

ACRA Celebrates International Women's Day 2022 -Special profile of Udaya Sathiamurthy



Australasian Concrete Repair & Remedial Building Association

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Udaya making her ACRA debut and introducing presenter's at a 2021 ACRA WA seminar.

ACRA recently interviewed one of our Members from the ACRA WA Sub Branch Committee Udaya Sathiamurthy. Udaya joined the Committee early last year and jumped right in to the role within the WA Committee by moderating the first seminar we held after many long Covid 19 lockdowns. We've found Udaya to be very personable, knowledgeable and a great addition to the team.

We asked Udaya a series of questions based on what its like being a women working in what has always been known as a male dominated industry but we are starting to see and feel the shift within the industry. We all can admit more needs to be done but its great to see that women are being acknowledged for not just what we know, but are being trusted to provide great advice and direction.

But first, a bit of background on Udaya. Udaya Sathiamurthy started her career in 1999 as a Project Engineer for a specialist remediation contractor in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Five years later she moved to consultancy and has been working as a Materials Engineer since then.

With a keen interest in durability, evaluation & remediation of structures and a mix of practical and design experience, she offers a balanced approach to delivering projects. She has experience in various types of infrastructure projects including bridges, airports, wharves, ports, seawater intake structures, bridges and buildings including multistorey commercial buildings, hotels, and shopping malls in United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Australia.

Udaya, why do you think its important to celebrate IWD?

International Women's Day is a day for us to recognise the contributions that we, as women, have made in the past and will continue to make in the future. It is important to recognise the bias we all have had to overcome at some point or the other to get where we are. It is a day to celebrate who we are and how we could help other female professionals to succeed.

Have you faced any barriers in your career due to being a women? If so, how did you over come them.

During my career, I lived in four countries and worked in three, and unfortunately I have experienced bias in various ways and to various extents. There have been times, when I have had to make extra effort to get to where I want to be in comparison to my male colleagues.

How do you think we could encourage women to take up more roles within the industry?

One word – flexibility. Encourage all employees to pursue the most satisfying work schedule, including being the office and/or on-site with clients, and they will flourish. Yes, it is possible to run successful businesses and teams with flexible working arrangements.

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membership](http://www.acrassoc.com.au/membership)

What is the most important message you want to send out to young women thinking about their careers?

Follow your instincts. If something interests you, energises you, makes you happy then don't hesitate to follow it. You will find that the happier you are doing something, the more successful you are.

Is there anyone that inspires you in your career?

Every woman in my family. Not just my career but life in general. I am fortunate to have been raised around some amazing role models.

Why do you think diversity in the workplace is so important?

For balance – honestly how many meetings do we have to sit in and secretly shake our heads at the outcome wishing we had a more balanced approach?

If you could have dinner with 3 inspirational women, dead or alive, who would they be and why?

Easy- my mother and two sisters. They are my support.

What advice will you give to your younger self?

Travel more, the past two years have been "Groundhog Day" on repeat with travel bans in Western Australia.

We thank Udaya for her time and great to read what an amazing life she's lead so far. Can't wait to see what she does next.

You can meet Udaya at the next ACRA WA Seminar on 24 March 2022. Topic is Windfarm Remediation and Market Opportunities. See the link for more details and to register www.acrassoc.com.au/events

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