



## International Baron Marcel Nicolet Medal for space weather and space climate

rewards efforts to structure the space weather community at an international level. This year, the International Medal Committee decided to award

### Dr Christine Amory Mazaudier

Christine Amory-Mazaudier is a gifted scientist, with more than 90 space weather papers in refereed journals, and more than 10 PhD students. However, in the frame of the Nicolet medal, I would like to emphasize another essential aspect of her career.

The most astonishing achievement of her international career is the introduction of space weather to people in more than ten developing countries. In her lucid vision, she emphasized the need for “laboratory without borders” as a means of mainstreaming gender in traditionally nonfemale disciplines. She also highlighted how support funding from international projects such as the “International Space Weather Initiative” had assisted women in their research works. She often says, “in order to build a new world that is gender balanced, we need to think differently”.

Since 1995, at the end of the International Equatorial Electrojet Year when African and European scientists decided to create the GIRGEA (International Research Group Europe Africa-Asia), Christine Amory-Mazaudier actively contributed to pursue the scientific work. The main objective of GIRGEA was to introduce space sciences research in developing countries, and to build teams of scientists in these countries recognized at an international level. Christine Amory-Mazaudier developed a large network of scientists from developed and developing countries. The process proposed by Christine Amory-Mazaudier is *Work Based on Ethical Rules and Sharing Practices* in terms of scientific publications and socio-cultural aspects as the increase of the number of women and positions for students in their countries.

The emerging idea of Christine Amory-Mazaudier to achieve this goal is the organization of 1) training in several disciplines in the project, 2) teaching in management and data base organization, following the students and help them to enter in the international community. Finally, the students are involved in the project and can propose new development. She maintains communication with a newsletter and keeps contact with all the participants.

Practically, she introduced a new method that proved incredibly efficient. Space Weather researchers from Northern countries can propose PhD topics to students from developing countries through GIRGEA. When a student is selected, her/his home country accepts, through an official contract, to fund her/him at the same level as a student from the host developed country. Moreover, this government is committed to hiring the student as a university professor after (s)he defends her/his PhD. This extraordinary method created a virtuous circle in many developing countries. The hired students are used to research, and once professors, train their own students in the research spirit, with the prospect to have them perform a PhD

thesis through GIRGEA. We have now in some countries three generation of professors that benefited successively from this brilliant process.

For all these reasons, the Committee decided to award Christine Amory-Mazaudier with the 2015 Baron Marcel Nicolet Space Weather and Space Climate medal.