

PANEL SESSION 38 - International Youth Nuclear Congress/Young Professionals

Co-Chairs: Robert Berry, *Foxfire Scientific, Inc. (UK)*;
Leonel E. Lagos, *Applied Research Center (USA)*

Reporter: Leonel E. Lagos, *Applied Research Center (USA)*, for Corhyn Parr

Panelists Included:

- Jessica Lane, *Engineer, Arizona Public Service (US)*
- Connor Deehan, *President, Young Generation in Nuclear (UK-YGN) and International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC) Fellow (UK)*
- Dara Hrytzak-Lieffer, *Manager, Cameco Corporation (Canada)*
- Rosa Ramirez, *Engineer, US DOE Office of Environmental Management (US)*

Some 35 to 45 people were present to hear a lively discussion and presentations of young professional. Following introductions by the Co-Chairs, **Leonel Lagos and Robert Berry** opened the proceedings. Remarks were made by Leonel Lagos describing the purpose of this panel session and some of the expectations from this panel discussion. The purpose of the panel is to focus on international activities of the Young Generation Network. Outstanding young professionals from the UK, Canada and the United States were assembled for this session and each one of the panel members presented their prospective of the nuclear industry and their respective programs.

Jessica Lane's presentation focused on Arizona Public Service's outreach programs within local community. She presented several programs and initiatives that APS has in place with local school (middle and high schools).

Connor Deehan represented a description of several UK programs that involve young professionals. He discussed UK's Young Generation in Nuclear (UK-YGN) program and his personal experience in this program. He also presented the International Young Nuclear Congress program and provided specific examples of activities within this program. He also mentioned the World Nuclear University program and explained its activities. He also discussed and presented several outreach initiatives conducted under these programs.

Dara Hrytzak-Lieffer - the first part of Mrs. Hrytzak-Lieffer's talk focused on her experience at the World Nuclear University (WNU) during the summer of 2010. She described the importance of team building exercises and how the WNU focused on both on building up the students on a professional and personal level. She mentioned the importance of the mentors assigned to each of the groups as well as the great number of visiting nuclear professionals as well as other lecturers. The second part of her talk focused on her efforts to start a local chapter of YGN at her company's headquarters.

Rosa Ramirez gave a very interesting talk on her continuing experience within the DOE-EM professional development program. Rosa has an interesting perspective since this is the third year in a row she has detailed her experiences in a talk during WM. She once again stressed the importance of mentoring for a young professional and career development. Rosa is a role model for next group of FIU students as they move forward in their careers within the EM-DOE. A

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part of her talk also focused on her lessons learned as a young engineer working within a large government agency and the importance of working to the best of your ability and the willingness of co-workers to listen to new ideas.

Public Comment and/or Questions

Comment – Mr. Leif Erickson commended the DOE Fellow’s program. He mentioned he had the opportunity to visit FIU and had the opportunity to interact with the DOE Fellows.

Comment – Several students and young engineers present in the audience described their expectations of employers and the workplace.

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