On Tuesday, 22 May 2018, Prof. Marta Molinas from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, gave a talk about her career as part of the Women in Engineering (WIE) breakfast held during the 2018 IEEE International Power Engineering Conference and Energy Conversion Congress and Exposition Asia at the Toki Messe Niigata Convention Center in Japan (Figure 1). In her talk, “The Journey to My Dream: From Astronomy to Electrical Engineering and More,” Prof. Molinas shared the inspiring story of her childhood dream and how it led her to electrical engineering, traveling around the world, and researching electric power systems. Her talk drew in more than 40 attendees, both women and men, who represented countries from all around the world (Figure 2).

After the talk, the floor was open for questions and discussion. Some younger attendees asked for career advice while others shared their own career experiences, and the group had a fruitful discussion about

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improving gender balance in engineering and power electronics. The event was organized by IEEE Fellow Dr. Noriko Kawakami from Toshiba Mitsubishi Electric Industrial Systems Corporation, Tokyo, who not only facilitated the event but also shared some of her own career experiences as a prominent leader in the power electronics field. The WIE breakfast was a unique opportunity for attendees to receive career advice directly from accomplished IEEE Members such as Prof. Molinas and Dr. Kawakami.

WIE breakfasts are held at most major IEEE Power Electronics Society conferences. During a breakfast, a prominent woman in power electronics or engineering shares her career challenges and triumphs through a talk. Afterwards, attendees are invited to discuss relevant topics and establish important connections through networking. The WIE breakfasts are open to all who support efforts to provide mentorship to women and underrepresented groups in power electronics.

About the Author
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