

## WFWP speaks to Italian Association of Women Engineers and Architects

M. Gabriella Mieli  
June 29, 2017



Maria Gabriella Mieli, WFWP Vice President of the Italian chapter, was invited as speaker at the national conference of the Italian Association of Women Engineers and Architects on the occasion of their 60th anniversary. A full and intense day organized in the prestigious main hall (Salone d'Onore) of the Castle of Valentino.

A.I.D.I.A. was founded thanks to the will of a group of women engineers and architects in 1957, who decided to create a women's organization to enhance women's work in technical field and it was pioneering because it went against the stereotype of the woman at home of the 50s and 60s.

The program saw the participation of the local and national authorities (Presidents of Municipality and Regional Council, the prorektor of Politecnico, Presidents of the national associations of Architects and Engineers).

The Award Ceremony for AIDIA Honorary members to those founder women still alive was very touching: among them Dr. Amalia Ercoli Finzi, scientist, first Italian Aerospace woman Engineer, member of the NASA Scientific Committee. After sections including book presentations, the award ceremony for AIDIA Excellence, it was introduced the Women's Network.

Maria Gabriella Mieli introduced WFWP work and GWPN. With reference to some previous speakers she underlined the perseverance, enthusiasm and specially passion as keys elements to obtain results, despite the challenges of life such as among others the choice of academic studies and the balance between public and private life.

The aim of the event was not only to celebrate AIDIA history, but also to develop networks among women representatives from architecture, engineering, research, art, industry and various organizations analyzing themes linked to being women in the technical fields. The focus of the conference was "Women who build". All the participants at the conference received a lot of encouragement to continue in their efforts despite different problems. The self-fulfillment of women as professionals will allow them to have impact on progress, bringing about an overall social and professional improvement.

M. Gabriella Mieli  
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