



WIN Report from the 2018 Congress in Seoul

Dear Women attendees of the IFA Seoul Congress,

Women of IFA, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the IFA Congress in Seoul Korea earlier this month. As a number of you were unable to attend the WIN TEA on Wednesday afternoon during the Congress, I thought I would give you a brief update.

I think we all agree that IFA is a terrific organization and we recognize that the annual IFA Congress generates not only an outstanding technical program but also provides us with an opportunity to network with top professionals from all over the world.

In 2013 the first WIN TEA was introduced to enhance that congress experience for women. Such a get together, allows us to more easily break down country barriers and get acquainted with professionals beyond our own “country branches”. We are then more comfortable joining our new international colleagues at breaks, events, the Gala and even for pre or post congress tours. The opportunity to create such deep cross-border relationships is very valuable and is a benefit that few organizations can provide. In addition, the TEA allows us to discuss professional issues that affect women in their careers and to share how these issues play out in different cultures.

At the TEA on Wednesday, Claire Hyejung Byun, Associate Professor at the University of Seoul provided an inspirational speech of her experience as a woman tax professional in Korea. Juliane Kokott, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg also shared with us some of the challenges she encountered during her career and her rise to the prominent position she now holds. Both provided encouragement and stressed the need for perseverance in pursuing ones goals.

In addition, WIN branch representatives and women from countries who were not represented, came to the podium to report on the WIN activities held in their branch during the year. Others spoke of challenges existing, which prevented them from organizing activities or explained why they felt no WIN group was needed in their country.

We have asked the individuals representing the branches to post a brief report on the LinkedIn site in order to share their experience with the WIN community around the world. [Women of IFA Network \(WIN\)](#).

As background information, the idea to have WIN activities at the branch level arose several years ago when some women who attended the WIN Tea at the congress, expressed the desire to organize a similar initiative in their own country. At this time, there is no formal process for selecting branch representatives however a grass-roots initiative exists.

If you would like to participate in your country, please contact your local WIN representative listed on the WIN section at the [IFA website](#) and let them know that you would like to be included and by all means, volunteer.



International Fiscal Association

If you do not have a WIN group yet in your country and are interested in organizing such a group, then reach out to your branch leadership and then simply go ahead and plan a “get together”. Contact [Wies van der Sluis](#) of the General Secretariat to be added to the list and CC [Jeanne Goulet](#).

One of the duties of a WIN branch representative is to communicate to the global group. This can be done on the LinkedIn site mentioned above and at the WIN TEA at the congress. WIN groups are developing at different rates and in different directions throughout the world and it is very interesting to find out what they are doing; what types of activities take place as well what types of issues and problems arise in different countries. We have the opportunity to learn from each other!

Over the last few years, some countries such as Germany and Switzerland have organized quite a number of social events and structured technical programs. For certain programs they also invite their male colleagues. Others, like the US branch, are merely getting started and will be conducting a survey to get a better understanding of the needs to be addressed.

We are very fortunate to have the support of our IFA president, Murray Clayson. On March 8, 2018, Murray wrote to the IFA Branch Presidents & Chairs to ask them for their assistance with a new initiative to encourage women to participate more fully in IFA activities. In addition in March, Murray set up a WIN Steering Committee so that we can gain a better understanding of how to use WIN, as a platform, to enhance the IFA experience for women members. Please feel free to contact us with your questions, suggestions and comments... but most of all to volunteer and become an active member of IFA.

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I thank you all for your energy, enthusiasm and support and I look forward to seeing you in London for the next congress.

Sincerely,

Jeanne P. Goulet