Dr. Marlene Kanga is one of Asia’s leading engineers and has made an impact on the engineering profession in Australia and internationally. She was National President of Engineers Australia in 2013, the first Asian born president and the second woman to hold this important position in the 95 year history of this institution.

Dr. Kanga graduated in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, India’s leading engineering institution, and received a Master’s degree from Imperial College London, where she was also awarded a DIC for outstanding academic performance. She completed a PhD at Macquarie University Sydney. In 2012, IIT Bombay awarded her with a Distinguished Alumni Award, the first woman engineer to be so recognised. She is a Fellow of the engineering institutions in Australia, New Zealand and India as well as the Australia-India Institute. She is married and a proud mother of two sons.

Dr. Kanga is a board member of Innovation Australia, which implements the Australian government’s strategy on Innovation, and Chair of the Department of Industry R&D (Research & Development) Incentives Committee which administers the largest, tax-based, innovation support program for industry in Australia. She is a board member of Sydney Water Corporation, the largest water utility in Australia.

Dr. Kanga is co-founder and director of iOmniscient Pty. Ltd. which has developed patented software technology for automated video analytic systems. The technology is based on Australian research, has multiple patents and international awards, is a recognised technology leader and has implemented solutions throughout Asia.

As a chemical engineer specialising in process safety, her early technical leadership underpinned the development of regulations for hazardous chemical industries in Australia.

Dr. Kanga advocates for an inclusive profession and is currently a Board Member of the International Network for Women Engineers and Scientists. She launched its Asia Pacific Nation Network for women engineers and scientists in 2011. The network supports the establishment of national women’s organisations in these professions around Asia.
Dr. Kanga is a member of the Executive Council of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) which represents 20 million engineers in more than 90 countries and is a special advisor to the WFEO President, representing the Asia Pacific region.

During 2013, Dr. Kanga was rated among the Top 100 Engineers in Australia and among the Top 100 Women of Influence in Australia.

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