

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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Assalamu alaikum!

I am honored to be in this gathering of distinguished women in science. Our motive is to form a society. Before going to it, I would like to mention a few things.

- Each of us, male and female, have biologically the same brain and the same capability to understand the amazing mysteries of nature, finding out the laws that govern them and implement them for our benefits and advancement. Even if we use our brain continuously, we would probably use only 10-15% of it.
- No religion restricts a person from learning, gaining knowledge. Knowledge is a necessity. Islam encourages knowledge for both men and women
- All living forms, the world we live in, the universe around us have been created not to ignore them, but to know them for our purposes
- The more we know the universe, the nature, the human functions, living beings, the more beauty we see, the more power and control we have to solve problems, the more we will admire Allah and His creations
- Being a scientist, I feel rewarding. I have the freedom to think. I enjoy my work because I can get some new useful results and publish them in scientific journals and thus contribute to advancement. When I give a talk, I don't think about me as a woman, I think about my research that other scientists like to listen.

- They say Muslims women are way far behind than others in education, particularly in science. It is a factual statement if we notice women of other religions. It is also a fact that we are very much intellectually capable and can certainly make important contributions to science for human advancements.
- Family is very important for us. A woman has the special and unique capability to bring forth another human being to earth. Taking care of a human being is far more difficult job than anything else, because a human mind thinks independently and hence can always oppose to what you think. Taking care of a family can be most challenging and also be the most rewarding. However, a woman also needs to utilize her intellectual power. She needs support and time to detach. Detachment is needed for thoughtful work.
- Women are expected to be more modest than men, and therefore are not assertive of their opinions. We speak softly and usually keep quiet in professional or social meetings. The result is that the vocal men advances in positions. Women must speak up. We can be polite, but firm and clear. My mother used to say "She who does not have the shame, gains the knowledge".
- A woman faces much more problems than a man. We must adopt to ignore hostile and non-supportive comments, and putdowns by fellow students, friends, and others. As my father said that it is important to "Remain focused to your goal, and not to divert to the minor problems that will arise. They become insignificant with achievement"

- **General assumption: Science is not easy. Remember: Nothing worth comes easy. SCIENCE needs thinking, concentration and perseverance. Book says: Make effort - get one credit, Success - get two credits. Face the challenge and hit the boundary of your talent and power**
- **Make a practice: "I will keep at least two hours every day for my science regardless what part of the day"**
- Average: 8 hours of sleep and rest, 8 hours for various chores, use 2 hours of science out of this 8 hours.
- **Get part of any useful society, organization. You may find many benefits from it**
- **With the aim to support each other for the advancement of Muslim women in science, we propose to form a society which we can name "International Society of Muslim Women in Science (ISMWS)".**