

My name is Antone “Tony” MARIA, I have graduated in 2000 with B.Sc. in Mechanical engineering from BirZeit University in Palestine, and since then I have been practicing in building services and infrastructure. I currently work as a “Mechanical Services Chief Engineer” for the United Nations Office for Project Services “UNOPS / Jerusalem office. I acquired my experience through working on various types of structures and in different types of posts such as: contractor site engineers, design engineer and lately as a chief engineer. The structures that I worked in are for both the public and private sectors such as: public buildings, correctional facilities, court house facilities, hospitals, hotels, education facilities, private commercial buildings, villas and private residences.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER AND WHAT PATH DID YOU TAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS?

Building services was always the area of interest for me since I joined the Mechanical Engineering Department at BirZeit University, during study and after graduation, when I first graduated I realised that this is the field I want to work in; particularly when starting designing services for buildings and seeing the positive impact of those systems after implementation. Building services contribute in providing human comfort particularly with modern engineering systems and also contribute to a cleaner environment by adopting green technologies.

I believe joining CIBSE and obtaining the ACIBSE registration was an extremely beneficial step for my career, even though it has required serious effort in preparing the required documents and presentation material. I think it's worth every single moment spent on that, and without any doubt CIBSE has facilitated this for me by providing guidance in making me understand exactly what is

required for the application. Therefore I would encourage any applicant, particularly international ones, to approach CIBSE for any challenge that they face and I'm confident that they will receive excellent support.

WHAT IS THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF YOUR JOB?

Building sustainable structures and emphasising the usage of green technologies is something of great interest to me and I put special attention to achieve that during my role as a designer.

Another enjoyable thing about being a building services engineer is the usage of modern engineering technologies to build new structures.

In my current position there is a unique advantage which I enjoy most and that is “helping people in need”.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE?

I think one of the most important things I have achieved in my career is designing and implementing green technologies, I have designed several air recovery systems within my work particularly for the hospitals and pharmaceutical factory projects I have worked in. I think in such facilities those systems are extremely helpful in providing better sustainable solutions since in such facilities a significant amount for full fresh air is required in the HVAC systems. I also have implemented two commercial size domestic water – solar hot water systems and effectively designed one; such systems have shown excellent performance and proved to provide lower running cost.

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WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER?

I would advise young building services engineers to focus on immersing themselves in knowledge, keep themselves updated with most modern engineering technologies, love their work and concentrate on making things better. I believe joining CIBSE would be an extremely helpful step for their career, it does not only provide recognition, but it also facilitates obtaining knowledge by access to the vast library available online. I would also encourage them to learn from their own experience by lessons learned gathered from each project they participate in; this is extremely useful since they will have a better understanding for the

context of each new project and design and implement suitable solutions to make life better.

WHY DID YOU BECOME ACIBSE IENG?

Obtaining international recognition for my career is the key driver for joining CIBSE and obtaining the Engineering Council registration. Without any doubt it made me more confident about the job I do.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO BECOME ACIBSE AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING THIS GRADE?

Applying for ACIBSE was a completely smooth process, following the route that CIBSE has recommended made things easy, particularly that all the requirements were clear. As an international applicant, CIBSE gave me great support in answering my queries, facilitating and providing all the support required.

The advice that I will give to applicants is to focus on the requirements.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BENEFITS OF CIBSE MEMBERSHIP? AND WHY?

Besides the recognition for my qualifications that CIBSE provides, CIBSE provide access to their vast library of information via the Knowledge Portal; which is of great assistance. Also the CIBSE Journal helps in keeping me up to date with most recent innovative building services products and special engineering projects.

BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE....?

Building services is great because it plays an important role in building modern structures and making people's lives more safe and comfortable. ■



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