

GLOBAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY: A GLOBAL NETWORKING EVENT



Participants in the Global Women's Breakfast

Global Women's Breakfast titled Empowering Women in Chemistry: A Global Networking Event was held on 12th February 2019 at the Institute for Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Skopje, organized by the IUPAC initiative. The occasion for this event is the 100th anniversary of IUPAC and 150 years of the Periodic Table. Invitations were sent to all women chemists and technologists who are registered as SCTM members. A great interest was shown from many colleagues from the Institute of Chemistry, PMF, UKIM; Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, UKIM; Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, UKIM; Faculty of Technology and Technical Sciences, UKLO; Faculty of Biotechnical Sciences, UKLO; MIT University; MANU, state laboratories (National Conservation Centre, Institute of Public Health of Republic of Macedonia, JP Vodovod, Kumanovo), private companies (Alkaloid, GD Granit, Kozuvcanka-DOO, Marquardt MK, Hitech Corporation), The Bureau for Development of Education, as well as from many primary and secondary schools teachers in Macedonia.

A number of activities are planned by SCTM in 2019 to celebrate the International Year of the Periodic Table, thus we joined this IUPAC initiative to organize a women's breakfast. The idea of IUPAC for this breakfast is to gather women, chemists and technologists, employed in different types of organizations (universities, companies, schools, private and public sector laboratories) in order to share different experiences in their careers so far, and to consider opportunities for future cooperation. A 150 individual breakfasts were reported in IUPAC for this global event, in 44 different countries, including Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece ...

During this event, different issues were discussed, such as the students' interest in the natural sciences and the interest of the young people to study natural sciences; the effect of the family life on a woman's career; the equality of women and men when it comes to science and leadership; about the challenges that women face, etc.

We prepared a surprise for the participants of this event – a chocolate Periodic Table, in which even the poisonous elements are sweet. All participants signed on the poster with several most famous women scientists. This was a wonderful experience for all of us and therefore we express gratitude to all who attended this event.



Part of the preparations for the event

SCTM organizes a number of activities every year, such as publishing the Macedonian Journal of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and organization of congresses. The Chemical Education Section within SCTM actively participates in the preparation of chemistry competitions for primary and secondary school students, preparation and participation in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) and together with the Society of Physicists of the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian Biological Society in preparation and participation the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO), seminars for secondary and primary school chemistry teachers and other activities.

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