



WINLPG

Women in LPG

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.



Ms Elaine Ong
Chief Financial Officer
BW LPG
Singapore

I have close to 30 years of experience in all aspects of Finance. My fascination with numbers started young, influenced by my grandfather who was a self-made entrepreneur and businessman. I spent my growing up years in Canada, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of British Columbia and subsequently completed my articling for the Chartered Accountant professional designation with Ernst & Young in Vancouver, Canada.

I am currently Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of BW LPG. In a listed company, I often delve beyond the typical Finance functions and my expanded portfolio includes Investor Relations, Corporate Communications, and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG). I am also actively involved in assessing strategic opportunities and charting the strategic direction of the Company alongside our CEO.

LPG is an important fuel that can improve the quality of lives for communities in emerging economies, especially when it replaces traditional, pollutive fuels. LPG also serves as a feedstock for the modern economy in a cleaner way than many competing fuels. I am proud to be part of an industry that is making lives better and enabling a global transition towards cleaner energy. I firmly believe that women can contribute and accelerate progress. Through industry organisations such as WLPGA and WINLPG, we combine different expertise, and our collective strengths will allow us to tackle industry challenges better together.

“ All industries including ours demand a skilful and diverse workforce to drive it. Many opportunities await those who accept the challenge of working in LPG and the maritime sector. ”

Ms Elaine Ong

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today, this can be personal or professional?

Professionally, I hope to increase the general awareness of LPG energy shipping in the financial sector. Shipping in general, and LPG shipping in particular, is a niche area and understanding on investment opportunities and the extent to which it is transforming lives in the developing nations are limited.

Personally, I am passionate about investing in talent to develop a next generation of leaders in our organisation and in the shipping industry.

Describe your pathway (your career path)

I started my post-graduate career with Ernst & Young in Vancouver, Canada from 1993 to 1999. Upon completion of my articleship, I was approached by Teekay Shipping Corporation to join their expanding Finance team and was there from 1999 to 2009, working in both Vancouver and Singapore. My last position with them was as Vice President, Global Financial Projects & Systems and Regional Controller for Asia Pacific. I then embarked on a career in the fast-moving consumer goods sector when I joined Kraft Foods Asia Pacific from 2009 to 2011 as its Internal Audit Lead. In late 2011, I was approached to return to Shipping where I joined BW Group as its Vice President, Finance in 2011. My last held position was Senior Vice President, Finance, before joining BW LPG as Chief Financial Officer in 2015.

What any specific challenges do believe face women in our industry?

Women's voices can be significantly outnumbered in our industry. It is however heartening to note that there is a global push towards improving gender representation. All industries including ours demand a skilful and diverse workforce to drive it. In my 30-year career, I have had more than my fair share of opportunities to grow and develop my career, from an Assistant Manager in Accounting to today as CFO of a listed company. I would say that the combination of my technical skills along with the feminine instincts of intuition, and building and developing relationships, have enabled me to rise above the challenges and contribute to my company's continued success.

Did you have a mentor and how did they help mold your business style?

I am very fortunate to have had several mentors in my life. The first was my grandfather, who taught me the fundamental principles of ethics, trust and credibility, and to value all relationships. Post-graduation, I was fortunate to have a senior leader at work who inspired me with his strong technical, accounting, reporting and business controlling skills. He honed in me a deep appreciation for good governance, and the dangers of the "Enrons" of the world. The last mentor was a former Board Member with a very distinguished career in public accounting and running large corporations. He was my sounding board when I faced challenging corporate decisions – with his unwavering focus on "doing things right", he emphasised that as a business leader, we must always be guided by our moral compass and "True North".

What does leadership mean to you?

To be a leader is to be authentic, real and transparent in all that we do. We "walk the talk" - aligning our action with our words and leading by example. In the early years of my leadership career, I was particularly inspired by the concept of Servant Leadership which has since become my leadership mantle. The core principles include encouraging diversity of thought, creating a culture of trust, having an unselfish mindset, and fostering leadership in others.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

Many opportunities await those who accept the challenge of working in LPG and the maritime sector. My advice is to be daring, tenacious and be open to opportunities that come your way and have fun along the journey.



#WINLPG

Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org