

## Virtual Panel Discussion Sessions

### Session 1: Professional Career Experiences

#### Moderator

##### [Srikanth Vasudevan Pillai](#)



Srikanth Vasudevan Pillai received the Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree from Cochin University of Technology in 2009 and Master of Technology (M.Tech) from Government Engineering College (RIT) Kottayam in 2012. From 2009 June to 2010 August, he was with the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of College of Engineering Munnar. Later he joined as Assistant Professor in Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Amrita University, Kerala, India in 2012. He moved to Canada in 2019 and is now pursuing PhD at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. His research interest is focused on Control of Electrical drives, Permanent Magnet Motors and Power Electronics. He has several IEEE papers to his credits. Mr. Pillai has been an active volunteer of IEEE ever from his studies. He was elected as the Chair, IAS SBC Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology (Government Engineering College, Kottayam) during 2011-2012. From 2012 onwards he is serving the IAS, as IAS Student Branch Chapters Area Chair R-10. He received the “Outstanding Student Branch Chapter Area Chair Award” in 2012 and 2013, from IAS CMD, in recognition to the activities in 2012 and 2013 respectively as SB Chapter Area Chair R-10. In 2013, he is also appointed as the IAS Student Branch Development Committee Chair. He is associated with IE/IA/PEL Societies Jt. Chapter Kerala Section as Secretary, starting from 2013 onwards. His volunteer activities have contributed a significant growth in IAS Chapter Development in R-10, especially in India. During 2014-2015 he was the Vice Chair, Chapter and Membership Development, IAS Chapters and Membership Department. Mr. Pillai is council member of IAS from 2012 onwards. Mr. Pillai is a recipient of “IAS Outstanding Young Member Services Award 2019” for his services to the IAS.

#### Panelists



[Lesley Arakkal](#), Distribution Planning Engineer at Eskom Holdings Ltd, RSA | IAS CMD member since 2014 | CMD Awards and Contest Committee Chair (2016-present) | Recipient Outstanding CMD Officer Award 2016 | CMD Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee Chair 2018 | CMD Chair (2019-present) | Founder chairwoman of University of Pretoria SB IAS Chapter | WIE chairperson University of Pretoria IEEE student branch

##### **- Steps to Professional Growth through IAS Volunteering and Smart Career Choices**

Power Point Presentation

**Abstract:** An overview of how my own personal experience volunteering for the Industry Applications Society has helped my professional growth and tips on how to make good career choices when you first start working to strengthen your professional career.



[Yao Yingbei](#), Graduated from Southwest University, Nanjing, China | Senior Engineer of State Grid Company Limited of China | Member of IAS CMD in different positions 2010-16 | Winner of the IAS CMD Thesis Contest 2011

**- Being a Female Engineer in China**

Power Point presentation / Interaction

Sharing experience on balancing the work, life, and unlimited self construction.



[Yanni Zhong](#), PhD, CEng, Advanced Engineer at Siemens Gamesa, UK | Public Relations Committee Chair, IAS CMD | IAS R8 Europe STB Area Chair 01/2016-01/2018. Founder Chair of the University of Strathclyde SB IAS/PELS Chapter.

**- How to Practice Engineering Thinking**

Power Point presentation

**Abstract:** What is engineering thinking? Is it common sense, trial and error, or simply being smart and creative? Different people have different opinions, but what we don't realize is we apply engineering thinking subconsciously in our daily life. In this presentation, I would like to share my personal view of engineering thinking and how I applied it to my study and job.



[Sumit Chhabria](#), Electronics Systems Engineer at Multicorpos Llc, USA. (Automobile Industry) | M.S. (Electrical Engineering Systems and Controls, University of New Mexico, USA). IEEE IAS YP Chair & IAS CMD Students, YP and WIE Events Committee Chair

**- Put Your Best Foot Forward to Keep the Learning Curve Rising**

Sharing experience on: study abroad (moving from India to USA for graduate studies, scholarship application), job hunt (networking, automobile industry), IEEE volunteering.



[Pía Torres](#), Professor of Project Management, Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Favaloro University, Buenos Aires, Argentina | Business Developer Manager & Consultant in Energy Efficiency, Process Automation and Optimization & Sustainability | United Nation Sustainable Development Goals Promotor | IEEE Industry Applications Society Standing Committee for Equity Diversity and Inclusion Chair | IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee

Project Support & Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee Chair | IEEE Young Professionals Hall of Fame Award | IEEE Women in Engineering Inspiring Member Award |

**- Personal and Professional Development – Challenges of Young Professionals in the 4.0 Industry**

Many young people who are searching for their first job opportunities are not clear about the qualities sought in the available profiles. These young professionals not only have a goal set for their future, but also have personal interests: they want to take time to travel to other countries, space for family and friends, and continuous looking for new opportunities. Currently, most young people are concerned about entering a large company but for a short period of time, approximately 1 to 2 years.

Companies and industry have changed to be able to subsist on today's world, and not only seek the best averages and technical knowledge, but critical thinking, logic and entrepreneurial spirit are essential to develop day after day.

In addition, the acquired extra knowledge, such as computer courses, languages and soft skills, are very valued. Ability to know how to listen to others, good communication, exchange knowledge, teamwork and leadership are strongly required.

Someone who is willing to develop an empathy with customers, colleagues and boss, capable of solving problems in a fast way without losing control of the situation is a must.

Volunteering, complementary courses, cultural, sports and recreational activities are excellent sources to acquire these skills. The key is to know how to promote them and use them to empower our professional and personal development.