

**Meg Baldo** earned her degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the Philippines (UP) in 1996. She also eventually took the required academic units of the Masters Program in Structural Engineering (thesis track) and courses in Transportation Planning.



Meg's career path started with her work as a structural engineer in the Philippines' consulting industry. She also spent some time teaching structural engineering courses and working in the Philippines' socio-economic planning agency, providing technical advice on its transport infrastructure portfolio. She migrated to Australia in 2004 and currently works for Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd.

### **What led you to choose Engineering as a career?**

I started Uni when I was just 16 and at that age I must admit that I did not yet really know what I wanted to do. All I knew was that I've always loved Math and Physics. This made me choose Civil Engineering as my preferred course when I took the entrance exam in UP, the Philippine's premier university. I made the right choice as Civil Engineering is all about problem solving and applying mathematical principles in the physical world.

### **What is it about Engineering that inspires you?**

With engineering you are able to see the results of your hard work. It is also inspiring to see that structures built serve their purpose in the community.

### **What has been the high point in your career to date?**

Each project completed is a high point. I was most pleased though, when the North Luzon Expressway was opened to traffic with the new arch toll plazas operational, the first of its kind in the Philippines. I was involved in its concept design while I was working with Maunsell Philippines. I also feel a sense of pride and satisfaction whenever I hear news that a former student is doing well in her or his engineering career.

### **What has been your biggest challenge so far and how have you solved it?**

Starting and developing my career in a new country has been my biggest challenge so far. While I was open to all opportunities when I migrated, I initially resisted stepping out of my comfort zone when faced with the new environment that I found myself in. I have now learned to deal with unfamiliar territory, to be flexible with the opportunities that come my way and to work hard in meeting my career goals.

### **How have you managed your work and family commitments?**

As I've always done: I work hard and play hard. This strategy is especially well-suited for me since I live away from family and old friends. I have been lucky to have worked with considerate employers who allow me to have my annual leave in longer periods in order to have that extra time on holidays to be with my family.

### **Do you have any advice for women who are considering engineering as a career, or for those who are already Engineers?**

Always go for what you want and love to do in the engineering industry. If you let that guide your decisions, I am confident that you'll have a fulfilling career as you will find a way to prevent challenges that may come your way from becoming roadblocks to succeeding in your chosen field.