



Meet Tolani Azeez

Executive Director, Commercial

Fluor Ltd.

Image courtesy of Fluor Corporation

BCECA members provide engineering, design, project management and construction services for the process and energy industries. Fluor's Tolani Azeez, who became the company's first female General Manager in South Africa in 2018, gives an insight into her work with a global engineering company that provides professional and technical solutions worldwide.

More than just science and technology

"When people discover that I studied English Literature and Law at university, I'm often asked how that led to more than two decades working in the energy industry. The answer is simple – my brother is a geologist and his enthusiasm for science and technology proved utterly infectious, which encouraged me to explore the opportunities in this global industry sector. At Fluor, I currently work in project management for energy expansion projects in Europe. It's an environment where success depends on capability and delivery alongside science and technology."

Plenty of opportunity

"In the global north, we often take energy for granted. However, when one considers that around 750 million people on our planet still have no access to electricity, with another three billion cooking over open fires, it's clear that we have some way to go before we've solved the world's energy problem. That's one of the reasons why I'm focusing on co-authoring an industry-wide paper about creating sustainable partnerships with indigenous communities in countries such as Australia, Canada and Peru. Add in the challenges of delivering decarbonisation, affordability, and social inclusion, and one quickly recognises that companies like Fluor, which deliver engineering solutions, will be in demand for some time to come. There are plenty of career opportunities for everyone in this industry and more in the pipeline."

Capability and confidence

"I have worked on international mega projects with major engineering contractors and leading operating companies and asset owners. It's been a privilege to have experienced so much, in so many environments, with wonderful teams who deliver and construct engineering projects in some of the most stunning locations on earth. This has involved sitting in a portacabin in the middle of the desert managing predominantly male teams. But it doesn't matter whether a project leader is male or female. What matters to professionals, our clients, managers, trainers, and team members is that you can deliver successful outcomes. Gender, sexuality or skin colour should not matter, because it's all about the individual and your ability to get the best out of the people around you."

The engineering world is changing, and for the better. If you've got what it takes, there's a role for you in this hugely important industry sector. Leadership is about capability and confidence; that's all that matters."

For more information about career prospects in the engineering contracting sector, contact BCECA at 10th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP

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