



Dr. Marlene Kanga **B.Tech. (Hons), M.Sc., DIC. Ph.D., FIEAUst, CPEng**

Dr. Marlene Kanga is a member of the Council of Engineers Australia, and has been a member since 2007. Engineers Australia is the membership organisation for the engineering profession with nearly 100,000 members. She has been National Vice President for Marketing and Communications (2008-2009), National Vice President for Engineering Practice and Continuing Professional Development (2010) and is currently Councillor responsible for Finance. Marlene has been a member of Engineers Australia's Audit and Risk Committee since 2009 and is currently its Chair. She has also been a member of the National Engineers Registration Board (2010) and the National Board, Centre for Engineering Leadership and Management (2010).

Marlene is a Chartered Professional Engineer and one of less than 100 women who are Fellows of Engineers Australia. She has been a member of the National Committee for Women in Engineering since 2007 and was Deputy Chair during the Year of Women in Engineering. This project won the President's Award for Project Excellence and the National Engineering Excellence Awards in Canberra in November 2007. She was National Chair for Women in Engineering in 2008 and 2009. Her strategic initiatives and programmes, have resulted in membership growth among women engineers being the fastest growing membership segment of Engineers Australia.

Marlene has represented Australian engineers in various international forums including the World Engineers Conventions between 2007 and 2010. She is a member of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) Committee for Women in Engineering and the Disaster Risk Management Committee. She is also currently Co-Chair of the Organising Committee for the 15th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES15) to be held in Adelaide in July 2011.

Marlene is involved in two successful businesses. She is a Director of Business Technology Pty. Ltd, a company which she established and which provides on corporate governance and risk engineering. She has extensive experience of major operating facilities including refineries, gas treatment plants, power generating and similar facilities.

Marlene is also a Director of iOmniscient Pty. Ltd. which has developed patented software technology for automated camera based surveillance systems. The technology is based on Australian research, has won multiple awards internationally and has been installed in large airports, transportation and public infrastructure in Australia, Asia and Europe. The company won a National Engineers Excellence Award 2010 and Excellence Awards in Sydney Division in 2009 and 2010.

What led you to choose Engineering as a career?

I was first attracted to it because I loved Mathematics and Chemistry.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

Engineering is an enormously creative and intellectually challenging career. It has many facets, you need to be able communicate your ideas effectively, be a leader, work with teams and solve problems. Every project presents something new to grapple with, I love that.

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

There have been a great many, the biggest compliment is when my clients ask me back again and again to work on new projects. It is also an extraordinary privilege to represent the engineering profession and to promote the benefits of an engineering career, for example at the World Engineers Convention in Brasilia in December 2008.

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

Getting my first job in Australia was a challenge, it took a great deal of perseverance to get that job. Women engineers have a much higher level of acceptance these days.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

I set up my own consulting firm because of the difficulty of getting flexible working hours when I had a young family. However the experience proved invaluable, developing my entrepreneurial and management skills and leading to many new ventures and opportunities.

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

You should make a career of what you love to do. Then it won't feel like work and the problems won't hold you back.