

**TALK ON 'BALANCED APPROACH AS A LADY ENGINEER' PRESENTED BY PUAN SITI ROSNAH GHAFAR ON 20 MARCH 2010 DURING THE TEA PARTY GATHERING**

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The following is an extract of the talk "Balanced approach Approach as a lady Lady engineerEngineer" presented by Puan Siti Rosnah Ghafar during the tea party gathering organized by the Women Engineer sub-committee on 20 March 2010.

Women generally have to play many roles, a career woman, wife, mother, daughter, sister etc. Balancing the demands of a career as an engineer and the demands of the other roles is vital in ensuring sustainable and continuous success.

The question is can Women Engineers really take the 'abundance' approach i.e. be successful in both career and personal lives? and ii Is being an engineer our true calling?

Women have many natural gifts i.e. emotional intelligence, attention to details and the ability to multi-tasking. but aAt the same time women also possess weaknesses such as lack in physical strength, prone to distraction, lack discernment, distinction and analytical capabilities and as well as limited mobility. Women Engineers can capitalize on their natural gifts in their daily lives. Women Engineers can seek personal balance as they fulfill their role as an engineer in the following ways.

Their natural gift of for love of talking are is an advantage in when liaising with clients, sales & marketing, event organizing, project co-ordination and lecturing. They can also have the innate ability to listen attentively, emphatically and compassionately which gives them an the upper hand in dispute resolution and contract negotiation.

Patience is ideal for Women Engineers engaged in research and development women as they do not get bored doing the same things year in year out. Development of new patents, guidelines and, standards, as well as bench marking are all activities what that require patience. The caring nature of women is an advantagecomes in handy when dealing with in information management, document control, quality assurance, auditor/checker checks and, health and safety and environmental works which required diligence and attention to detail.s in a diligent manner.

Good writers are generally in high demand especially more so in engineering works for involving letter writing, specifications, reports, technical notes etc. In these areas,and women have the advantage due to their knack for attention to details.

Multi-tasking is without doubt an areaof which where women engineers are the champions, . with With their experience of multi-tasking at home they can become good managers of projects and organization.

If women engineers persistently carry out their jobs with joy using their natural gifts and talents above, not only can they achieve perfection in their contributions as an engineers, but alsoit allows them to increase their performance in all areas aspects of life.

Women engineers can also seek balance in their relationship with others by adopting positive values and habits when dealing with employers, clients, public etc. which are necessary imperative to being productive and happy in their profession. Conventional wisdom suggests development of a healthy self esteem via a win-win approach in life which can be achieved in many ways..

Acceptance and respect of one's identity as a women and respect for both parties are necessary for win-win deals. Understanding women engineers' given gifts and abilities and choosing job functions that capitalize onuse their strength will maximize their contributions.

Women engineers should see view their job not as a chore but as something they love doing, . peak Peak performance and achievements are more likely in jobs that one loves. Women engineers can expand their circle of concerns beyond their duties to employers by adopting social responsibility deliberately in their jobs e.g. by doing community service.

However women engineers must be patient and adopt a suitable time frame to achieve career goals and make contributions to society as ones' career can span over 30 - 40 years. Each day may present new opportunities for all to adopt to achieve a perfect balance in one's livesfe. One must be receptive to all these opportunities.



Puan Siti Rosnah during her talk



The attentive crowds

Here are Sssome Quotes quotes for all to ponder:.

Frank Herbert: "There is no secret to balance. You just have to feel the waves"

Albert Einstein: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving"

Mahatma Gandhi: "Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony"

Lao Tzu: "if you would take, you must first give"

Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give"

Anonymous: "Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway"

In conclusion, a balanced approach should be adopted in everything women engineers do. When perfect balance is achieved, one can truly respond to one's calling as an Engineer and as a mother, wife etc. joyfully. When perfect balanced is presentWith a perfect balance of life, one can manage all challenges, chaos and obstacles in their lives with grace and confidence. Woman can serve as an engineer for 30 - 40 years in harmony with other life's commitments.