



Sam Islam

Energy Systems Catapult



Connection to Engineers Without Borders UK

I first became involved with Engineers without Borders UK when I was an undergraduate as a founding committee member and first female president of Engineers without Borders University of Manchester student branch (now chapter.) Subsequently, I completed a summer internship at the national charity office (then based at the University of Cambridge Humanitarian Centre) to organise the 2010 National Conference. This was followed by a spell of working on the National Executive as Communities of Practice Co-ordinator (under EWB-UK's previous organisational structure) and completing a 3 month overseas placement with SIBAT, a local NGO based in the Philippines focussed on developing and implementing renewable energy schemes.

As a professional engineer, I have been sporadically engaged with supporting EWB-UK initiatives such as serving as a panellist discussing the topic of inclusion on the Constructive Conversations Series as well as helping to assess and shortlist the submissions for this year's Reshaping Transport Challenge.

Skills and expertise

I have a BEng (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Industrial Experience and an MSc in Renewable Energy and Clean Technology. My main interest as a student was renewable energy, in particular solar PV and hydropower, which I pursued through completing my theses with a tech start up in Uganda and completing an EWB UK overseas placement. After graduation, I initially joined the oil and gas industry and trained to become an offshore field engineer, transitioning into the rail industry for a few years, ultimately specialising in systems engineering.

I am now a Systems Engineering Consultant based at Energy Systems Catapult, responsible for performing a range of research and development activities and leading and providing technical expertise in the UK's journey to achieving Net Zero. Since receiving a working diagnosis of adult

ADHD, I have been exploring the importance of applying inclusive stakeholder analysis and management techniques and participatory design to ensure a just energy transition for the UK in line with EWB-UK's Globally Responsible Engineering Compass.

I am a member of the IET and working towards Chartership. I am also an Associated Systems Engineering Professional (ASEP) accredited member of the Energy Systems Interest Group at INCOSE UK (now IfSE UK).

Although my expertise mainly lies within systems thinking and technical leadership of energy engineering projects, having worked with a range of both private and public sector businesses has given me a well rounded understanding of the nature of organisational governance. I have also recently completed the Foundation for Science and Technology Future Leaders Scheme and reversed mentored my organisation's Chief Technology Officer. Both activities have helped to develop my awareness and confidence in strategic level thinking and decision making skills.

Motivation for running

I am interested in becoming a member elected trustee as based on my experience as both a student and professional member of EWB-UK throughout the years I believe that I am well placed to earn the trust of the membership and to listen, learn from and ensure that their views are appropriately considered and included where possible at strategic level. I also hope to facilitate the long term sustainable growth of the organisation in the coming years through obtaining a greater understanding of our membership and how the capabilities being developed by EWB-UK are achieving wider, systemic impacts within the engineering profession and beyond.