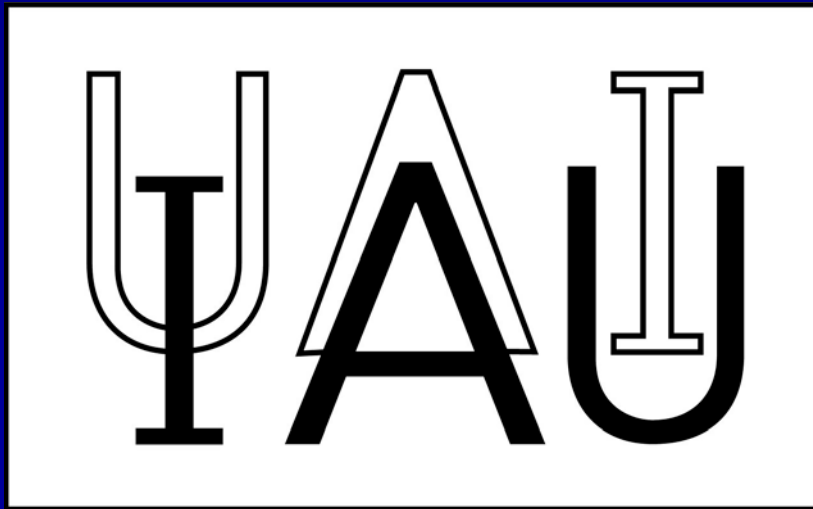


Roles of women astronomers in the IAU



Ewine F. van Dishoeck
Leiden Observatory, the Netherlands

President-elect IAU

What is the IAU?

- **Worldwide union of all professional astronomers**

Promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation

- **Founded in 1919**
- **12391 members from 98 countries**
 - 17% women
- **Scientific organization in Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups**

IAU Divisions

- **A: Fundamental Astronomy**
- **B: Facilities, Technologies and Data Science**
- **C: Education, Outreach and Heritage**
- **D: High energy phenomena and Fundamental Physics**
- **E: Sun and Heliosphere**
- **F: Planetary Systems and Bioastronomy**
- **G: Stars and Stellar Physics**
- **H: Interstellar Matter and Local Universe**
- **J: Galaxies and Cosmology**

Activities of the IAU

- **Scientific meetings**
 - General Assembly every 3 years
 - 2018: Vienna; 2021: Busan!
 - IAU Symposia: 9 per year
 - Regional IAU meetings
 - International School Young Astronomers (ISYA)
 - Sponsor of other meetings



IAU GA 2015 Hawaii: >3000 participants, 74 countries

- **Naming of astronomical objects and surface features**



Activities of the IAU (3)

- **Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD)**
 - South Africa
- **Office of Astronomical Outreach (OAO)**
 - Japan
- **Prizes**
 - Gruber prize in cosmology
 - Gruber fellowship for young scientists



Wendy Freedman

TGF fellowship 2016



Laetizia Delrez



Maria Drozdovskaya

\$25000 research funding each



Organization IAU

- **President (3 yr)**
- **President-Elect (3 yr prior)**
- **General Secretary (3 yr)**
- **Assistant General Secretary (3 yr prior)**
- **Vice presidents (6 for each 6 yr)**
- **Division presidents (9 for each 3 yr)**

Officers: **P + P-e + GS + AGS**

Executive Committee: **Officers + Vice presidents**

Secretariat in Paris: 1.5 fte

IAU officers 2015



**3 women
1 man**

President: Silvia Torres-Peimbert
President-elect: EvD

GS: Piero Benvenuti
AGS: Teresa Lago

History of the IAU

The Birth and First Half-Century
of the International Astronomical Union

Adriaan Blaauw



International Astronomical Union

Kluwer Academic Publishers

General Assembly Leiden 1928

**Executive
Committee:**

All men!



A few women present

General Assembly Cambridge USA 1932



IAU (assistant) General Secretary



**Edith Mueller: AGS 1973-1976; GS: 1976-1979: first female (A)GS
Nel Splinter: first Assistant Secretary (Miss IAU)**

General Assembly 1958 Moscow



Polish stellar astronomer

First female vice president: Wilhelmina Iwanowska 1973-1979

Female statistics IAU members

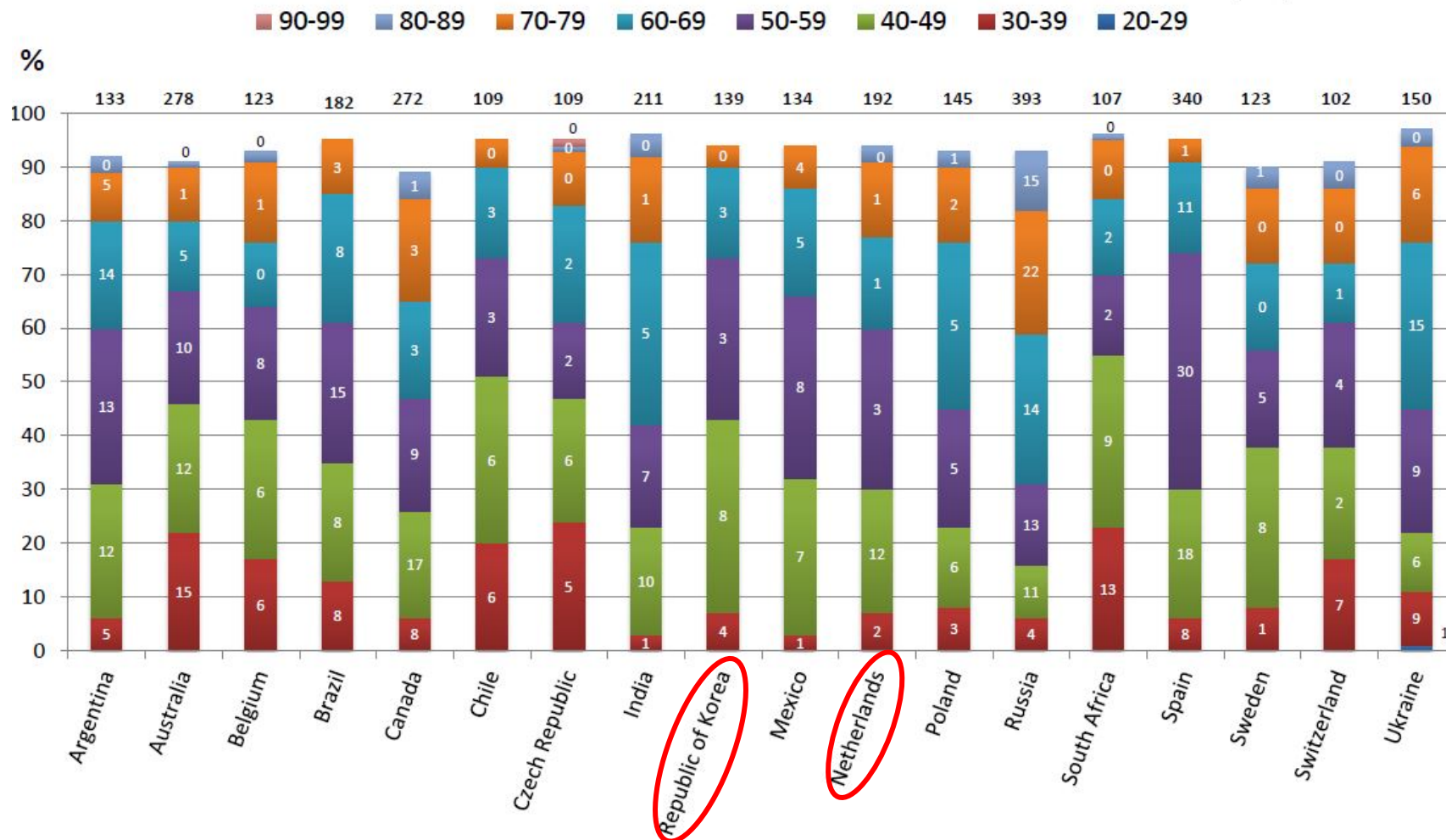
Year	Percentage female
1939	10.8
1948	10.3
1957	10.7
1969	8.8
1978	8.8
1987	9.6
1999	11.5
2008	12.9
2016	16.3

Some increase in recent years, but fraction still disappointingly low

Statistics per country per age bin

Active Members from Countries with 100-399 Members

- In black above each graph: number of members per country
- In white within graph: number of women per country in a given age-range



13%

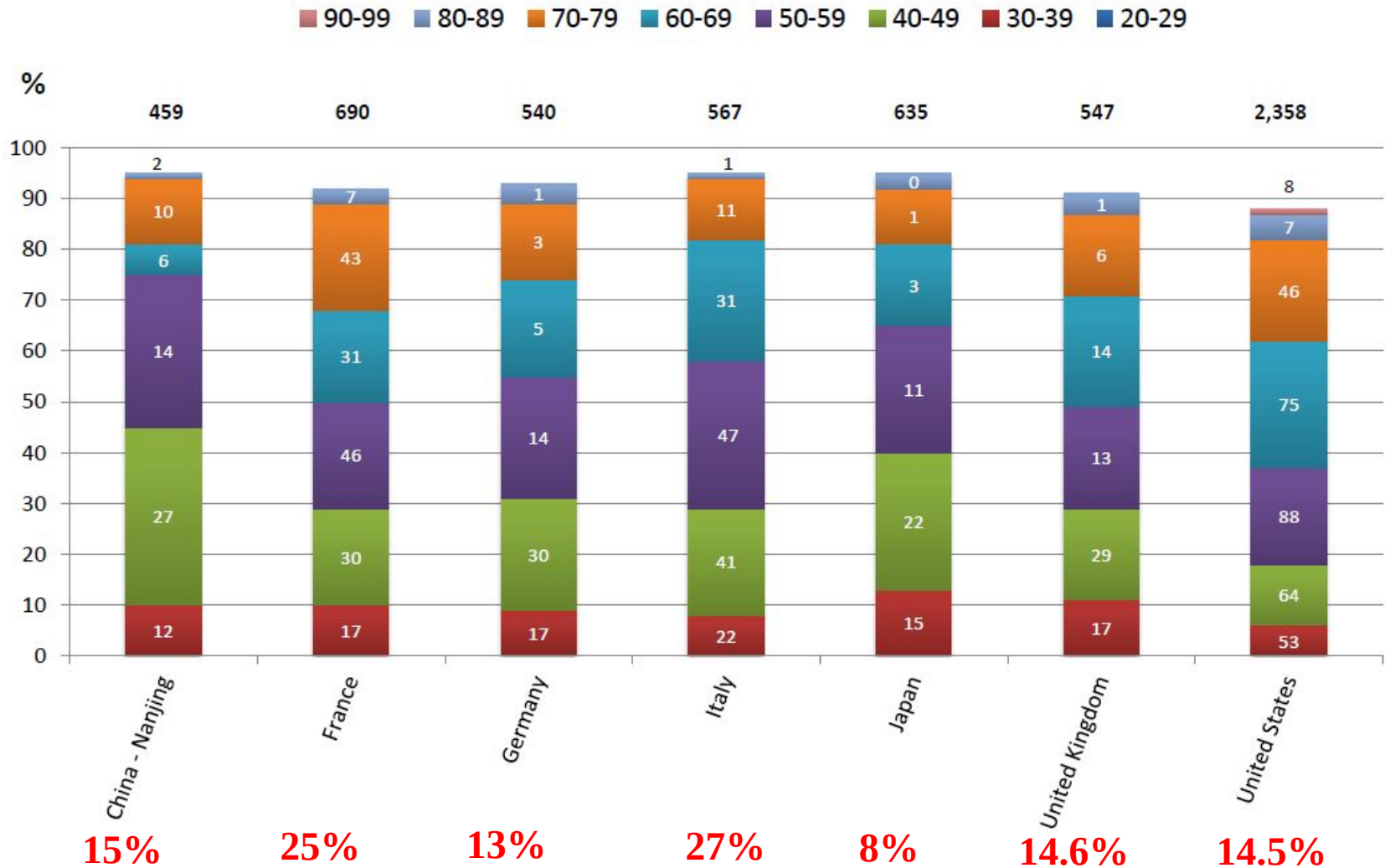
10%

Figures posted at www.iau.org announcements

Statistics per country per age bin

- In black above each graph: number of members per country
- In white within graph: number of women per country in a given age-range

Active Members from Countries with 400+ Members



Actions to promote women

- **More women in high IAU positions**
- **Activities**
- **Women in astronomy committee**
 - **Women in astronomy lunches**
 - **Mentoring**
 - **Schools**
 -
- **Junior members (TBC)**

Female IAU Presidents



Catherine Cesarsky
2006-2009



Silvia Torres-Peimbert
2015-2018



Ewine van Dishoeck
2018-2021

Female (A)GS



Jacqueline Bergeron 1988-1994

Edith Mueller 1973-1979



Teresa Lago 2015-2021

New IAU Officers 2015



3 women, 1 man

IAU Executive Committee



Mexico City May 2016

3/6 Vice Presidents

Division presidents 2012-2015



5 women, 4 men



Women in astronomy lunches



International Schools for Young Astronomers



ISYA Honduras 2015



West Africa



JEDI Namibie

Organization symposia and GA

- Many women co-chair of IAU symposia
- GA 2021 in Busan led by Hyesung Kang!



Summary

- Fraction of women in IAU still low
- Fraction of women in high positions IAU is now high
- Actions to attract more women and making them more visible
 - *Suggestions welcome!*
- Women can grow within IAU to leadership positions
 - WG, Commission, Division Steering committees
 - Organizing IAU Symposia