

Dr Soussan Modjtahedi Rahimi, M. Eng. Civil, Hyd. Eng., M.Sc., Dr. Ing. FIEAust, CPEng.



Education, Experience & Achievements

Dr Soussan Modjtahedi Rahimi is an educator and consultant in the field of structural and civil engineering, expert in prestressed and reinforced concrete structures. ¹She graduated in civil engineering at the University of Tabriz, Iran, receiving a Master of Engineering degree. She was awarded a French Government Postgraduate Scholarship, enrolled at the University of Toulouse, France, where she completed a Bachelor of Engineering degree in hydraulics engineering. She studied applied geophysics at the University of Paris VI, where she earned a Master of Science degree and a Ph.D. (Dr. Ingenieur) with high honours in structural engineering in prestressed and reinforced concrete.

Since completion of her studies, Soussan gained extensive experience in all aspect of structural engineering. Being a team leader for design and documentation, design and analysis of complex structures for bridges, tall buildings, commercial, heavy and light industrial developments and liquid retaining structures in Australia as well as overseas.

Soussan was the head of the department of civil engineering and lecturer at the University of Tabriz, later serving as an associate professor at the University of Sharif (Aria Mehr) in Tehran, Iran for over ten years. She served on the committee that prepared the Iranian standard for concrete structures. She was editor of Journal of Faculty of Engineering, University of Tabriz. She immigrated to Australia in 1983. She was a lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney, Structural Consultant at the University of Sydney. She also was a visiting scholar at the University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign in the USA.

Soussan is the author of *Prestressed Concrete* Book, which was published by the Ministry of Science and Education in 1983 as a reference book for the Iranian universities. She is author or co-author of numerous technical papers in French, English and Farsi, some of which are used in “Australian Standards AS3600 Concrete Structures”, “Australian Bridge Code” and “ACI318 -

American Concrete Institute". Soussan was selected one of the 2000 outstanding intellectuals of the 21st century by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England.

As a multi-discipline structural and civil engineer, Soussan serves as a consultant for large engineering companies, currently working for Aecom Australia Pty Ltd.

What lead you to choose Engineering as a career?

The engineering was highly respected career in Iran, and I like challenge and finding rational solutions of the problems.

What is it about Engineering that inspires you?

Engineering is a challenging career requires innovative solutions.

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

Being in the engineering field for many years and providing many innovative and economical engineering solutions for specific projects with recognitions, using theoretical and practical as an academic and consultant concurrently could be considered high point in my career.

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

My career as a civil structural engineer, a male dominated field, required a lot of courage to pursue, especially in the male dominated society of Iran.

How have you managed your work and family commitments?

I could manage to separate work and family issues. At home I am for my family and at work I concentrate doing my work. Currently, I am working on part time bases meanwhile I take care of my grand children.

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

In order to succeed, the following advices may be considered:

1. Develop self-confidence, and if you are in a male dominant environment, believe that women can be as good as men, sometimes better.
2. Discover your own abilities, set goals and don't be afraid of challenges.
3. Enjoy and love your work.
4. Be innovative and find better ideas and concepts than the existing traditional ones.
5. Don't stop learning; increase your knowledge and share it with others.²