



Asia

August 11 - Doing IT Around the World



Irene Boey - Singapore: Consulting Director
About My Career About Me



Interview with Irene – Consulting Director: Singapore

What do you do?

I am responsible for leading Integral's data mining, data analytics, CRM, Fraud Detection Solutions and other Advanced Technology businesses Asia wide. My responsibilities include solving customer's business problem by simplifying advanced technology to address business users' needs. Other than consulting work, I am also a public conference speaker and an adjunct lecturer at the university as I firmly believe that it is important to teach what we know so that there is a continuous input of knowledge to the talent pool.

What are some significant achievements??

Receiving testimonials from clients for job well done.

Enabling clients to recover millions of dollars from our solutions' ability to discover fraudulent activities within the organisation. Clients was able to increase loyalty from their profitable customers using my strategies
Coming up with workable solution that can score customers' potential life time values which saved clients huge amount on costs of servicing their customers.

Getting high scores from my students and participants attending my classes and workshops.

Will you continue this work?

I have been in this line for about 15 years and am still quite passionate about it.

Challenges?

One of the challenging tasks in my job is having to get involved in unnecessary "political tensions" between different departments in my clients' organisation.

What is cool about what you do?

I believe being able to share my knowledge and expertise with my client and help them discover insights from their data collected is pretty cool. I am also involved in helping clients' top management derive good business strategies from insights discovered by our solutions.

How far reaching has your work been?

I don't really know how far reaching my work has been but some of my staff whom have left our organisation still call me to advice them how to solve their work and personal problem. I have clients whom called me after years of silence to buy a solution from me and it is very satisfying to know that people still remember discussions that happened years ago.

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About Me interview with Irene – Consulting Director: Singapore

What are 3 words that describe you?

Determined, Passionate and Optimistic

What past jobs have you had?

My previous jobs included working as Business Manager in the Electronics Industry and Assistant Accountant in an MNC

What qualities do you have that make you good at what you do?

I believed it is my sense of responsibility and my passion in my work.

What motivates you?

To be able to use my knowledge to add value to others so that we can progress together - be it professionally or personally. That's why I am also involved in community work too.

What do you love about what you do?

I enjoy receiving complements from my clients confirming that they were able to derive good benefits from my work.

Do you get to travel?

Yes, I travel quite substantially having to manage jobs in Asia as well as Singapore.

What qualifications do you have?

I have an MBA in Entrepreneurial Management.

What hobbies do you have ?

Not much time for hobbies but watching TV and travelling are things that I enjoyed doing.

What is your advice to other women?

It is important to embrace change as a way of life especially in a technology career. This is the fastest changing industry and be prepared to unlearn stuff that you have learnt. It is also important to stay positive and have an open mind to new ideas.

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Farida - Malaysia: Molecular Biologist
About My Career About Me

Interview with Dr Farida Managing Director/Consultant: Malaysia

What do you do?

Managing director of a Biotechnology Start-up company
<http://www.nouvelleplants.com/>
I organise the funding, operational and the technology side of the company

Any challenges?

Finding the right staff with the right attitudes and commitment to get the job done.

Describe your first day.

Nervous and thinking what will be the challenges.

What are some of the cool parts of your job

The pleasure of combining science , R&D and business

What do you enjoy the most?

The chance to meet with people and the potential to make a difference to this sector and to women

What has been your BEST experience?

The opportunity to travel and meet with different men and women from both academia and the industry

What have been your most significant achievements?

- Becoming a First Molecular biologist in the country,
- First Professor of Molecular Biology
- Pioneer in the field of Molecular Biology and genetic engineering of Oil palm
- First women Fellow of TWAS from Malaysia
- Founding and setting the Biotechnology initiatives at the state level
- Founding several State –owned Biotechnology companies
- Founding president of Malaysia Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.
- As someone involved in TWOWS, to be able to get involved in addressing issue in Women in Science
- As someone involved in the advancement of women , organised a pilot project engaging women in ICT Training programme, websites for womens' organisation
- Being a co-author of a Biography of the Prime Minister's wife, Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah which portrays her as a role model for women in science and medicine
- Have been invited to appear on TV , media as role model for women in science

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About Me Interview Dr Farida Managing Director/Consultant: Malaysia

What are 3 words that describe you?

Passionate, Committed, Driven

What qualities do you have that make you good at what you do?

Committed to my work, ability at multitasking,, good at prioritising, empathy, passionate and I never give up.

What studies have you done?

Phd in Molecular Biology, UNSW Australia

Will you stay in technology?

Depends if another good opportunity comes along

Hobbies?

Reading, travelling and cooking.
Involvement with www.newwomen.net

What previous jobs have you had?

Professor of Molecular Biology,
CEO of Malaysian State Biotech Corporation,
Director of Biotechnology, Malacca Institute of Biotechnology,
Managing Director of Melaka Biotech holdings

How far reaching do you think your work has been

My work probably has created an impact on my students when I was at University who have mentioned that they see me as a role model for them.

What is your advice to other women?

Honesty, Believe in yourself; believe that you are as good as anyone else as well as any men.

Have a supporting partner, spouse and family who also believe that you can be excellent in your career.

Never give up with the challenges and look at opportunities prevailing.

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Nobuko - Japan: Medical Technologist
About My Career About Me

Interview with Nobuko- Medical Technologist: Japan

What do you do?

I am a medical doctor and my special field is pediatric surgery and general surgery. I had been working in several big hospitals for twenty-five years not only treating patients but also teaching medical school students and young doctors.

Since 2001, I have been working as a volunteer doctor for several months a year in conflict areas or post-natural disaster areas, like Sri Lanka, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria, Somalia and Indonesia (post-Tsunami). These experiences helped me take a role to lead young generation who want to work internationally and professionally. I teach at several universities.

What have been your most significant achievements?

- President of Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Japan, which is a women's association acting as a NGO not only in Japan but also internationally.
- Vice-president of female medical doctors' association in Nagasaki
- General Director of local women's group who are encouraging and supporting their colleagues who want to act in the political fields.
- Experienced volunteer doctor of Medecins Sans Frontieres: MSF (=Doctors without Borders) which is international emergency humanitarian aids, acting in about seventy countries all over the world

What do you like?

I am quite satisfied with patients' smiles, especially after the surgical interventions not only in Japan but also in developing countries.

Challenges?

Last year I moved my father's private clinic to contribute for the health care in the local community. In May 2008 I commenced work at a public hospital to perform operations and to support women who suffer from gender specific health problems. This part is my new challenge.

Outline your roles impact

I work with technology but I think that my main role should be as a medical doctor for the patients who visit our private clinic and my outpatient clinic of the public hospital.

My policy is to check the patients not only for medical aspects but also for their social scenes. In Japan women still suffer from discrimination or less support than men. Female doctors can understand female patients and mothers better than male doctors. This fact is more effective in conflict areas in the world and the developing countries.

Now more than forty percent of medical school students are women. But half or two thirds of them quit their profession after bearing their children, and some of them return to work several years after as part-time workers, not full-time working doctors. I am quite disappointed with this situation.

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About Me Interview with Nobuko- Medical Technologist: Japan

What are 3 words that describe you?

Active , Open-minded, Inquisitive

What qualities do you have?

I was the first female general surgeon and pediatric surgeon at the Nagasaki university hospital in which I had worked for almost eighteen years until 2001.

I have never felt hard or tough to work for my patients. They have taught me a lot of things. I thank my colleagues supporting and helping me. It was very lucky that I could choose this agreeable profession without any hesitation and any troubles. But for my generation it was very difficult to accomplish my responsibility as a clinical doctor after marriage or bearing a baby in Japan. So the job had preceded my private life until my mid-forties. Then I have started to work in many social fields, like BPW, MSF and other local NGO groups. I can gain more knowledge through these activities.

I think I will be able to encourage young people who worry about their future.

What is your advice to other women?

Professional skill will help you to advance your position and to help others, too. It is important to live one's own life economically and morally. It makes people to become free and tough.

Education and good human relationship will make your progress. If you have gained IT skill and multiple language skills, you can find and meet many important people in the world. Then you will make another progress with your co-workers, your friends and your family members.

What motivates you? What hobbies?

One of my hobbies is scuba diving. I have been too busy to do it for these two years. I travelled to Tahiti, Maldives, Cancun, Jamaica, Red Sea (Shalm El-Shake), Cebu (Philippine), Hawaii, Saipan, Palau, Rota and Australia (Cairns) for scuba diving.

I have started to learn French since 2005. I don't have enough time to study it. I want to improve in French. In future I will learn other languages like Spanish, Italian or Arabic. It will help me to make friendly relationship all over the world not only to meet but also to contact on website.

Travel?

Now I live the house next to my private clinic. I don't like this situation. The distance gives us extra time to do something except for the job. Every Monday and Wednesday morning, I drive my car for about 45 minutes to the other public hospital. I like to drive with listening music or radio, sometimes hearing language training CD.

I travel at least once a month for my social responsibility as president of national federation of Business and Professional Women. Sometimes I travel for other purpose, for example to attend the meeting with another MSF volunteers or to make a presentation of my experience in the fields of MSF.

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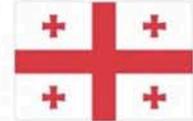
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