

# COLLOQUIUM BY LING-AN WU

FIXING THE GENDER BALANCE IN STEM, ESPECIALLY PHYSICS

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 7 SEP 2016

VENUE: AB 1079

## *Fixing the gender balance in STEM, especially physics*

**Speaker:** Ling-An Wu, Professor Emerita, Laboratory of Optical Physics, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences



### ABSTRACT:

It is well known that women are underrepresented in STEM fields, namely science, technology, engineering and maths. Even in biology and medicine which have a relatively high proportion of women, there are very few at the top levels due to the “leaky pipeline” and “glass ceiling” phenomena. The case is most severe for physics, so much so that in 2000 the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics set up a Working Group on Women in Physics (WGWIP) to study this problem, and encouraged all member societies to set up a WGWIP. During my ten years in this Group I was amazed to see the similarities and differences of the status of women around the world; the situation in China is neither the best nor the worst. Since we set up the first WGWIP of the Chinese Physical Society, we have made considerable progress, but still face many challenges. I will briefly review the overall situation of women in STEM both at home and abroad, past and present, and look towards the future.

### BIO:

**Ling-An WU** is professor emerita in the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOP CAS). She grew up in England where she attended the Oxford High School for Girls and obtained

a State Scholarship before returning to China to study physics in Peking University. On graduation she was assigned to a state farm, then three years later to IOP CAS where she worked on translation and interpreting. She later obtained a Ph.D. in physics in 1987 from the Univ. of Texas at Austin under H. J. Kimble, with a thesis on the generation of squeezed states of light from an optical parametric oscillator. She has published ~160 journal papers with ~3000 citations on experimental and theoretical quantum optics and nonlinear optics, including the generation and application of quantum states of light, quantum cryptography, and "ghost" imaging. She was formerly Co-Editor of *Chinese Physics Letters*, Council Member of the Chinese Physical Society (CPS) and the Association of Asia Pacific Physics Societies, member of the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics, and chair of the CPS WGWIP, of which she is still a member. She has been awarded the National March 8th Red Banner Award, the CPS Xie Xi-De Award for Physics, and the Social Service Award from the China Association of Women Scientists.