

Main Text (The essay must be 1 page in English or Japanese)

Essay Title: Imagination fueling innovation and change in the energetic sector

Topic Num.:

Yes, even today, being 45, my family call me Alicia. Yes!!!, “Alice in Wonderland”.

Just because I strongly believe that, even me, in my microscopic contribution to the world, can make things happen, change, evolve. Every small contribution, every small “ant”, contribute to a big change, to a big movement. Imagine a world where electricity and clean water are accessible to everyone, and everyone whatever its origin can have access, can use it for its own growth, for community growth, for society improvement. Imagine a world where sustainability and parity are the rule and no the exception. Just imagine a world where stereotypes (energetic, gender, race, …) do simply not exist. Imagine that world, and you are in my world, in the future I dream to contribute to build. Just as a simple drop of a whole ocean.

Following my dream, I became physicist. Following my dream I became nonconformist; some point to me as role model, but I am more a world citizen, engaged, feeling the earth as my origin place, my nationality, my birthplace, the future of my kids, the future of your kids.

I have been working in industrial R&D during the last 20 years, developing, leading, managing, creating, learning, … growing. Imagining next generation of industrial and integrated advanced solutions to address future energy and societal challenges; as a strategic vision for people, for women, for societies. As a means for everyone having a peaceful environment.

There are amazing and weird resemblances in historical evolution of energy, renewables and sustainable energies, and minorities ‘rights, women ‘rights. Both of them have been marked by research, learning, education, stereotypes, monopolies, … fights, challenges to overcome, injustices.

My message is simple: find what you love, do what you love, take risks, be fearless, overcome the obstacles placed in front of you, and do not give up if the obstacles overcome you. Learn, change, adapt, evolve. Women in business have trod a long hard road, but the road for women of all ages and circumstances has been hard. Perseverance is key, it has been key for the solar industry for almost 50 years and it has been key for women for a lot longer. Still a long way to go. We are teachers; many minorities have, and continue to be, struggled in obscurity, underappreciated, underused, and under-supported. We forget that the opportunities we have now, though challenges remain, are available to us because so many others before us fought hard for their own right to thrive, to succeed – or just to try, fail and then try, try again. I am lucky to be part of an industry that was forged on struggle and where so many battles remain. The renewable industry is at the beginning – still young, still so much to prove, but a future, sustainable future for everyone, everywhere to be created, and everything you imagine.

Imagine leading research to have a device producing water, electricity and storage, and everything from the sun power, everywhere in the world. Imagine that it I portable, accessible. Your imagination contribute to educate people, advance societies, remove fears, and open the world and opportunities to those who are today deprived. Just imagine and make it happen.

You are the future leaders to make things happening – for sustainable energy’s sake.