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Ecolibrium



LEEDer
of the pack

A Sydney stadium impresses.



THE ASPIRING SAILOR

Operations manager digital solutions, Pacific region for Johnson Controls, Malik Awais, Affil.AIRAH, wants to make a difference.

What attracted you to HVAC&R?

My interest in building automation and my volunteer leadership work in politics inspired me to make an impact on a global scale. I had been hearing the industry buzzwords of smart buildings and smart cities since 2011 during undergraduate studies and was curious to learn more.

So, I started my Master's degree at UNSW and took a course in Refrigeration and Air conditioning with Associate Professor Chris Menictas, M.AIRAH. This was the first time I heard a professor speaking about the real-world application and the impact of HVAC&R on smart buildings. This course created the initial fascination with HVAC&R, and I decided to join the industry with a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

What is your dream project?

My dream project will be 6 Star NABERS, 6 star Green Star, WELL and LEED-certified smart building enabled by smart experiences which will establish a standard for the industry.

What is the most challenging thing about your job?

An African proverb: "Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors"

Data from the buildings has been sitting in the servers for decades, and like fossil fuels, it has to be extracted and refined to drive outcomes through data. This will drive change in the way we drive outcomes, provide experiences to the building tenants, and make strategic business decisions. The biggest challenge is creating processes and transforming business models to adopt data science for sustainable and environmentally friendly commercial growth.

I am optimistic that we will become skilful sailors by these challenges and will step into a new horizon.

How do you see the role of AIRAH?

I was introduced to AIRAH by Chris Menictas when we used DA09 to complete our major assignment of the course. My understanding back in the day was that AIRAH is helping consultants by providing guidelines for



designing better HVAC systems. But my current role in the digital solutions space has enlightened me more about AIRAH.

I see AIRAH leading and transforming the HVAC&R industry by providing guidelines of optimal HVAC&R design, outlining best practices for the operation and maintenance of buildings, driving the future of maintenance through data-enabled maintenance, and planning for the future of smart buildings.

A typical system accounts for 70 per cent of landlord energy consumption. And according to studies, 40 per cent of world energy is consumed by buildings. The best practices outlined by AIRAH serve as the first line of defence against climate change. ■

BRILLIANCE ON A BUDGET

Sustainable solutions don't have to cost more, says Priya Gandhi, M.AIRAH, ahead of her presentation at Outlook 2020.

Please tell us about your presentation

Getting to net zero is no longer a mystery: go all-electric, use 100 per cent renewables, and offset everything else. My presentation will focus on how to actually get these strategies embedded into the design, even if your project does not have clear sustainability targets.

What's your main point?

The primary goal of my presentation is to drive home the message that in order to meet the Paris Agreement (to limit global

temperature rise to less than 2°C), every single building needs to achieve carbon neutrality. The bad news? Australia is not on track to meet our commitments! The good news? As building designers, we have the skills, power, and the responsibility to make it happen, no matter what the government does – or doesn't do.

Thoughts on virtual events?

I miss the energy and socialising of speaking in person, but I like how presenting online makes events more accessible to more people. ■



Would you like to know more?

Priya Gandhi is speaking at Outlook 2020, which will now take place virtually on November 10.

Go to www.airah.org.au/outlook2020