

Souhila Chetouane – Vice Chair Women in Energy (WIN) Committee



Souhila graduated from the Algerian Petroleum Institute with a Masters of Science in Petroleum Engineering in 2006 and is a multi-lingual physical fitness enthusiast.

Souhila started her career as a Production Assurance Engineer working on Production Optimisation and Performance Analysis of a 7 fields development project for BP In-Salah. She acquired experience in Production Optimisation of oil and gas assets from working with frontline operational teams in Asia, Middle East, North Africa, North

America and Europe and is now settled in Aberdeen over the past decade. She is currently working as a Flow Assurance Projects Lead for a growing engineering consultancy focussing on strong project and risk management and assisting UK Continental Shelf operators with their ageing assets Flow Assurance challenges on an advisory role.

As a STEM Ambassador, Souhila's passionate about promoting engineering and STEM subjects to young people and is currently collaborating as a mentor with a North East of Scotland Academy to persuade the next generation of boys and girls that engineering is for them and be a positive role model to help them on their path.

Souhila is also a certified Tutor Assessor for the Young STEM Leader Programme, a Scottish government initiative aiming to stimulate and strengthen the development of peer mentoring and inspiration in STEM for the young generation in Scotland.

Like many women in STEM professions, Souhila is involved in work on Equality and Diversity topics and believes achieving gender balance within STEM and the energy industry as a whole will have wide reaching benefits for everyone.

In the Spotlight

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Seek out a mentor early on in your career to help, guide and challenge you in your career choices. Another as important point is to build your network and contribute to it before you need it – you don't have to be in the professional world long to see the link between relationships and opportunities.

What do you think are the benefits of being a member of SPE?

Your SPE membership is what you make of it.

Being a member of SPE Aberdeen is something I enjoy so much that I have been involved in many committees since day one.

Volunteering with SPE Aberdeen provided opportunities to meet many fellow industry professionals at different levels of their career and some of those connections are now colleagues and friends.

SPE monthly evening technical events and talks are a great way of keeping up with industry advancements and upskilling in many industry related disciplines.

Being able to give something back through the Schools Career Guidance activities and events, having the opportunity to play a role in inspiring the future generation of boys and girls STEM leaders is something I am passionate about.

Best Achievement so far?

The opportunity to launch Women in Energy Aberdeen group in 2019; unlike many standard networks a women-centric group is less centred on selling yourself in having to play the role of professional and more emphasis is put on supporting each other.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

I always wanted to be a pilot but I was discouraged because that career path was “for boys”. Earth Science was my plan B and I do not regret pursuing this field.

What is the best way to motivate others?

Get to know them is the only way to motivating others! We may not want to be personal friends with colleagues but that doesn't mean we shouldn't get to know them as people and find out what makes them tick.

Your favourite stress-buster?

Sport and the outdoors. Playing tennis, going to the gym or simply outside for a long walk are all great stress busters. Keeping physically active is a powerful medicine that is great for the mind as well as physical health.

What's your dream job?

“Detective” – which requires key skills we learn to master as engineers “critical thinking, attention to detail and problem solving”.

What are you reading, listening to or glued to on TV?

I have been watching “Mindhunter”, a series based on real-life events and characters that delves into the formation of the FBI's behavioural sciences unit. Based on two former FBI agents who, in 70s America, interviewed some of the country's most disturbed and violent incarcerated psychopaths. I found the show fascinating in the way they studied the mind of the criminals to better understand their behaviour and apply what they learned to ongoing investigations. This psychological odyssey is among the very best in my opinion.

What's on your bucket list – the things you still want to accomplish?

Make time to travel the world and visit some of the must-see destinations like: The three Gorges Dam in China, The Mose Project in Italy and The Panama Canal.

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