

Profiles of female engineers

(A) Suria bte Abdul Rahman, 31 years old, Assistant Manager (QA/QC), Straits Construction

It has been 7 years since Suria bte Abdul Rahman started out her career in Straits Construction Singapore Pte Ltd. A Civil Engineering graduate from the National University of Singapore, she decided to pursue a career that matched her academic interests. Acquiring knowledge is her motivation and she is glad that her dynamic work environment allows her to attain that. When asked about her views about the built environment sector, Suria has this to share: "You become part of a team that builds the environment from design, planning, to construction and eventually, a habitable space that we may all enjoy. I am glad to be part of this team."

What is the reason for joining the built environment (BE) sector?

Suria is a trained civil engineer and joining the built environment sector was a natural choice. She is pleased to be able to align her academic interests with a career in the built environment sector. Being a builder in this constantly evolving sector and dynamic work environment will never make a boring work day.

Why did you join and stay with Straits Construction for so long?

Straits Construction is an established contractor with an impressive track record. The company's positive culture encourages esprit de corp. Relationships are fostered beyond our work environment through our annual carnival/family day and other fun activities. Personal development is encouraged through continual learning and upgrading.

What are your aspirations?

Suria hopes to acquire a wide range of knowledge, and to share and impart this knowledge.

What do you hope to achieve in the BE sector and also with Straits Construction?

I hope to continue building award winning projects with Straits Construction.

Professional quote about careers in the built environment

A career in the built environment is as simply as what its name states. You become part of a team that builds the environment from design, planning, to construction and eventually, a habitable space that we may all enjoy. I am glad to be part of this team.

(B) Liaw Ei Hong, 25 years old, Engineer, Surbana International Consultants

Fresh out of school, Ei Hong joined Surbana International Consultants as an engineer after she graduated from the National University of Singapore and University of Melbourne (joint-degree programme). She chose to pursue her major in Civil Engineering as she wanted to be contributing in a way where she can see 'tangible' results in her efforts.

She has been working in Surbana, a leading urban solution consultancy firm, for about a year and a half, with big plans to further her career. Ei Hong is working towards attaining her professional engineering certification before she turns 30 and hopes that she can someday; build an iconic world-renowned structure using breakthrough engineer solutions.

Ei Hong would like to change the perception an engineering career. Quoting from her, "The engineering profession is versatile with many options to pursue different areas of specialisation, such as project management, civil engineering, planning and design. Personally, I am drawn to building design as I feel that this is the most direct way I can make a difference at people's lives."

(C) Joy Esther Gai Jiazi, 30 years old, Senior Engineer (Sustainable Design), Surbana International Consultants

Joy is a senior engineer at Surbana International Consultants for close to 6 years. Inspired by her grandfather and aunt whom are engineers, Joy decided to enter the engineering field.

While pursuing her Master's Degree at NUS, she worked with Surbana on one of her group projects and was encouraged by the good work environment there and had since joined the company.

As a mother with two young children, she has to balance between busy working schedules and commitments at home. Yet, Joy takes pride and commitment in her roles. Quoting from her, "I'm here to prove that with work-life balance, women can still contribute their knowledge and skills to the engineering profession. I am passionate about my work as a green consultant in Surbana, to build a more sustainable living environment. I am also a proud mother and maybe one day, my daughter will choose to be an engineer too. "