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Ecolibrium

Doing WELL

Making buildings better
for people.



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STATE OF GRACE

Grace Foo, M.AIRAH, is an energy consultant for Energy Action based in Canberra.

Responsibilities

At the moment, I spend a lot of my time on BMS tuning, facilitating implementation of energy-efficiency projects and independent commissioning agent-type projects.

Passions

Working with different project teams and various stakeholders to ensure buildings work efficiently and sustainably within the boundaries of their physical construct.

Finest professional hour

Being given the opportunity by my company to lead projects and teams, and manage clients and staff directly.

Important lessons

You grow and learn the most – and fastest – when you're thrown in the deep end. It might be stressful and difficult at the start but you come out the other end gaining so much more.

Whom do you most admire?

My father – he dedicated his whole being to anything he did, and did the right thing even if it meant it made things a bit harder – or dangerous – for himself.

Dream sabbatical

I would love to utilise my skills and training to build up under-developed or developing communities within the context of their local culture and skills, then facilitate skill transfer to the locals so that it can be sustained locally.

Or the next best thing: spending time in Mother Nature with loved ones.



Grace Foo, M.AIRAH

Motto

Do your best, and do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Greatest personal achievement

Learning what it means to give to those in need without expecting anything in return.

Favourite book

When Helping Hurts: Alleviating the Poverty Without Hurting The Poor . . . And Ourselves by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.

Favourite film

I don't think I have a favourite film – I enjoyed movies like *Iron Man*, *Taken*, *Les Miserables* . . . too many to count! I prefer musicals over films though.

‘ You grow and learn the most – and fastest – when you're thrown in the deep end ’

Favourite website

I don't subscribe to a single website, but I love any write-ups that relate to sustainable practices, community development, food or animals.

Describe yourself

I desire to stretch my limits – my Malaysian alma mater's motto was "Reach for the stars" – and learn new skill sets.

What is success to you?

Success is when we learn something new, put it in practice, and then transfer that knowledge across to someone else so they can continue to mentor and develop others through the same process. In a nutshell, success is the courage to make yourself dispensable.

What does AIRAH membership mean to you?

It's an avenue for continuous professional development, networking and potential to get more involved in the industry. ■

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