

WOMENVAI

Transforming our ideas into a smarter today

April 2020 Newsletter

Dear colleagues and friends of the WOMENVAI platform!

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

French 2014 Economics Nobel Prize winner Jean Tirole considers that this period may be the opportunity to lead us to change our behavior and policies in the face of other scourges, such as global warming or inequality - and asks us this question "Facing Coronavirus: are we finally going to learn our lesson?"

From his perspective, our globalized society has not been investing enough in education and all sorts of knowledge management platforms, while neglecting the necessary fight against climate change, overlooking various policies that could limit the damage caused by disasters to young generations - artificial intelligence with no guidance, enormous debts, and many inequalities.

And yet, we have overcome wars, between states, or sanitary ones, and we feel we as individuals can behave in a more cooperative and altruistic way, with EMPATHY as the key to collective interest. The "health war against Covid-19" that we are fighting will help all of us explore our empathic skills, with our neighbours, families, colleagues and all our friends in the world who are in dire need of this.

Let's bet WOMENVAI can help all of us achieve these bolds objectives of life!



Yvette Ramos, President and co-founding member of WOMENVAI

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Ms. Lylian Coelho, Vice-President of WOMENVAI

Lylian is a French-Brazilian Engineer. A Civil Engineer by trade, she worked for several industrial groups as Saipem, Alstom, Vinci-Energies and Dextra. She currently holds the role of Project Manager and reports to the Energy Recovery and Proposal Department at SUEZ Group, leading several initiatives at once. Her projects focused on water and waste infrastructure, automotive and robotics industries and infrastructure construction. She travelled to Panama, Mexico, China, Jordan, Dubai, Angola... always in pursuit of

innovation, always hungry to discover the latest technologies and new cultures.

She is constantly looking to offer innovative solutions and working on solutions to reuse the unavoidable energy from an energy-from-waste plant to power an urban heating network, fruit farm greenhouses and to cool a skating rink without using fossil fuels and without emitting any additional CO².

With Womenvai she is leading the group to build a list of projects, financing and planning projects in STEM, creating synergy with our co-founders around the world.

We have set targets for the next five years at Womenvai: contributing to the solutions to reduce GHGs and taking part in webinars, workshops and initiatives with the United Nations committee secretariat.

She is always helping minority inclusion or creating jobs in engineering for young women, Lylian is fully committed; from France all the way to Brazil and from one COP meeting to another.

International Women's Day 2020 - Acts and Projects



UN Women's Equality Generation

WOMENVAI, together with its partners EPF Ecole d'Ingénieurs and HeHop, submitted a project under the scope of Equality Generation initiatives by the UN-WOMEN France programme... More to come in June 2020.



Geneva STEM Education Project

WOMENVAI, together with its partner Swiss Engineering Geneva and SEM Association, submitted a project for STEM education for kids aged 8-12 that includes a gender perspective and technical tools. Denisse Salas as project manager, will be following this for us! More to come in September 2020. Denisse Salas, a Systems Engineer with a Master of Science HES-SO (Switzerland) is Master Scrum Professional. She has accumulated life and work experience living several years in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Passionate by AI, Gender equality, environment and in constant reinvention of herself!



Denisse Salas



UNFCCC accreditation process

Other keys activities conducted during the Global Lockdown due to COVID-19 has been to register our NGO online to the UNFCCC accreditation process.. Our Call to ACT was well received by our partners and will be published shortly! More news from Lylia Coelho, focal point of WOMENVAI to the UNFCCC to come soon.

French Local NGO

IWD 2020, celebrated on the 8th of March, was also the opportunity to create local associations and boost initiatives for our colleagues, friends and neighbours who suffer from special situations at home, at work etc. On this occasion, our President, Yvette Ramos, kicked-off a french local NGO « LA ROCHE POUR ELLES » for which she was elected Secretary General.

Subscribe to [instagram/larochepourelles](https://www.instagram.com/larochepourelles) for more info.



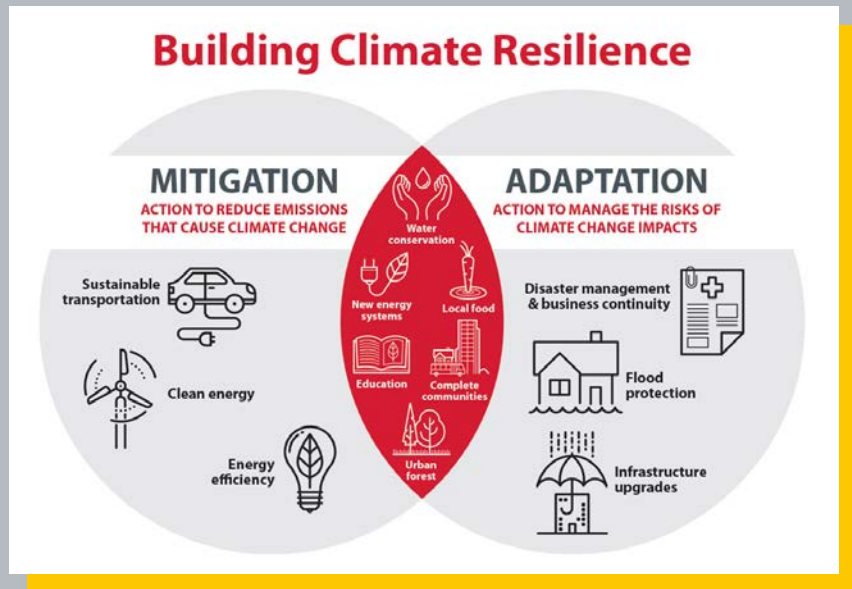
Funny Stuff

Around us, among our colleagues, families, friends, there are real wishes to share domestic activities: the men of the family go out to shop, the boys, just as much as the girls, help their parents in daily housework - cooking, ironing, cleaning, gardening... As we must admit: the lockdown give us a lot of time TOGETHER and thus no excuse not to HELP! Solidarity within couples can really be established with a mutual desire for sharing and consensus. It is not easy, we used to spend 8 hours a day on weekdays at work: now it is 24 hours all living together! Wow, what a change!

Back on WOMENVAI's commitment to our planet

Climate change Adaptation versus Mitigation: EXAMPLE

The Calgary City Council unanimously approved the Climate Resilience Strategy on June 25th, 2018. The diagram outlines the City's strategies and actions to reduce their contributions to climate change by improving energy management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation) and to respond to a changing climate by implementing risk management measures to reduce the impact of extreme weather events and climatic changes on infrastructure and services (climate change adaptation).



From our Special Envoy D^r Rocio Tapias, Spain: The 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), was hosted by the Spanish Government in December 2019.



A number of events took place during the Madrid Summit including the Gender and Climate Change event highlighting the important role of women as decision-makers and as agents of change, or the civil society groups marching at the Climate March to remind the governments currently present in Madrid to address urgent climate action that ensures a rights-based and people-centered global framework that works towards a just transition for all. One significant accomplishment was the approval of a new Gender Action Plan that strengthens gender considerations and women's participation in climate action.

Despite the disappointing results of the COP25 in terms of lack of commitment from varying countries for a raising ambition, the Climate Summit contributed much closer to agreement than previously. The COP25 highlighted the necessity of support for formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change information and capacity building at all levels, with a particular focus on STEM subjects, targeting women and girls at the national, regional and local levels. Many different events recognizing and celebrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in climate policy and action, were held, with the special participation of influential women from different fields, as role models for those that are girls now and will be the women undertaking technological entrepreneurship in the future.

Our special tribute to Spanish women engineers and scientists

Ana Justel (Spain), Statistics and Operational Research professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid, is a clear example of STEM woman. She has participated in eight research campaigns in the Antarctic, in which she uses statistics and data handling to foster scientific knowledge. In 2019, she received the prestigious Margarita Salas Award to her excellent scientist track.

June 2019, leading Spanish female scientist Margarita Salas won the prestigious lifetime achievement European Inventor Award. Her invention, based on phi29 DNA polymerase is now used widely in oncology, forensics and archaeology. She passed away in November 2019.



Key role of Scientists and Engineers in mitigating and adapting to the pandemic

By Prof. Lidia Santiago



Ms Lidia Santiago is the Vice-President of the OE - Ordem dos Engenheiros, (engineering society of Portugal that accounts over 30,000 individual members). She has been a professor since 1989 at ISEL (Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa) which is a higher education institution in the field of engineering and technology with a 160-year history of activities in the fields of education, professional training, research and provision of services to the community. She holds the professional title of Specialist in Food Engineering of the OE.

After the frantic agitation in which we all were walking, talking, running, traveling and achieving all (very important) things, here comes a virus (whose origin we shall not discuss here as it is not the topic of our paper), but which forces us to stop and analyze our present moments, and the moments that will come next.

The hectic day-to-day life neither allowed us to stop nor become aware that we live in the 21st Century and that, **as in any century, there is a moment of paradigm shift, quantum scientific leaps and new forms of life.** In the end we will still be grateful for the existence of this virus and finally conclude that the Universe is perfect and gives us what we need at the right time.

But right now, even if our scientists work hard to better define the enemy, so we can soon have health tools to fight with, the first line consists of those health warriors who battle the aggressive virus, to let the scientific line efficiently and intensively work for all of us.

Chemists, biologists, pharmacists, and basically engineers from all specialties, including in Hightech, deserve enormous recognition for their hard work in ensuring the functioning of the entire health area and ensuring continuity across the entire line of consumer needs. Indeed, our engineering societies contribute in producing the supply of electricity, communicating and operating efficient network systems, providing drinking water and its distribution, managing waste of all parts of the process, including dangerous goods, designing and producing artificial respirators and other necessary medical devices which are essential for the operations of our hospitals and clinics, installing field hospital devices and equipment.

From ventilation and pressure, to the operation of medical gas lines, to the optimization of risk prevention through the viability of contaminated / uncontaminated differentiation circuits of medical gas lines, to the optimization of prevention of risks through the viability of contaminated / non-contaminated differentiation circuits, the management of hospital waste, the mechanical and computer operation of installations and equipment are crucial.

Not only are engineers the warrants of any production management, but we contribute to the conversion and adaptation of the production of products adapted to the new requirements, with criteria of rigor, quality and safety, in such differentiated areas as polymers, textiles, footwear, construction materials, laboratory tests, treatment of results. Engineers are key stakeholders in the production of essential food products, from agricultural and horticultural products, meat, fish, milk, eggs, cereals, to transformation of those into safe foods, while ensuring transport and distribution in hygienic conditions and adequate temperatures until these finished good reach hospitals and elderly homes.

Engineers, men and women, are now in a second line of combat, united against a common enemy, and yet ensuring the best working conditions possible for the success of the entire medical system.

The quantum leap is underway, we just have to continue the path to the next moment ...

Our Financial supporters



Betty Bonnardel-Azzarelli
CEO of AB5 Consulting

AB5 Consulting is an award-winning SME business based in London, UK, and France which develops innovative solutions in an enabled environment with sound competencies in advisory and management activities. Since 2014 AB5 has carried out business development studies, system evaluation, project management and interface, bid organisation and management. We provide regulatory support to a range of stakeholders including satellite operators, high-tech companies, regulators and international organisations. The company is also developing its own projects, particularly focusing on innovation, sustainability and on the exploitation of IoT and AI.

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From project analysis to design, development, operation and maintenance, we cover all aspects of our customers' projects. As a company based in Tunisia and France, ABSHORE supports large account projects on an international scale and offers services both nearshore and on-site to our partners and clients.



Asma Brini
CEO of ABSHORE

Swiss Engineering is Switzerland's largest independent professional organisation bringing together over 10'000 engineers, technicians and architects within 30 specialised groups throughout the country. Since 1905, we have been committed to assist engineers and architects in their careers and projects and have provided them with a networking platform, as well as a voice to defend their interests. Our 150 delegates give our individual members a voice through political instances and representation within commissions, and also promote engineering among society and the public. It is, under the umbrella of the National Swiss Engineering Committee, a member of the WFEO- World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

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Since its creation over 10 years ago, our IP (industrial property) counsels and Patents engineers provide our customers with premium expertise on intellectual property management on a global scale. Our team brings

together highly-skilled, experienced professionals both from the legal and technical fields. Our European Patent Attorneys help boost the innovation process within your industries, throughout the entire patent process and the protection of the IP rights worldwide. We specialise in high-technology areas such as micromechanics, automated systems, watchmaking, medical equipment, electronics systems, etc.

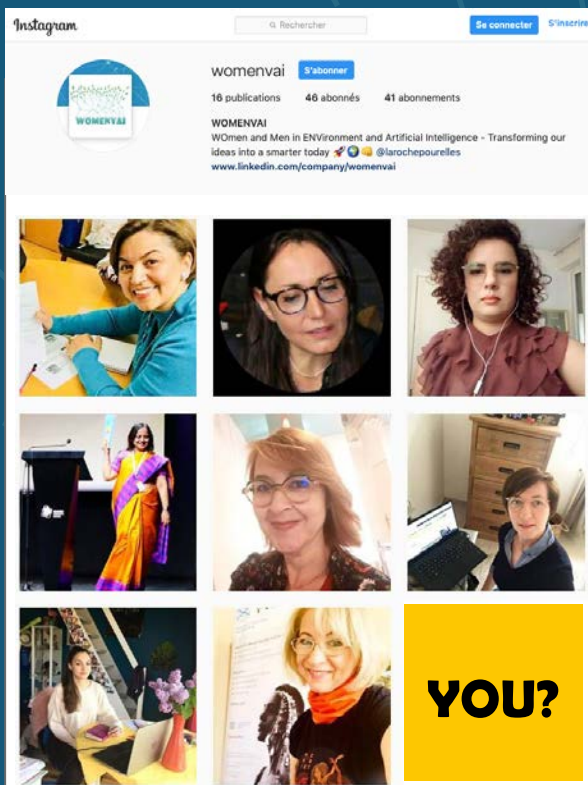


Denis Aivazian, Stéphane Moreau
European Patent Attorneys

Forthcoming events 2020

Where WOMENVAI and its partners will have a say

May 5th	Online	“The Future of Us, AI + Gender” Webinar - AI for Good Global Summit 2020 Focusing on current gender issues in AI such as algorithmic bias and data inclusivity, to identify AI solutions that empower underrepresented communities and enable an equitable future for humanity. More info here
May 28th	Online	WOMEN IN TECH Virtual World Tour Roundtable Women Engineers Contribution to SDGs. More info here
August 31st - September 4th	Geneva, Switzerland	WSIS Forum 2020 In collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP “High-tech Innovative Solutions for a Safer and Sustainable Modern Society” panel, moderated by Swiss Engineering “Women engineers and technicians contributing to the ICTs related SDGs and WSIS objectives” and “Waste and Water data solution to reduce environmental impact/ European Water Project” panels, both moderated by WOMENVAI. More info here



Why not become our next “newcomer”?

You may want to join as Donor, Partner, or Ambassador: just contact us!

Join Womenvai’s Instagram [here](#)

Who we are: the co-founding members

Executive Committee

Yvette Ramos, president, France/Switzerland
Lylían Coelho, vice-president, France/Brazil
Inès Aivazian, treasurer, France
Sophie Magnier, deputy-treasurer, Belgium/France
Lidia Zakowska, secretary general, Poland

Ethics Committee

Soizic Vangrevelinghe, France
Denis Aivazian, France,
Sangeeta Wij, India

Communication

Ariane Barbier, France
Asma Brini, France/Tunisia
Camille Coq, France
Guillaume Pahud, France/Switzerland
Denisse Salas, Bolivia/Switzerland

Projects

Liliane Dorveaux, France
Marwa Zaghib, Tunisia
Nadia Souissi, Tunisia
Betty Bonnardel-Azzarelli, UK/ France
Lidia Santiago, Portugal

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