



Women in Microwaves

Lessons From Professionals—The WiM Session at IWS 2019

■ Ye Han, Xiuping Li, and Wenquan Che

The 2019 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) International Wireless Symposium (IWS 2019), part of 2019 China Microwave Week, was held in Guangzhou, China, 19–22 May. Along with the conference, a special session, “Women in Microwaves and Wireless,” organized by the MTT-S Women in Microwaves (WiM) Subcommittee, took place during the afternoon of 21 May. More than 30 people gathered for the event, including five panelists from Belgium, France, the United States, and China, as well as professionals and graduate students (Figure 1). Three MTT-S Administrative Committee members attended to lend their support: Wenquan Che, Rashaunda Henderson, and MTT-S President Dominique Schreurs.

The special session focused on inspiring and motivating women

engineers and researchers to continue their careers and fostering an environment for their professional growth in the academic and corporate sectors. Chair Dr. Xiuping Li introduced the guests and shared her views on the event’s goals. The session was divided into four parts: a warm-up speech, three invited talks, a panel discussion, and concluding remarks.

To begin the session, Prof. Schreurs, the first woman to serve as MTT-S president, delivered a greeting during which she briefly discussed reasons to join the Society and explained the benefits of membership. She encouraged young professionals to become members of the MTT-S, where they have the opportunity to meet distinguished experts who can help foster their career development (Figure 2).

Rosie Chawla, from GreatChina International Education, Chengdu, delivered the presentation “The Gender Gap Facts From the World Economic Forum,” in which she reviewed women’s participation

levels in areas such as leadership, economics, health, and education [Figure 3(a)]. Dr. Jingping Liu, from Nanjing University of Science and Technology, China, and Weihong Qin, from the Social Service Center of Wuhou District, Chengdu, gave short talks about the balance between work and family, in which they shared their experiences and difficulties [Figure 3(b) and (c)].

During the panel session, Dr. Schreurs, Dr. Henderson, Prof. Chawla, and Dr. Liu shared their thoughts about and encounters with many subjects, such as

Ye Han (*hanye_xa@163.com*) is with Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China. Xiuping Li (*xpli@bupt.edu.cn*) is with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China. Wenquan Che (*eeuqche@scut.edu.cn*) is with South China University of Technology, China.

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Figure 1. Attendees gather for the WiM session at IWS 2019. (Source: Ye Han; used with permission.)



Figure 2. MTT-S President Dr. Dominique Schreurs delivers the welcome address. (Source: Ye Han; used with permission.)



Figure 3. The invited speakers: (a) Rosie Chawla (left), (b) Weihong Qin, and (c) Jingping Liu. (Source: Ye Han; used with permission.)



Figure 4. The panel discussion. From left: Rashaunda Henderson, Rosie Chawla, Dominique Schreurs, and Jingping Liu. (Source: Ye Han; used with permission.)



Figure 5. Wenquan Che, chair of the MTT-S WiM Subcommittee, delivers the special session's concluding remarks. (Source: Ye Han; used with permission.)

important qualities for professional women to possess and how to overcome career challenges. They also recounted their most important achievements (Figure 4).

Concluding the event, Dr. Che, chair of the WiM Subcommittee, offered some final comments (Figure 5). She said that women and men have equal rights to pursue their dreams and that

people should never limit themselves because of their gender. She mentioned that self-development is important for all people and reminded audience members to be helpful to others. 