



### Risk and Opportunity for Women in Science

based on an article by **KATRIN BENNHOLD**

- 1 The quiet revolution that has seen women across the world catch up with men in the work force and in education has also touched science, that most stubbornly male bastion. In 2009, three women received Nobel prizes in the sciences, a record. Women now earn 42 percent of the science degrees in the 30 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (O.E.C.D.); in the life sciences, such as biology and medicine, more than 6 out of 10 graduates are women. Younger women, too, are sticking more with science after graduating. In the European Union, the number of women researchers is growing at a rate nearly twice that of their male counterparts.
- 2 But if progress has been dramatic since the two-time Nobel physicist Marie Curie was barred from France's science academy a century ago, it has been slower than in other parts of society – and much less uniform. The number of women who are full science professors at elite universities in the United States has been stuck at 10 percent for the past half century. Throughout the world, only a handful of women preside over a national science academy. Women have been awarded only 16 of the 540 Nobels in science. They get more degrees and score higher grades than men in industrialized countries, but they are still paid less and are more likely to work part time. And the big money in science these days is in computers and engineering – the two fields with the fewest women.

- 3 Science, in effect, will be the last frontier for the women's movement. With humanity ready to tackle pressing challenges – from climate change to complex illness to the fallout from the digital revolution – shortages of people with the right qualifications are becoming apparent in many countries. Therein lie both opportunity and risk for women: In the years to come, the people who master the sciences will change the world – and most likely command the big paychecks.
- 4 Many obstacles women face in general are starkly crystallized in the scientific and technological professions. Balancing a career with family is particularly tricky when the career clock competes with the biological clock or an engineering post requires working long periods on an offshore oil rig.
- 5 And stereotypes run deep. Blanca Trevino is a Mexican computer scientist and chief executive officer of Softek, the largest private information-technology service provider in Latin America. She recalls that a kindergarten teacher would call

- her to complain about her daughter, who was playing with a calculator instead of with dolls. "The lady told me that my daughter was making up stories, saying that her mother had an office and an assistant," Ms. Trevino said. "The idea that this could be true did not occur to her."
- 6 Recently, however, two shifts have begun to focus the thinking of politicians and companies. The number of science and technology graduates from countries like China and India is rising just as the economic balance of power is shifting eastward. The West, 16, suffers from shortages of engineers and other highly qualified labor. By 2017, a shortfall of 200,000 engineers is expected in Germany, and in Britain more than half a million skilled workers will be needed to satisfy the demands of the green energy, aerospace and transport industries. In conclusion, everything is in place for more women to succeed and become leaders in science.

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## Tekst 5 Risk and opportunity for women in science

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- 1p 12 What becomes clear from paragraph 1?
- A Some prizes for scientific achievements can only be won by women.
  - B The contributions of women in science are still rather insignificant.
  - C The number of women entering the world of science is clearly rising.
  - D Women are behind most of the recent scientific breakthroughs.
- 1p 13 How does paragraph 2 relate to paragraph 1?  
Paragraph 2
- A draws conclusions from the information given in paragraph 1.
  - B gives examples of the information given in paragraph 1.
  - C puts the information given in paragraph 1 in a different perspective.
  - D supports the information given in paragraph 1.
- 2p 14 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de inhoud van alinea 3 en 4.
- 1 Vrouwen met een natuurwetenschappelijke opleiding kunnen profiteren van de huidige maatschappelijke ontwikkelingen.
  - 2 Vrouwelijke wetenschappers worden door hun mannelijke collega's vaak niet serieus genomen.
  - 3 De combinatie van gezin en werk is moeilijker te verwezenlijken in de techniek en de wetenschap dan in andere sectoren.
  - 4 Vrouwen zijn fysiek minder geschikt voor bepaalde technische beroepen.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- 1p 15 What does the example of Blanca Trevino (paragraph 5) make clear?
- A Children of working mothers tend to develop abnormal behaviour.
  - B People do not expect women to have high positions.
  - C South American women with a career stay childless.
  - D Working mothers are often criticized most fiercely by other women.
- 1p 16 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 6?
- A as a result
  - B likewise
  - C meanwhile
  - D nevertheless

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.