



Electrical Women Engineers Charge Ahead

By

Ir. Nur Azhani Mohamad Rosli

She is a EETD Co-Opted Committee Member

In celebration of World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on 4 March 2025 and International Women's Day on 8 March 2025, the Electrical Engineering Technical Division (EETD) and Women Engineers Section of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) organised a special forum for women in the electrical engineering profession.

The forum was to inspire, empower, and accelerate the growth of women in engineering by bringing together renowned speakers to share their experiences and insights on contributing to shaping a sustainable future and the way forward for electrical women engineers. Titled "Accelerating Action: Electrical Women Engineers Shaping a Sustainable Future through Empowerment," the forum was also supported by the Women Engineers Networks (WEN) of the Philippine Technological Council (PTC), who will be hosting this year's 43rd Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO 43).

As the world moves towards sustainability to achieve the 2050 Net Zero carbon emission target, women electrical engineers shall play a key role in this transition roadmap. Their involvement is vital for advancing gender equality and nurturing innovation. This forum serves as a powerful platform to acknowledge and celebrate the significant contributions of women in driving sustainability and shaping the future engineering world. This year's celebration of World Engineering Day (WED) and International Women's Day (IWD) is significant to EETD. EETD is proud to bring together leading women electrical engineers from diverse industries, including our ASEAN sisters to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future and empower change. The forum was moderated by Ir. Nur Azhani, featuring three distinguished speakers who shared their valuable insights from their respective industries;

1. Ir. Dr. Wan Syakirah Dato' Wan Abdullah: Head, Business Assessment and Engineering, TNB Renewables, Tenaga Nasional Berhad
2. Engr. Vilma Claret A. Llorin: Senior Manager/Head of EPC Division, Sales, and Marketing Department of Fuji-Haya Electric Corp.
3. Ir. Shamila Ariaratnam: Director of Armamentarium Consulting

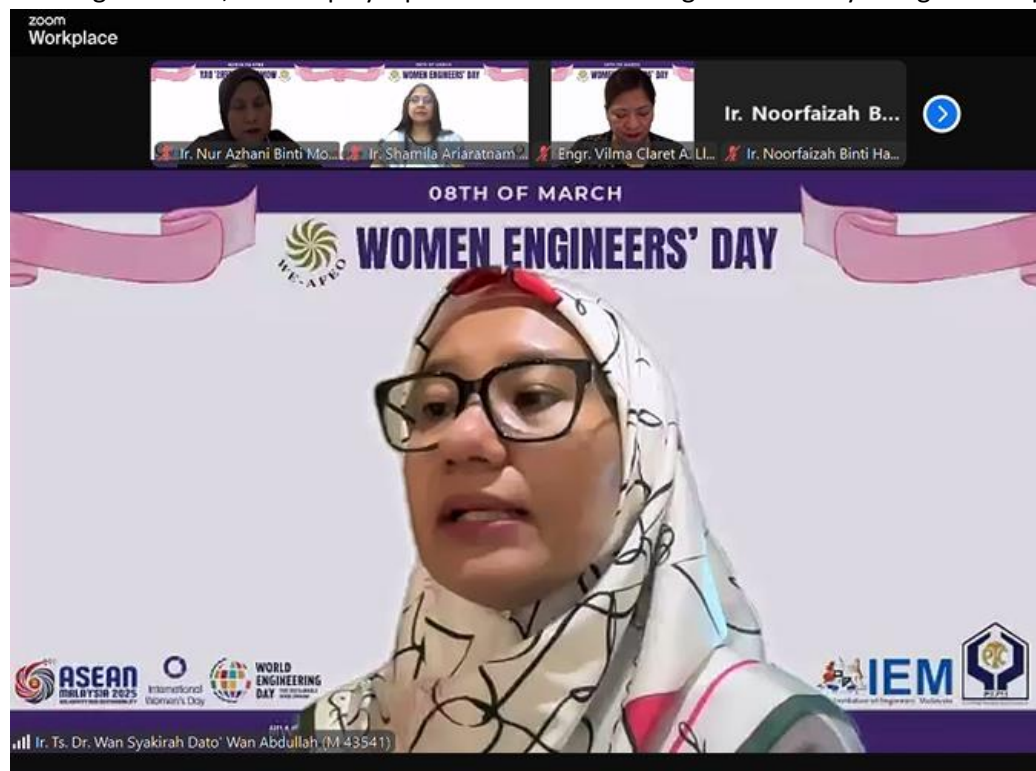
The speakers shared their experiences and journeys that have shaped them into who they are today. These women engineers offered diverse perspectives from their respective industries, providing valuable insights on how they contribute to and using their expertise in creating more sustainable and inclusive work environment. Dr. Wan Syakirah emphasised the importance of empowering women electrical engineers through collaboration with both women and men. She highlighted that a good and effective leadership in women naturally includes qualities such as critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and nurturing abilities which are the key factors in driving women's success in the field. Engineer Vilma shared that being brave and embracing challenges, along with her willingness to be hands-on in the field, were key to her success.

Having a product named after her stands as a significant testament to her hard work, dedication, and success as an electrical engineer. While success may not always come easily for women, she emphasised that

knowing one's limits, pushing boundaries, and fostering mutual respect are essential when working in a male-dominated profession. Ir. Shamila gave an overview from the role women engineers played in healthcare until the policies and initiatives to be in place to support women in healthcare. She then discussed the sustainable initiatives in the healthcare sector focusing on waste reduction and circular economy. She concluded by recognising a few women engineers as role models globally and locally contributing significantly in shaping a sustainable future in the healthcare industry. Initiatives like mentorship programs, networking opportunities, and industry exposure are essential in inspiring the next generation of engineers to follow in their footsteps. From innovation to pioneering advancements in technology development and energy efficiency, the goal remains the same, to create a sustainable future. With focus on accelerating gender equality, particularly in top leadership roles, as women still represent a small percentage despite their numbers increasing in the total engineering workforce.

The forum also emphasised the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and diversity for the future workforce. This forum was as a call to action, to encourage women in engineering to continue breaking barriers, challenging stereotypes, and taking on leadership roles to influence engineering advancements and decision-making to create a meaningful impact on the global energy transition and sustainability.

The most powerful takeaway is that women and men coexist together and complement each other. One key driver of success is the ability to support and inspire one another with respect by giving equal opportunities. By having these women engineers, we are able to ignite passion in young girls and ladies to pursue electrical engineering and continue to contribute in achieving sustainability. Through the efforts of IEM and PTC, the engineering profession is being led toward a better, more inclusive world where both equality and inclusivity are prioritised. By continuing to share knowledge, accelerate action, inspire and shaping the next generation, we can play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability and gender equality.



Picture 1: Ir. Dr. Wan Syakirah passionately sharing her story and journey

zoom Workplace Meeting Engr. Vilma Claret A. Llorin (SPE/

Ir. Nur Azhani Binti Mo... Engr. Vilma Claret A. Llori... Ir. Ts. Dr. Wan Syakirah... Ms. Roselein (IEM Staff)

Ir. Ts. Dr. Wan S... Ms. Roselein (IE...

PROJECT CONTROLS
 Quality Management
 Scheduling
 Cost Estimating
 Cost Engineering
 Performance Reporting
 Procurement Control

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
 Risk
 Configuration
 Asset Testing
 Diagnostic Applications
 Reliability Engineering and
 Data Analysis
 Remote Assets
 Safety Assessment
 Asset Management Collaboration
 Data Reporting
 Network Security
 System Outages
 Asset Utilization
 Data Mining

COMMERCIAL & RISK MANAGEMENT
 Change Management
 Customer Relationship
 Claims and Dispute Resolution
 Procurement
 Risk Management

Project Planning & Control Engineer
 Contracts Administrator
 Material Planning & Control Engineer

Heat exchanger
 Turbine
 Alternator
 Transformer
 Cooling tower
 Condenser
 Production steam used for steam water extraction

Upper Mahlaog Geothermal Plant

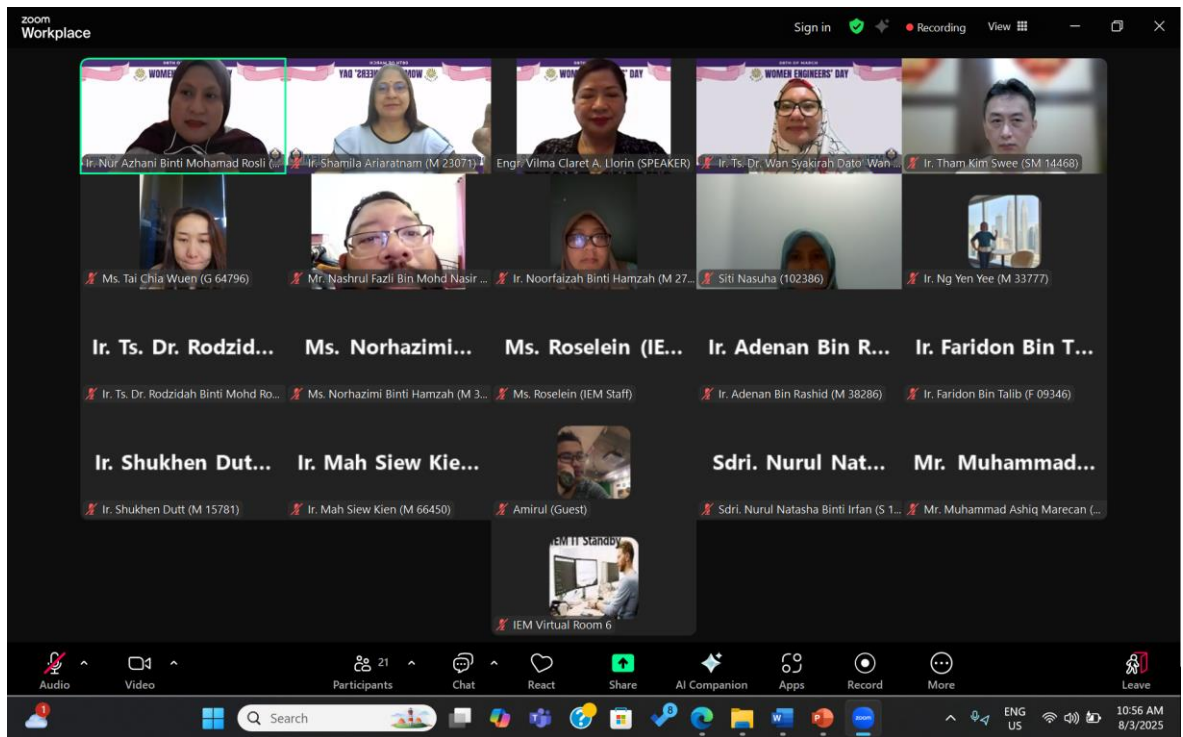
Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant

Mindanao 1 Geothermal Power Plant

Bac Man Geothermal Power Plant

Power Generation

Picture 2: Engineer Vilma Claret A. Llorin from the Philippines sharing her experience as the only female electrical engineer working



Picture 4: Group photo with participants