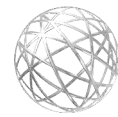




MARCH 8 #InspireInclusion

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



INTERNATIONAL
ALUMINIUM

Aluminium, shaping a better tomorrow

‘Contributing to positive change makes every effort worthwhile’

Dr Mariam AlMaazmi, Emirates Global Aluminium



Dr. Mariam AlMaazmi, Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), manages the Al Taweelah Medical Centre. Here, she discusses how aluminium plays a role in her interest in all aspects of occupational health, hygiene and safety.

How did you come to work for the aluminium industry?

My journey into the aluminium industry began during my pursuit of a Master's degree in the UK, where I had the opportunity to engage with EGA representatives at a UAE-UK forum. It was there that I first encountered the forward-thinking EGA Human Capital representative who recognised the value of my background as a medical doctor specialising in occupational health.

Following our discussion, I returned to the UAE and, within a remarkably short span of two months, I found myself sitting for an interview at EGA. That was seven years ago, marking the beginning of my tenure within EGA's Medical Centre and Occupational Health department.

What about the aluminium industry most excites you?

Aluminium is a versatile material and is essential to making modern life possible, including in the development of a more sustainable society. Aluminium's versatility renders it indispensable across numerous sectors, and being able to contribute as a medical doctor within this dynamic industry is deeply fulfilling. Witnessing my patients carry out their duties with confidence while supporting them in their daily endeavours is truly rewarding.

We know the aluminium industry is considered to be a male-dominated sector. What do you think is the most pressing issue facing women today in the sector?

Women in EGA have made significant strides in assuming roles across every level of the organisation, including in operations. I firmly believe that true equality lies not in striving to be identical to men, but rather in ensuring equitable opportunities based on individuals' skills, abilities and qualifications. From a medical perspective, a pressing issue confronting women in the aluminium industry is their health and wellbeing while on the job. I am proud to be actively involved in addressing the development of comprehensive guidelines as the Vice Chair of the IAI Health Committee.

How has the landscape changed since you first started in the sector?

There has been a notable shift in the perception of the pivotal role played by the health department in ensuring business continuity within the aluminium sector. This heightened recognition came as a result of challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and reflected a significant evolution in leadership and management mindset.

Who is your role model?

Mr Salman Abdullah, EVP of ESG & Sustainability at EGA. His genuine respect and guidance ensure every woman on his team realises her full potential. He fosters an environment where we are valued and empowered to thrive. I am grateful beyond words to work under his leadership.

The aluminium industry is diverse and offers unlimited opportunities for growth.

What is your advice for young women aspiring to work in the sector?

To young women aspiring to embark on a career in the sector, I offer the reassurance that the aluminium industry is diverse and offers unlimited opportunities for growth.

While the journey may demand perseverance and diligence, the prospect of contributing to positive

change, both in our lives and the world at large, makes every effort worthwhile.

Can you highlight some of your career successes?

Among my most cherished career successes at EGA is the pivotal role played by our health department in ensuring business continuity throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Spearheading the management of Covid-19 testing and vaccination operations across our two sites in Jebel Ali and Al Taweelah stands as a testament to our commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of our workforce.

Additionally, I take immense pride in the initiatives and policies aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of women and mothers in the workplace - initiatives that I have had the privilege to champion, lead and support.