



## Managing Director's New Year Message

“My main focus on leading JEL towards 2030 will be on improving profitability and ensuring the safety of all staff and workers.”  
■ Page 2

JAN 2022

### FEATURED PROJECTS

Sahacogen SPP Renewal Project | Matarbari 2x600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Project ■ Page 4 | Visbreaker Tower Bottom (VTB) Project | FEP-WAVE-2 Project ■ Page 8 | Singapore Chemical Manufacturing Plant Project ■ Page 9

### INSIDER SPECIAL

2022 Managing Director's New Year Message ■ Page 2 | JEL's Inaugural Quality Month ■ Page 6 | JEL Golden Jubilee 2021 ■ Page 10 | Day of a Site Manager ■ Page 12 | Mr Muraoka shared his experience in Insider Conversation ■ Page 14



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



Koichi Watanabe  
Managing Director  
& Chief Executive Officer

# 2022

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



It is due to site staff and workers' dedication that work at our sites can continue unabated through this difficult period.



I wish everyone good health, wealth and success in the New Year!

9 months have passed since I took over the reins from Mr. Masao Akamatsu. I am pleased to report that the Group has continued to deliver creditable financial results even under the current challenging environment. I express my sincere appreciation to the Management and all employees for your hard work, contribution and dedication to JEL.

2021 was a significant year for us as we celebrated JEL's Golden Jubilee. We have grown steadily to become a reliable, superior and comprehensive engineering solutions provider, focusing on lifecycle efficiency, safety and delivering maximum value to our stakeholders, as I had set in our Mission statement last year. Our footprints can be found in over 30 countries and will continue to grow. I would like to express my gratitude to our clients and business partners for your continued trust and support which made this possible, as set in our Vision.

As the new Managing Director of JEL Group, my main focus on leading JEL forward will be on improving its profitability and ensure that safety of all staff/workers at offices and jobsites will be up-kept, as it is the most fundamental reason why JEL exists and also an important reason why we work for JEL.

In recent years, our business environment has changed rapidly. With growing environmental awareness, there is a need to gradually transition our business focus from fossil fuels to green renewable sources. Governments globally have started making regulatory changes to encourage the development and adoption of decarbonized energy.

We must effectively respond to the changes and ensure that JEL will overcome the challenges and continue to grow in the right direction, as we could survive under this situation as mentioned in Darwin's famous theory of evolution as "it is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change".

In order for us to do so together with increasing profitability, I will embark on a JEL 2030 Initiative, aiming to grow our client base in our traditional markets in the SEA region, plus focus on high growth areas, including Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the Philippines. We have established satellite teams in these regions and will continue to expand our network further.

Moving forward, strategic collaboration between JEL- HQ and our subsidiaries, including regionalization, would be more important for us to be competitiveness and responding to local market conditions

quickly and effectively.

Therefore our subsidiaries, EESB, JML, PTJEL and TJEL, will be expanded into regional business centers to enhance our regional project management capabilities and facilitate the flexible sharing of resources. Our Headquarters in Singapore will continue to be the heart of the entire Group and provide support and be responsible for the management of all business activities worldwide. We will make ourselves more competitive to seize all forthcoming opportunities.

There are key things to be introduced and improved for our growth. One is how each of us can increase our capability, through education and training, and leverage on new enabling technologies such as IoT (Internet of Things).

Our employees are our greatest asset. We have set up the JEL Study Award to support employees furthering their education. Employees will be given the opportunities to develop cross functional skills and take up more responsibilities. This creates greater flexibility to deploy them to different projects, tap on new IoT technologies and undertake new roles. We will also continue to engage our employees through open communication and build up a cooperative environment where all employees will strive as a team towards a shared goal.

We will embrace digitalization and, through development programs, employees will be equipped with the necessary skills to leverage IoT technologies to boost our productivity and increase our profitability. Imagine a project site where equipment, materials, and workers are all connected to a central server for better site monitoring, inventory and progress tracking, project management and better safety. The possibilities of IoT are endless and I am really excited about it and I do believe we can do it as we are Singapore based company – recognized as the most IoT integrated country in the world.

Together with the above, we have ventured into the green energy solutions market and will continue to diversify and expand our capabilities in life cycle business in line with the sustainable future. On the maintenance front, we will invest further in developing our capabilities and resources into life cycle and turnaround projects and break into pharmaceutical and semiconductor plant maintenance.

And we cannot forget work safety remains a top priority. We will continue to emphasize a Safety-First culture and spare no effort to remain accident free in our operations globally, for you and me and everybody to be happy in our lives.

Over the years, we have been a trusted partner to our business associates and

clients. That trust is built on our effective project management skills and our ability to deliver quality projects, on time, on budget and to the customer's satisfaction. We will continue to collaborate with reputable partners and build on the "JEL" brand name.

The outlook for 2022 remains uncertain with COVID-19 continuing to cast its shadow over all aspects of life. My sincere appreciation to the contributions of our employees and workers at our sites. It is due to their dedication that work at our sites can continue unabated through this difficult period. I am confident that we can continue to adapt to changes and overcome new challenges that may arise.

We must remain positive, for there is surely light at the end of the tunnel. Please take good care and let's stand united to support each other. We will get through this together and emerge stronger.

Thank you and stay safe and well. Let's Rise to the Challenge!

Koichi Watanabe  
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
January 2022



# Sahacogen SPP Renewal Project Secured!

We have secured the Sahacogen SPP Renewal Project in Chonburi, Thailand. The contract was signed with the owner, Sahacogen (Chonburi) Public Company Limited in December 2021.

Together with Thai Jurong Engineering Limited ("TJEL"), we are the EPC contractor in charge of constructing a Cogeneration Power Plant, consisting of one Gas Turbine, Steam Turbine and Heat Recovery Steam Generator, at Saha Pathana Group

Industrial Park in Sriracha District.

The power plant will use natural gas and have a gross output of approximately 78 MW. The generated power will be sold to EGAT (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand) under the SPP (Small Power Producer) scheme. 75 tons per hour of steam will also be extracted and supplied to customers in the industrial park. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2024.



**78MW**  
gross output



**75 tons/ hour**  
of steam



# Matarbari 2x600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Project



The owner, Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited ("CPGCBL"), has decided to construct a 2x600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Plant on Matarbari Island, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh.

The project was awarded on 6 March 2020 to a consortium consisting of Sumitomo Corporation, Toshiba Energy System & Solutions Corporation and IHI Corporation. For this project, JEL is working as a subcontractor to IHI.

Our scope of work consists of construction of Boiler and Auxiliaries (2 Units), Mechanical, Electrical, Controls & Instrumentations and Erection of the Power Plant.

The project is challenging due to several factors. The project location is remote

and inaccessible by land. Hence, material transportation to site is difficult. All temporary construction materials were transported by river as the cost of barge transportation is too excessive.

Climatic conditions at site are also another challenge. The location is prone to heavy rains and even cyclones. This will significantly affect the work and delay the progress of the project. There is normally 3 months of continuous heavy rainfall from June to August during the monsoon season. Out of the schedule of 25 months for each unit, a total of 3 months could be 'lost' due to heavy rainfall, thus requiring the works to be executed in 22 months. So the project team had to consider the reduced efficiencies during this period when estimating the effective man-days and planning the erection schedule.

There is also a lack of skilled manpower in Matarbari or Bangladesh region for Boiler erection work. The Boiler steel structure erection is carried out directly by JEL with manpower mobilized from Singapore, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and supported by Bangladeshi workers. The total peak planned manpower is 1,722 pax (including subcontractors). However, due to the present COVID-19 pandemic, the country's borders were closed from May 2021 to September 2021. This strongly impacted our workforce mobilization. Thankfully, we managed to utilize local workers/sub-contractors for the non-critical activities with careful guidance from our experienced site team. This allowed us to mobilize our more experienced JEL workers for the critical work. We were able to continue work with minimal impact to the schedule.

Our site, it is in a remote area. All our expatriate manpower is staying in site. As there are no amenities near the site, eg, shops, restaurants, towns, there is virtually no entertainment available for us. So life can get pretty monotonous and boring. Lucky, IHI & JEL have setup a canteen facility serving pretty diverse food from Japanese, Indian, Chinese and Bangladesh cuisines. At least we are well fed!





# JEL's Inaugural Quality Month



Doing quality work that is reliable, superior, comprehensive and satisfies our customers. This is the embodiment of JEL's vision and mission. It is also a competitive edge that we have over our competitors.

To drive the importance of Quality to all staff, Management has designated November 2021 as our first ever JEL Quality Month!

The main highlight of the Quality Month is taking the JEL Group Quality Pledge. All staff are encouraged to take the Quality Pledge as it is both a reminder and an action that symbolizes our commitment to our relentless pursue of Quality.

Other activities organised by QMS included the release of 4 Quality posters designed to heighten awareness of Quality. These Quality posters were displayed at our offices and project sites. A Quality poster slogan hunt was also organised to get staff to look for these 4 posters and submit the slogans on the posters to win attractive prizes. Congratulations to Nur Nafisa Nasuha Binti Saat (Neste Project), Ayalaraj Prabu (Neste Project), Alex Lu Tze Yih (JEL HO IT Dept) and Evon Looi (JEL HO C7) for winning \$30 each in the Quality Poster Slogan Hunt!

Project sites also joined in the event, with Baker Hughes project site doing a joint Quality Day celebration for their 1 million Safe Man-days achievement.

As the finale of the Quality Month, QMS also gave out Quality awards to Tanjong Jati Unit 5 & Unit 6 Boiler Project and Neste Expansion Project for outstanding Quality performance. They have the lowest Welding Rejection Rate, least NCR from client and are also active in the issuance of NCR and CAR. The JEL Quality awards serve as a recognition for their efforts in striving for and achieving Quality performance!



# COVID-19 Status Update



29 November 2021: Benoi dorm visit.

It is almost 2 years since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. No one expected the pandemic to last so long and just when we thought that things are getting better, a new outbreak/variant will emerge and threaten to cast us back to step 1.

Beyond delays in project execution, the impact to our staff is far more critical. To date, over 1,200 JEL staff and workers had contracted COVID-19. In 2021 alone, over 900 staff and workers contracted COVID-19. Our local projects in Singapore had seen 200 cases whereas our Indonesian projects were the most badly affected with over 400 cases!

Mr Andu Cokeng, a supervisor in JML Malaysia's Turbine department, was hospitalized for 3 weeks due to COVID-19. He required oxygen support as he had a bad cough, shortness of breath and loss of appetite. Thankfully, he had since recovered.

Mr R Sakthivel, camp in-charge of Matarbari project in Bangladesh, had to interact with many staff and workers daily due to his work. He was infected with COVID-19 not once but twice in the year 2020 and 2021!

Most of the affected staff and workers worked at our overseas project sites. They risk greater exposure to the virus and if infected, they often do not have access to good medical facilities. Due to travel restrictions, they are not able to return easily to their home country and many have not seen their loved ones for a long time. Work conditions are also tough with mandatory wearing of masks even while performing manual work and having to endure frequent COVID-19 tests. Despite all these, they kept on working and thanks to them, our projects are still progressing even through these difficult times!

JEL Management is grateful for the contributions of all our staff ... especially the sacrifices of our front-line project site staff and workers!

On 29 November and 21 December 2021, our MD, Mr Watanabe, visited the Benoi Dorm and Baker Hughes Project, where he thanked the workers personally and conveyed this message to them.

**'JEL thanks and appreciates our workers!'**

Mr Watanabe also presented the workers with goodie bags, specially prepared with LOVE! We prepared over 700 goodie bags for the workers in Neste, Baker Hughes and other local projects. The bag consisted of items, like instant drinks, snacks, toothbrush & toothpaste, which we hope that the workers will find useful!

Thankfully, most of the COVID-19 cases were mild but we still lost 3 colleagues to the pandemic. We mourn their loss deeply and share the grief with their families and loved ones. This is a stark reminder that the pandemic is very real, deadly and right beside us! It is important that we observe the safety measures and get vaccinated to protect ourselves and the people around us! JEL Group is strongly supportive of vaccination efforts. We are glad to share that our efforts bear fruit with over 95% of staff fully vaccinated in the entire JEL Group! We have overcome all the challenges in the past 2 years and emerged more resilient. We will continue to thrive even with COVID-19 around!





# JEL Maintenance Updates

## Visbreaker Tower Bottom (VTB) Project

The VTB Project was secured during the COVID-19 pandemic period. It was a tough project involving work at a live plant as well as a client with high standards. To successfully execute the project, we did extensive planning and also considered the resource mobilization and execution difficulties that we will face due to the COVID-19 Safety Management Measures (SMM).

The project involved the fabrication and installation of approximately 3km of 12" size of pipes and the installation of a product pipeline at the client's existing refinery. The pipeline stretches across 4 operating plants and terminates to a subsea line which is linked to a receiving line on the client's facilities in Jurong Island. It also required working with product operation pressures of 75 bar and operation temperatures of 325°C.

The project requires laying a high temperature product line across a public road as well as performing hot tap on the high temperature product line.

The road crossing required the underground installation of piping across a 60m stretch of road at a depth of 3.5m. We pulled the new 12" VTB pipe inside the existing 24" pipe. Hydro jetting had to be done for the existing 24" pipe to clean it and remove any foreign particles. We did a borescope inspection after that to check the internal cleanliness of the pipe. A laser alignment verification was also performed to verify the straightness of the pipe. Furthermore, the entire activity had to be carried out under confined space constraint with continuous water pump out round the clock. However, with good teamwork and execution, we managed to complete it in 8 weeks instead of the planned 12 weeks!

Another critical activity was the installation of 4 high temperature product line hot taps (2 on a 350°C product line and 2 on a 180°C product line). To prepare for the installation, we did a mock-up at the workshop and simulated the site conditions as closely as possible. An experienced qualified welder did a trial run in accordance with the relevant Weld Procedure Specification (WPS) for alloy steel welding works.

We also used specialized product oil for hydrotesting of WOLE (Welding on Live Equipment) to identify any welding leakage. I am happy to say that our efforts paid off as the installation was completed successfully.

In total, we did about 35 tons of structure fabrication, installation & insulation, pig launcher installation, 6 hot taps, 2 road crossing works and scaffolding works. The project main scope was successfully completed in October 2021 with additional variation works still ongoing.



## FEP-WAVE-2 Project

JML was awarded the contract by EPCm main contractor, Worley Engineering Singapore Pte Ltd, to construct the FEP-WAVE-2 Project for Chevron Oronite Pte Ltd ("COPL") at their lube oil blending unit facility at Jurong Island, Singapore.

This project is an expansion of their existing production facilities to meet expected future growth in demand. The expansion consisted of the addition of new components storage tanks, new vessels and associated pumps, piping and utilities.

Our scope comprised of mechanical erection, fabrication and installation of piping and structural steel, insulation and painting works. Project is currently proceeding well with 40% progress and expected to complete by April 2022 as scheduled.

The team doing tie-in works had to overcome challenges working in a "live plant" site. They include frequent changes to work schedules as per operation hot work available time, system isolation, LOTO & first break and blinding works. Strong emphasis was also placed on safety to ensure compliance to strict requirements for working safely at a live plant site to complete the tie in works.

Chevron Oronite Pte Ltd ("COPL") is a new customer in JML's Oil & Petrochemical clientele. Project is brown field as it involved the expansion of a live plant. With JML's specialized and proven track record in brown field execution, we were able to get through multiple rounds of evaluation, get qualified with COPL and eventually secure the contract. We will execute this project carefully and ensure its successful completion so that COPL will become another satisfied customer of JML!



## Singapore Chemical Manufacturing Plant Project



Despite ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, acute labour shortage and many challenges, work progress at the Singapore Chemical Manufacturing Plant project is commendable with overall progress crossing the 80% mark. Construction works that were delayed earlier are slowly catching up.

The project consisted of 3 packages, Civil, Steel Structure and Architecture Works, Mechanical & Piping Works and Electrical & Instrumentation Works. Baker Hughes is the owner of the plant and Sumitomo Chemicals is the EPC Client for the Project.

Most of the Reinforced Concrete works were completed and building arch works are ongoing. Steel structure installation is nearing completion with roofing and cladding works ongoing in the process buildings.

The shop for piping fabrication works was closed after the completion of fabrication works and currently field installation works are in progress. The site team is working towards handing over of piping packages and gearing up for loop check and pre-commissioning works.

Project site is currently operating at peak manpower of 550 staff and workers with works progressing on all fronts. 78 different sub-contractors are involved in the construction works.

Despite the efforts on catching up on work progress, our main focus still remains firmly on the safety and health of our staff and subcontractors. The project recently achieved a key milestone of 1 million Safe Manhours without LTI!

There had been recent spikes in COVID-19

cases at site and many of the workers were affected by movement restriction orders and/or placed under quarantine. But the team is not deterred by this and is fully motivated towards completing the project by March 2022.



**1M**  
safe man-hours





# JEL Golden Jubilee 2021

To celebrate JEL's Golden Jubilee, we organised a series of celebratory events. Although our plans were disrupted due to COVID-19 restrictions, we soldiered ahead and converted to virtual modes where possible. It might not be the same as physical events, but our staff took it all in stride and still enjoyed themselves tremendously! These were the events held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2021.



**Golden Jubilee Zumba**  
April to August 2021

While WFH has its advantages, it also has its cons. Without having to leave the house for work, it can lead to a sedentary life. To encourage our staff to stay active even while working from home, we started our virtual Zumba classes. Staff and their family can dance their way to a better mental and physical health while having FUN!



**Meals-On-Wheels**  
25 June 2021

Our 7<sup>th</sup> batch of volunteers successfully delivered 68 packs of meals and goodie bags on 25 June 2021! Due to the tight restrictions in Singapore, our team planned and carried out the event carefully. The collection was arranged at staggered timing to avoid crowding. We formed 3 teams of 2 volunteers and each team was assigned a zone which consisted of 15 to 20 households on average.



**Golden Jubilee Commemorative Gift**  
1 July 2021

To celebrate and commemorate JEL's Golden Jubilee celebration, we specially curated a limited edition 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bag and face mask embossed with the JEL logo! We hope that staff liked the gifts and be reminded of JEL's 50 years journey when using them every day!



**Wheel of Fortune**  
30 July 2021

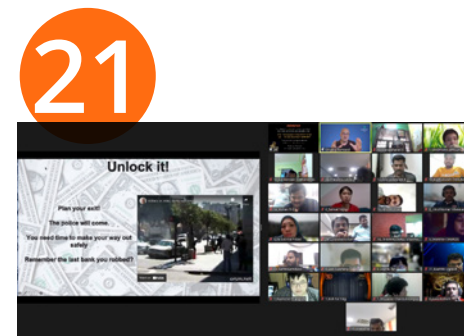
Acting as our very own "Pat Sajak" and "Vanna White", Mr Alan Phang and Ms Norahasah from Human Resources and Administration Division hosted JEL's edition of "Wheel of Fortune" during lunch time. Contestants had the chance to spin the signature wheel, call a consonant, buy a vowel and finally solve the puzzle, just like in the popular game show! Congratulations to P Rajarethnam from HR for winning \$300 vouchers as the top contestant!



**Meals-On-Wheels**  
13 August 2021

11 staff tirelessly delivered dinner to 58 home-bound elderlies on 13 August 2021. Split into 5 teams, they first collected the meals from the TOUCH Home Care (THC) branch at Jurong before proceeding to over 20 households to deliver the eagerly awaited dinner to the elderly.

It might just be a simple meal delivery to us, but to the elderlies who have difficulties moving around, a delivered meal meant so much more to them!



**Virtual Escape Room**  
13 August 2021

Staff formed teams and worked together to solve tricky puzzles to 'steal' as much as cash as they could while still managing to make a clean escape before the police arrived. It might all be virtual, but it was no less exciting as the teams raced against time. The first prize went to the team comprising of Koh Pei Ying, Mithun Vidhyadhar, Raymond Thiang and Vuriti Kiran Kumar. Congratulations!



**Art Contest on Vision & Mission of JEL**  
12 July 2021

We organised an art contest for our staff and their family to draw about JEL and our Vision and Mission. The entries were really beautiful and creative expressions of what JEL meant to them and their hopes for JEL's future! Thanks to all the contestants and congratulations to the winners for transforming their perception of JEL into such wonderful artworks.



**Wheel of Fortune**  
27 August 2021

A 2<sup>nd</sup> run of the JEL Wheel of Fortune event was held due to popular demand! Participants continued to have lots of fun and laughter as they spun their way to attractive prizes! Congratulations to Cherie Chan from EPC for winning \$150 vouchers as the top player!



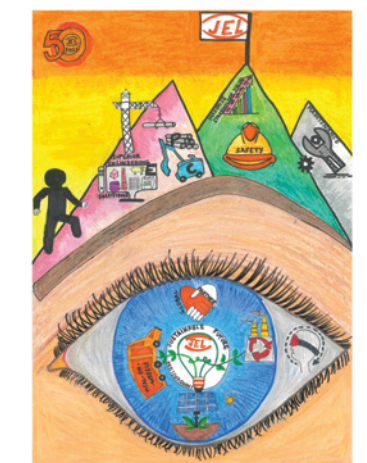
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**V. Thenmozhi**  
(Wife of Venkateswaran M)  
Sinmado Engineering (India) Pvt Ltd



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
**Sophie Tan**  
Corporate Marketing Department  
Jurong Engineering Limited



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
**Dedy Dharma**  
M2 Department Solar Team  
JEL Maintenance Pte Ltd



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
**Nisha Verma**  
JML HQ Proposal Team  
JEL Maintenance Pte Ltd



**Meals-On-Wheels**  
15 October 2021

This marks the fruitful conclusion of our Meals-on-Wheels initiative for 2021! Special thanks to our Managing Director, Mr Watanabe and Mrs Watanabe for gracing the event and giving your support! Since we started the initiative in October 2020 in collaboration with TOUCH Home Care, we have completed 9 runs and delivered over 598 meals to the beneficiaries residing in the west.





# Day of a Site Manager

We are a leading engineering and construction company, specialises in construction and maintenance of industrial and power plants. What goes on at our project sites are the bread and butter of JEL. We decided to do a feature 'Day of a Site Manager' and invited Mr Pappureddy Srikumar, Site Manager of Van Phong project, to share with us what his typical day at site is like.

## Daily Schedule

### 6.30am Toolbox Briefing With Site Staff/Workers

When most of us are still in our beds, Mr Srikumar's day has already started with a toolbox briefing. It is a safety talk that all site workers, safety officers, and supervisors must attend daily before commencing work. It is a reminder on the importance of safety and the many potential dangers at the work site.



Toolbox briefing



Toolbox briefing

### 7.00am Site HSE Weekly Safety Inspection

Next up is the weekly safety inspection with the Site HSE team to inspect the site for any possible safety violations and hazards.



HSE weekly safety inspection.

### 8.30am Coordination Meeting With Subcontractors

After the site inspection, Mr Srikumar meets the subcontractors to follow up on their progress and organise, schedule and co-ordinate on-site shared services such as site coordination with other contractors, deliveries and off-loading, manpower mobilization progress, crane, scaffolding, HSE issues and Housekeeping.

### 10.00am Daily COVID-19 Issues Meeting With Client

Due to COVID-19, Mr Srikumar now meets up with the client everyday to report on COVID-19 related issues. An outbreak might result in a site lockdown, so it is crucial to head off any potential outbreaks before it even happens!

### 11.00am Internal Meetings (Daily Progress, Coordination, Site HSE etc)

Next up are the endless stream of daily internal meetings with the various departments/ sections. During the meeting, staff will give updates on the last week's progress versus their weekly target, discuss plans for the upcoming week and discuss any problems or coordination issues faced (and the joint brainstorming of solutions). These meetings are important as they facilitate better communication and a shared sense of purpose when staff see the project as a whole instead of their own individual portion.

### 12.00pm Lunch

Finally, Mr Srikumar gets a well-deserved break over lunchtime!

### 1.00pm Clearing of Paperwork

After lunch, Mr Srikumar settles down at his desk to clear the many paperwork needing his attention, eg, replying to Client letter/email, review and approval of Method Statements, HSE procedures, approval of material request, daily overtime request approval etc.

### 3.00pm Daily Construction Progress Meeting With Client

Mr Srikumar and all Chief Engineers meet with the client again to report on the daily work progress and discuss any major issues, eg, weather reports, safety/ health issues that will impact the project. Regular communication with the client is important to build rapport and keep the client updated of progress and issues.

### 5.00pm Schedule/ Progress Review Meeting With Planning Manager/ Engineer

Mr Srikumar meets with the Planning Manager/ Engineer to discuss on the work progress. Is the project on schedule? If not, then what actions do we need to take?

They will also look at the schedule and identify upcoming major milestones as well as the preparation work required.

### 6.00pm Progress Updates Discussion With To Client

Mr Srikumar meets with the Client's Site Manager to discuss on the day's work activities, HSE issues, additional works & Interfaces with other consortium partners.

### 7.00pm End of Workday!

Mr Srikumar finally gets to rest for the day ... unless overtime is required for catch up work!



The above is just a simplified breakdown of a Site Manager's day. Mr Srikumar also has to handle many unexpected or urgent matters that crop up. For example, a recent outbreak of COVID-19 cases. Like he mentioned later, work at the project site is never boring!

Now that we have gone through a typical workday of a Site Manager, let us hear more about the job from Mr Srikumar. We asked him some questions to get a better picture of site life.

### 1. What are the things you enjoy working at site?

In construction, the most satisfying thing is being able to see immediate results from your hard work. At the end of each day, you can clearly see the progress you and your team make. Most people can only dream of making their mark on the world by creating something new. But as 'construction people', we get to do that every day! Now, what can more rewarding than that?

### 2. What are the challenges you face when working at site?

During my construction career, I have faced numerous challenges, whether its Permanent Material delivery delays, unforeseen incidents like typhoon, rain, flood, COVID-19 or accidents that affected the erection schedule.

But no matter the challenge, it is our responsibility to overcome it and to complete the project on schedule. Whether it is mobilising more workers and/or working overtime, we will always try to complete projects on time and safely!

### 3. What are the more memorable moments or events on site?

I can't stress enough about the open culture we have which encourages innovation. We can try new methods of doing things without the fear of failure. I'm challenged and at the same time encouraged to find creative ways to solve problems.

I have also worked with many great

colleagues onsite and I'm grateful to the great leaders we have who inspired me every day to be passionate about my job.

### 4. What are the things which are not so enjoyable on site and can be improved?

Construction work is often hot and tiring. It requires a lot of manual labour that stresses the body. So it is crucial to give our staff and workers adequate rest. If they have being working hard for a few weeks, then give them a long weekend to rest and recover. They will appreciate your concern and also be happier and eager to get back to work.

### 5. How do you take a break and relax at site? What are your recreational activities?

Working on a construction site means you'll be spending a lot of your time with the team, overcoming challenges together and fixing problems. This leads to strong bonds as workmates become best mates. Despite the occasional odd prank or two, the friends you make in a construction site are the kind of friends you'll have for life! I enjoy the close relationships built as well as the fun and laughter of working with good friends!

Furthermore, whenever our team accomplish a goal, we will celebrate with pizza and beer at a local restaurant ... my treat! This makes the team feel appreciated and eager to push forward.

### 6. What words of advice or encouragement will you give to the young engineers before they start their first project?

A career in construction means you can help shape the world we live in. You can look back many years later and take great pride in saying "I helped built that power plant. I made it happen!". Construction is not just about steel and pipes but also the ability to change other peoples' lives.

There is also the freedom to choose where our career can take us as our skills will always be in demand across the globe.

Lastly, construction work can be hard on the body, but hard work keeps you young, healthy and fit! Think of working on-site as a daily workout session, plus you get paid for it!

### 7. How has COVID-19 changed life at site?

The pandemic led to a delay in the shipment of resources necessary to complete jobs. This resulted in project delays and increased the cost of materials/ manpower mobilization. In addition, we have to constantly monitor the situation in case of a mandatory site shutdown. Currently, it is difficult to quantify the delay or compute the costs. However, we have prepared mitigation plans to complete our project on time.

Due to the travel restrictions, staff have been away from home for a long time with some coming close to 3 years. I really respect those staff who sacrificed so much of their personal life for the company. They stayed and performed their jobs diligently even when a loved family member passed away and they were not able to go back to see them for the last time and attend their funeral.

### 8. Anything which you wish to share?

Forget about the boring 9 to 5 deskbound jobs! Every construction project brings new and interesting challenges. The work is complex and never-ending, but every job, even the tough ones, is memorable when you do it with the laughter, fun and the support of your colleagues.





# Insider Conversation

For this issue of JEL Insider Conversation, we interviewed **Mr Daisuke Muraoka**. He was seconded from IHI and recently promoted to head the Process & Equipment Department, EPC Centre. Let us all congratulate Muraoka-san on his promotion!

## To start off, can you share with us your background?

I was born and grew up in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, Japan.

Asahikawa is famous across Japan as it is known for being the coldest city in Japan, holding Japan's temperature record of -41°C!

I did not ever imagine that I will work in Singapore, where it is everlasting summer, located so close to the equator. While I miss the four seasons in Japan a little, I also like Singapore's tropical climate since it makes people more active.

## What are your aspirations and dreams? Why did you choose to be an engineer and what did you hope to accomplish, build etc?

After graduating from graduate school of mechanical engineering, I wanted to join a company in the heavy industry as I am interested in creating big things which are memorable, record setting (world's largest, best, most efficient etc) and requires team effort to be built. After some consideration, I finally chose IHI because I heard that IHI's corporate is open and 'natural'. It was a right choice!

IHI gave me many opportunities to challenge myself and I feel that JEL has a similar culture.

After joining IHI, I was assigned to the development department at the gas turbine power plant business division. Thanks to the job rotation scheme, I also had the opportunity to work in sales department



The curry dinner of IHI curry club with JEL member at Tokyo.

as a sales engineer and in the project department as a power plant engineer for power plants in and outside of Japan.

From 2009 to 2011, I was posted to IHI Singapore and tasked to take care of new project development in the Southeast Asia region.

Then in 2019, I came back to Singapore again, this time as a member of the JEL group.

## What are the more memorable projects you are involved in?

Most of the projects which I took part in were memorable as they were all different experiences for me, of which some were bitter ones. But good or bad, they were all great learning experiences for me.

My first project was a gas turbine combined heat and power project installation sited in the area development project at Akasaka, Tokyo. It was not a big project in terms of budget, but there were many technical challenges, like the usage of dual fuel for normal and emergency situations and complicated project scheme under commercial buildings construction etc.

The CCPP project in Mozambique, where I worked with the JEL EPC team, was another memorable project. I was involved in the project for more than 6 years right from the beginning when I was supporting the feasibility study.

It was the first CCPP project in Africa for IHI and a challenging one due to differences in business customs and severe local conditions. We faced a lot of issues, but the project was completed successfully and it was the strong cooperation between JEL and IHI that made it possible.

## What are your more special moments in JEL?

Working with the JEL EPC team. It is definitely the most memorable thing throughout my entire career.

I have worked with the JEL EPC team for more than 13 or 14 years before I joined JEL. In the beginning, I had just started getting involved in overseas projects outside Japan. I was not used to the coordination, negotiation and collaboration work required. However, the JEL EPC



Staff Party on 7 February 2020 (Before Circuit Breaker Lockdown 3 April 2020)



Golden Jubilee Town Hall Meeting

team always supported me and believed in me. In particular, Mr Bala and Mr Wong taught me many things in terms of engineering and project execution. Thanks to them and the JEL EPC team, I was able to learn, 'grow up' and develop confidence in my capabilities. Hence, I think that it is time for me to 'repay' my debt to JEL now.

## What are your plans for the future and for the Process & Equipment (P&E) department?

The P&E department focuses mainly on process and equipment design/engineering. In addition, the P&E team is also in charge of the overall plant design like the guaranteed design (performance, emissions, etc.) and operation/control concept design.

## What are your hobbies or what do you do to relax?

I started jogging in May 2020 due to a lack of exercise from the COVID-19 lockdown. I had never exercised since I graduated, but now I go for a jog daily, except on Saturdays which I take a break. The exercise makes me feel refreshed and sometimes I even get inspirations on private/business issues!

I also like to cook, especially Japanese and Indian curries. During the weekends when I am free, I will cook and my favourite dish is Chicken 65. It became my favourite food after I ate it at an Indian restaurant in Singapore where Mr Bala brought me a long time ago. I love Chicken 65 so much that I even bought an air fryer here just for cooking Chicken 65!



Jogging



## Lastly, we also invited Mr Wong, General Manager of EPC Center, to say a few words.

I remembered that Muraoka san worked with JEL back when we started in the Power Plant EPC business in consortium with IHI Gas Turbine in 2007. At that time, he was one of the young engineers in the IHI Gas Turbine Plant Division. I noticed back then that he played a very important technical role in all the projects that we worked with IHI. With his strong technical knowledge, he was always at the forefront when dealing with JEL and Owner on all technical matters.

So we requested to IHI on several occasions for Muraoka san to come work in JEL. To our pleasant surprise, Muraoka san was posted to JEL in April 2019. Over the last 2.5 years in JEL, he was involved in almost every EPC project tender and execution. He will proactively assist in the most important issues like the critical processes and performance of the power plant. He is very hardworking and diligent in his work and will provide timely responses even after working hours if required.



Cooking Chicken 65

He is very keen in imparting his knowledge to our engineers and had conducted several inhouse training programs for them after working hours. He also developed a number of software/programs to standardize the engineering calculations and generously shared them with his colleagues.

I am very glad to have him with us especially during this period when EPC center is executing several EPC projects concurrently. He definitely deserved his promotion to Head of Process and Equipment department and I look forward to his greater contributions in the years to come. He is truly an invaluable member of JEL family!



# JEL is One of Singapore's Best Employers!



Staff Party on 7 February 2020  
(Before Circuit Breaker Lockdown 3 April 2020)

2021 marked the first time that JEL was recognised as one of Singapore's best employers!

The Straits Times and global research company, Statista, released their findings on the top employers in Singapore, where companies were ranked according to scores derived from their survey results. Google topped the list with a score of 8.62. Apple and Adidas Singapore took the second and third place, scoring 8.60 and 8.52 respectively.

At the core of the scoring was a question about the willingness of staff to recommend their own employer to friends and family. Seeing how willing an employee would recommend his/her company was a good indicator of an employee's sentiment towards a company.

For further analysis, employees were also given about 30 questions on a range of topics – from salary and work-life balance to potential for development, their work environment and the reputation of their employer. In total, more than 200,000 evaluations were collected. The 200 companies with the best scores were included in the list of Singapore's Best Employers 2021.

JEL was ranked 137<sup>th</sup> out of 200 on the list and 9<sup>th</sup> in the Construction category.



Ms Saw, Coordinator, Construction Center

At JEL, our staff know that their well-being is looked after – not just during office hours, but also outside of work. Ms Saw, from Construction Centre, is thankful to her bosses who were understanding about her family commitments when her children were growing up.

"When my kids were young and I needed to take urgent leave, my boss always encouraged me to care for my family first," she says. "My colleagues are also helpful, and it feels comfortable to work here, like we are one big family."

JEL is honoured to be recognised as one of Singapore's best employers to work for! This is our first entry to the prestigious award, and it is a further testament to our



Newspaper Article

core values of fostering a harmonious and cohesive working environment for all.

Human capital is the single most important and valuable asset for the company. We make every effort to enhance the skills, knowledge, experience and well-being of our people for them to cope with the demands of the job and perform to their level best.

We recognise the collective efforts and contributions of our people and that our success is attributed to our shared commitment and perseverance towards providing superior and comprehensive engineering solutions to our customers worldwide.

# Employee Orientation Program

On 28 September 2021, JEL welcomed new employees, who joined us in 2021, in a half-day employee orientation program. A total of 17 new staff members attended the session, either in person at our head office or virtually from their project sites.

At the start of the program, Managing Director, Mr Koichi Watanabe, greeted the participants with a welcome address. He was followed by Chief Operating Officer, Mr Koh Kew Sek, who gave an overview of the group's business operations. The General Managers of the various divisions also shared their teams' setup and functions.

Beyond welcoming the new staff and helping them get more familiar and comfortable with JEL, the orientation program also aimed to provide new staff with the basic information and important policies of the company. The newcomers were given

a brief overview of our HSE practices, branding and compliance regulation from the heads of the respective departments. There was also a Q&A session where the new staff asked questions and learned more about the various aspects of JEL from the presenters.

At the end of the orientation program, the participants had the opportunity to tour the executive floor where they visited the board meeting room and Managing Director's office. Due to safe distancing measures for COVID-19, we were unable to organize the customary networking lunch session with the Management after the orientation program. Nonetheless, the participants were treated to sumptuous bento sets.

We hope the new employees feel comfortable and welcome in JEL and wish them joy and success in their careers with us.



Mr Koichi Watanabe



Mr Koh Kew Sek

# Wheel of Fortune – The JEL Edition!

Acting as our very own "Pat Sajak" and "Vanna White", Mr Alan Phang and Ms Norahasah from Human Resources and Administration Division hosted JEL's edition of "Wheel of Fortune" during lunch time on 30 July and 27 August.

The event garnered a lot of interest from staff working in both Singapore and overseas job sites. For those of us who grew up watching the popular American game show on TV, this was a dream come true as they finally had the chance to take part in the game show, albeit a smaller localized version. It was also especially thrilling for the aspiring wordsmiths in the company.

As the famous opening theme was played, the participants enthusiastically commented on the Zoom public chat. One could literally feel their excitement from the comments! For those who were familiar with the game, they knew exactly how to play the game — spin the signature wheel, call a consonant, buy a vowel and finally, solve the puzzle. However, many were curious to find out how the game show would be played online.

For this virtual JEL edition, we modified the rules slightly. First, we had a qualifying segment. The audience had to solve toss-

up puzzles and give their answers in the chat box to win a spot as a player. There were 4 player spots up for grabs.

The 4 players then proceeded to the main segment. With their cameras and microphones switched on, we get to see the excitement on their faces and hear it in their voices as they interacted with the hosts. Betting their luck on the spin of the digital wheel, the players competed to solve puzzles and win points that could be used to redeem attractive vouchers. The top scoring player even played a bonus round for a chance to double his/her points!

Congratulations to P Rajaretnam from HR, and Cherie Chan from EPC, for winning \$300 and \$150 vouchers respectively as the top scorers! The players were not the only ones who stood a chance to win prizes. At the end of the game show, the audience competed to win voucher prizes by solving toss-up puzzles! It was a happy ending for everyone!

The game show brought a lot of laughter and fun to the staff. The SRC team will continue working hard to bring more interesting and fun events to our staff, who have worked hard and contributed to the success of JEL!



The JEL Edition





Basics of Fishkeeping

To encourage staff to pick up new hobbies, Corporate Marketing organised a workshop on the 'Basics of Fishkeeping'.

Why fishkeeping? There are loads of benefits to fishkeeping. Studies have shown that fishkeeping helps to reduce stress, improve one's mood, and increase productivity. Moreover, it requires minimal maintenance and is cheaper than most pets. So for families with young kids, fishkeeping is a good start to teaching kids about responsibility as they learn to take care of the fishes.

The event was held via Teams on 16 July 2021 and hosted by Mr Paul, from Corporate Marketing Department, who shared his knowledge and experience on fish keeping with the participants. He touched on various topics like 'How to set up an aquarium tank', 'Introduction to common fish species' and 'Understanding

common fish illnesses & remedies.

At the end of the event, there was even a giveaway where a lucky participant walked away with a complete fish tank set with lights and filters!

Congratulations to Mr Charlito from Risk Management Department for winning the fish tank set! Now, the fish tank sits at his desk in the office and is home to many beautiful fishes!



And Mr Charlito has kindly invited anyone interested to pop by for a look!



A Lunchtime Date with Ms Ita's Gulai Kikil

Ms Ita, from PTJEL, has previously shared with us her favourite Indonesia food, Gulai Kikil, in our JEL Insider Picks. On 24 November 2021, we invited Ms Ita to show us how to make Gulai Kikil via a live Zoom session for the Connecting @ JEL - A Lunchtime Date with Ms Ita's Gulai Kikil event.

In case, you are wondering what is Gulai Kikil? Well, Gulai refers to a rich, spicy and succulent curry commonly found in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Whereas Kikil refers to cow's foot, tendon, skin and cartilage. Don't worry, you can always replace the meat with chicken or mutton. Ms Ita does hers with ox's legs and it looks absolutely yummy!

The participants might not be able to smell or taste the dish, but at least they got to feast their eyes as Ms Ita cooked up a storm! During the QnA session, they

also got to ask questions and get cooking tips from Ms Ita her on making their own delicious Gulai Kikil!

Ita Sabrina Pelawi  
HR Manager  
Indonesia



Let Healthy,  
Live Healthy



Koh Pei Ying  
Design Engineer  
Process & Equipment, EPC Center

Often, we hear that a **conscientious diet** and **consistent exercise** are the keys to a healthy lifestyle. While I am not particular about my diet, I try to stick to a '2-3' exercises per week regime.

Personally, I like to exercise with my friends, be it a home workout or a spin class. We often make time to exercise together. However, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, exercising in a group is almost impossible due to the restrictions on number of people allowed to exercise together. So, I ventured to try many different exercises

which I have never tried before. They range from skateboarding, doing yoga, hiking, body combat to kayaking!

My current exercise 'addiction' is spinning. Initially, I thought it would be similar to cycling, but I am totally wrong! The similarity is they are both done on a bike and that's it. Spinning is a brand new skill to master, and to date, even after 10 sessions, I am still only a newbie.

The instructors made each move look so simple and effortless, but when I tried it, I realise that mastering the technique will require a lot of practice as well as good hand and leg coordination. A correct posture is also very important as a bad posture can result in serious back injury.

Although it is tough, I will tackle this challenge and push my limits! I really enjoy spinning to the pulsating beat of the music ... and it is only at the end of the session when the music stops, that our legs drop ... and ache ...

So find an exercise that you enjoy and it stops becoming a chore!



Goh Jia Yi  
Design Engineer  
Process & Equipment, EPC Center

I started my fitness journey to relieve stress from studying about 4 years ago when I was in university. During the first few months, I only did simple weight resistance exercises like sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, and jogging. When I saw results and got fitter, I started taking this fitness journey seriously. I signed up for a gym membership and began learning about weightlifting exercises. I learned a lot about fitness and diet from YouTube as many professionals share their personal experiences online. (Btw, YouTube is a really good channel to learn just about anything for free!)

Currently, I go to the gym 3 times a week for an hour each. I also jog or swim about 2 times per week. My current goal is to maintain my fitness level and prevent myself from expanding like a balloon. Hahaha!

There is a saying 'Fitness is 70% diet and 30% exercise'. This 70/30 rule means that eating healthy is more important than jogging from Jurong to Pasir Ris every day! Though my own experience, I totally agree with it. Here are some important points which I would like to share with you.

1. The "Calories In, Calories Out" rule

If you are trying to gain weight (lucky you!), consume 10% to 20% more calories than your total daily energy expenditure (TDEE). If you are trying to lose weight, then consume 10% to 20% less calories. TDEE is an estimation of how many calories you burn per day. You can use this link, <https://tdeecalculator.net/>, to get your TDEE. There is also an app, Myfitnesspal, which helps to keep track of your calorie intake. It has a good database of local food, such as chicken rice, fried kuey teow and McDonalds. You can even scan the barcode on your snack to record the calories! By keeping track of the calories you consume daily vs your TDEE, you can then make adjustments to your diet if needed. It can also help you identify the calorie dense foods to avoid.

2. Increase protein intake to an optimal level

Protein is a macronutrient that can affect your hunger and satiety hormones. It basically means that a high-protein meal will keep you feeling full for a longer period and avoid all that snacking! Common sources of protein include dairy products, nuts, eggs, beans, and lean meat. In addition, protein is the key macronutrient that helps you to build and retain muscle. Some studies have shown that an increase in muscle mass also increases the Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR), aka the calories you burn per day without doing anything! I follow the 'Plate Diet' consisting of 50% veggies and fruits, 25% proteins, and 25% healthy carbs.

3. Small and sustainable changes

Make small and gradual improvements to your diet. They are often more sustainable than drastic changes. I've seen many people who make drastic changes to their diet give up after some time. For example, If you like soft drinks, you can start by switching to healthier choices like Coke Zero which is calorie free. You can then gradually reduce and eventually stop your intake of soft drinks totally. Remember, **SUSTAINABILITY IS KEY!**

**A healthy diet is a lifetime diet!**



# Meals-on-Wheels

Since we started the initiative in October 2020 in collaboration with TOUCH Home Care, we have completed 9 runs and delivered over 598 meals to the beneficiaries residing in Jurong / Bukit Batok / Bukit Panjang / Choa Chu Kang.

As this year marks our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary Jubilee, we also gave out special goodie bags to some 300 beneficiaries of Meals-on-Wheels programme. Inside each bag are specially picked items – a bedsheet and a towel. We hope that the beneficiaries can share in our joy too!

**It might just be a simple meal delivery to us, but to the elderlies who have difficulties moving around, a delivered meal meant so much more to them!**

Every beginning has an end and every end is a new beginning. Although the Meals-on-Wheels initiative has ended for 2021, our efforts to make a difference to the lives of others around us should not end. We will continue to organise more CSR initiatives and we look forward to your continued support in 2022.



Mr and Mrs Koichi Watanabe



Packing goodie bags

# Towards a Greener JEL



Do you feel that the weather is getting more unpredictable and extreme? Droughts, floods, cyclones are more common now. The livelihoods of farmers and fisherman are affected by the extreme weather. Homes are getting submerged as sea waters rise. Even Singapore is not spared as days getting warmer, drier and wetter!

Is this a world which you want to live in? Is this a world which you want your children to live in?

NO!

In the recent COP26 summit, the world came together to fight against climate change.

In JEL, we are also doing our part by becoming GREENER! We even encapsulated that goal in our vision of innovating for a sustainable future.

We seek to preserve the health of the environment by reducing waste. We minimize the environmental pollution when executing our projects. We try to build more efficient power plants and even power plants using renewable energy sources.



We have started our green journey since 2018 with the implementation of various initiatives like:

- Distributing our Annual Report digitally instead of printing hardcopies, resulting in an estimated 62kg of paper saved yearly
- Reducing the usage of single use plastics by stopping the supply of foam cups in pantries and encouraging staff to bring their own cups, thus cutting consumption of 85,000 polystyrene cups per year
- Encouraging recycling by placing recycling bins in the office
- Donating 50 trees as part of "Plant-A-Tree Program" by Singapore National Parks and to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee!

This year, staff also supported ActiveSG's used sports shoe donation drive to donate used sport shoes to recycle them into sports infrastructure like jogging tracks, playgrounds and fitness corners.

Our Admin department has also collected over 2100 plastic mineral bottles in 2021 and dropped them off at the plastic recycling bins for recycling.

Our EPC division is already collecting used batteries for recycling and proper disposal. In the coming year, we are exploring expanding it to include ewaste (electronic waste like used handphones, light bulbs, power banks).

We will do even more in 2022.

JEL cares for the environment, the world and the people living in it!

# My Hopes! My Aspirations! My JEL!

Our new colleagues share their hopes and aspirations. Through their stories, long or brief, we hope to get to know them better.

**Takahiro Shoji**  
Accountant,  
Finance and Accounting



“ I have been working as an accountant in IHI since April 2014 and I joined the JEL group in June 2020.

Personally, the best thing about working as a member of JEL is the 'closeness' between the colleagues in the different business units. I get to know many colleagues better and build good relationships with them.

I aspire to learn and grow myself ... not only in the areas of finance and accounting, but also in all aspects of engineering business from everyone!

**Chua Aye Neng Anna**  
Design Engineer,  
Civil and Structure



“ Joining JEL in 2020 has fulfilled the first step of my dream to becoming a civil engineer that can contribute to society. Continuous learning is key towards achieving my goals and aspirations. Technical knowledge is the foundation to build my career and soft skills make me a well-rounded and holistic person.

I aspire to live a fulfilling life and be a holistic person that prioritise many aspects of life, from my career, my health, to travel and building meaningful social connections.

JEL offers many challenges and rewards to add to my portfolio. I hope to continue down this path, to uncover the many interesting pieces that complete my career puzzle.

**Marvin Torio**  
Senior Piping Designer,  
Piping



“ Being a newbie in JEL, my aspiration is to become a senior design engineer where I can share and expand my capabilities, taking on tasks entrusted by my superior. It would be great achievement for me. I hope to learn more about power plant design (eg, sizing of mechanical equipment, process calculation, vessel calculation and stress analysis), field execution and commissioning the plant.

Thank you very much JEL.

**Miken Tan**  
Design Engineer,  
Piping



“ As a relatively new staff, I hope that I can pick up more skill and knowledge relevant to my job scope and make even more contributions to the team I am currently working with. JEL is a resourceful company and I feel proud to be part of the big JEL family.

**Goh Jia Yi**  
Design Engineer,  
Process and Equipment



“ I've always been inspired to be an engineer since I was young. I consider myself very lucky to be part of JEL because I got the chance to work with many great and knowledgeable people who guided me along the way.

**Yogesh Subramani**  
Design Engineer,  
Process and Equipment



“ I always wanted to pursue a career in core mechanical field as I am very passionate in Mechanical Engineering since my Junior College days. I developed even more interest in IC engines and Power Plant while pursuing my Bachelor's and that motivated me to do my Final Year project in Thermal Engineering.

While reading my Masters in NTU, I attended a Career Fair and learned about Jurong Engineering Limited as an EPC contractor that constructs power plants in many countries. I learnt more about JEL in the corporate website and through LinkedIn. What I learnt encouraged me to apply for a Design Engineer position in JEL.

I joined JEL this July 2021. I was initially quite nervous as this is my first job but my fellow colleagues are so supportive and made me feel so welcomed.

JEL is an excellent platform to uplift my skills and I will do my best to learn and gain in-depth knowledge about the different engineering and organisational activities. I strongly believe that I will contribute to the growth of the company.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow colleagues, my project team, my HOD and General Manager for supporting me. Especially my Project Manager and the Lead Engineers from each discipline for taking the time to teach me despite their heavy workload. I will always be grateful to them.



# Insider Picks

Did you know that more people celebrate the New Year around the world than any other holiday? Of course, that does not mean that we celebrate it in the same way. Each country seems to have its own unique New Year celebrations, with different customs for ensuring health, wealth, happiness, and luck in the coming New Year.

In this issue, we asked our colleagues how they celebrate the New Year in their countries. Who knows, you might find something fun to adopt into your celebrations or even pay them a visit and experience it yourself!

ဆကြိန်

(Thingyan)

13 to 16 April



We usually prepare food at home and offer them to the monks and in prayers to the 'Buddhas'. We also share the food with our neighbours and donate cooked rice and curries (especially pea soup with vegetables and eggs) to Satuditha (Public Charity Feast) for the less fortunate.

Mont Lat Saung is one of the dish that we only eat during Thingyan. It is a type of jelly with cold jaggery juice and coconut shreds.

Sometimes we enjoy splashing water on passers-by together with our friends and relatives. The splashing of water was intended to "wash away" one's sins of the previous year.

Aside from water-throwing, another important symbol of Thingyan is the distinctive sweet-scented blossoms known as Padauk or Thingyan flower. The flower has small bright yellow petals and blooms on little stems. It is also the national flower of Myanmar.



**Mra Thu San**  
Office Manager  
Myanmar

お正月

(Oshogatsu)

1 January



1 to 3 January is Japan's national holiday for New Year celebrations. However, the actual duration of New Year celebrations varies across different prefectures. For example, 7 days in Tokyo and 15 days in Osaka.

Traditionally, during the New Year, families gather together to celebrate, sip 'Otoso' (New Year's spiced sake) and enjoy traditional New Year dishes.

One of the dishes is おせち (Osechi). It consists of many yummy goodies placed in square boxes and each item symbolises a different 'good wish'. For example, black beans for diligence, sweet chestnuts for luck of money, and shrimps for longevity.

We also have Otoshi-dama, which is a monetary gift given to children by adult relatives during New Year in Japan. It is like giving Ang Bao in Singapore. This is the biggest New Year event for the children!



**Akira Suzuki**  
Risk Management Coordinator  
Japan

สงกรานต์

(Songkran)

13 to 15 April



Songkran is also known as Water Splashing Festival.

My family and I will dress appropriately and visit the temple to give our alms and receive blessings. We will also go to the waterfall to swim and play in the water.

We celebrate with mookata, tom yam goong and fish salad during New Year.

I am unable to return home for the past two years due to COVID-19. I would like to create wonderful moments with them and celebrate Songkran together with them this year.



**Maen Daoriram**  
Supervisor  
Thailand

# Editorial Notes

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