



## Role of Women Engineers in Nation Building Today

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Chairman of Women Engineers Section (IEM WE)

**TODAY**, half the number of engineering graduates are women but only 20% of them choose engineering as a profession. Statistics show that only a few women engineers have been able to rise to executive management level and corporate board positions.

This indicates that the real problem is not in attracting women to study engineering but rather, to retain those who have entered the industry. As engineering is an integral part of the development of many nations, ensuring that more women join the profession and develop their careers to achieve leadership positions, is vital from a social equity viewpoint.

Stories that successful women engineers tell indicate that it is passion that drives most of them to excel in their profession. It is important that they share their stories to instil the same passion in other women engineers. IEM Women Engineers (IEM WE) section has provided the platform for these successful women to share their contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

In this March 2014 bulletin, five women engineers who are prominent in the industry, are sharing their invaluable insights and experiences.

It is IEM WE's mission to connect with all women engineers. We look forward to organising "after work chats" with women engineers from private companies, government and public sectors and GLCs.

Through this corporate connection link, IEM WE wants to have a direct association with working women engineers. As for university students, the association is connecting with them through the IEM WE Student Chapter and we look forward to participating in their workshops or talks. With these efforts, I hope IEM WE will be the voice for women engineers on various issues related to them.

Finally, I'm calling on more women engineers to join IEM WE as organising committee members or supporters in our activities. We have plans in the pipeline for a lot of activities, both locally and internationally for the next few years. Come and join IEM WE and together, we will have fun. ■

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