics; project life; and budget. An explanation of each of these items, proposal forms, and the proposal submission procedure can be found in detail on the SWE Communities (http://communities.swe.org/COP/ProgramDevelopmentGrant/).

Now you can also submit repeated events not just new events!

Don't Forget:
Renew Your SWE Membership

The SWE fiscal year ended on June 30th, so don’t forget to renew your membership for FY12. You can do so online at www.swe.org through the member services center. Simply click on the link for “Member Services” on the main SWE website, log in using your SWE user ID, and select membership renewal. You can easily select and deselect options to create a customized invoice and then pay online.

As you are thinking about renewing your SWE membership, I’d also encourage you to get more involved with the International Member Team. If you are located in Germany, India, or Japan, contact your pilot group representative to find out more about activities being planned. Or, if you are located elsewhere in the world, consider joining the International Member Team and participate in our monthly online conference calls.

ICWES15: 15th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists

ICWES 15 - The 15th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists
19-22 July, Adelaide 2011

The National Committee for Women in Engineering, Engineers Australia and the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) have joined forces to host the 15th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES15), to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 19-22 July, 2011.

The Conference is held every three years, and attracts engineers and scientists from all over the world, providing a unique opportunity to exchange information on their work and environment. The Conference will be a unique opportunity to showcase the achievements of women in engineering, scientists and technology and to lead the way towards a sustainable future.

For more information go to: www.icwes15.org.
Connect with fellow SWE members, Participate in discussions and Network with professionals through Facebook and LinkedIn SWE National groups. There is a SWE International sub-group as well on LinkedIn! Click on the links below to join:

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<td>SWE Social Networking Groups</td>
<td>Find LinkedIn, Facebook and other social networking sites on the SWE website. <a href="http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=764&amp;Itemid=275">http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=764&amp;Itemid=275</a></td>
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If you have any questions, please free to contact me via email at megha.nelakonda@swe.org.

~Megha Nelakonda

We would like to invite all SWE IMT members to initiate and participate in discussions on the Society of Women Engineers Facebook page and SWE International subgroup on LinkedIn.

Once you “like” the SWE page on Facebook go to Boxes to start or participate in a discussion as shown on the right.

Once you become a member of the SWE International sub-group on LinkedIn, go to the Discussions tab to initiate or comment on a ongoing discussion as shown below:

Discussion Board

Did you know that these are the times for greatness?
1 post | Updated on October 13, 2010 at 1:16pm

Here are some ideas for discussions:

- Does working abroad add to your resume?
- Study Abroad: How to gain the most from it?
- How to obtain an international internship?
- Tips for living abroad with family?
- Visiting international destinations: Recommendations, To-Do’s and Not-To-Do’s
**Create Your SWE Username**

Don’t miss any SWE mailings or emails including the SWE magazine and messages from the IMT. Please create your SWE username at [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) under Member Services.

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**Message from the Editor**

We are always looking for interesting stories and articles to share with the rest of our readers. Have you recently moved to a new area of the world and want to talk about your experience? Are you wondering if there are other SWE members in the area? Would you like to start a SWE network? How about just reconnect with SWE friends from home?

We want to hear from you! Tell us and your fellow SWE members all about your new experience – whether it’s new for you in the U.S. or outside of the U.S., we’d love to hear about it!

Megha Nelakonda, Newsletter Editor  [imt.newsletter@swe.org](mailto:imt.newsletter@swe.org)

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**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR INTERNATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES!**

If you have taken an international assignment or have travelled abroad for work and would like to share your story and learning experience, please send it to [imt.newsletter@swe.org](mailto:imt.newsletter@swe.org).

Your valuable input and tips may help another person have a much smoother transition and make life a lot easier for them in a new place!

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**FY12 INTERNATIONAL MEMBER TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

The International Member Team is always looking for additional volunteers to participate in our group. Participation can range from joining in on our monthly conference calls to discuss issues of relevance to SWE International Members to taking a more active leadership role in the group.

Please contact the International Member Coordinator, Jen Patterson ([jennifer.patterson@epfl.ch](mailto:jennifer.patterson@epfl.ch)), for more information and to volunteer.