

# International Women's Day 2021



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## Nurdan Yucel

Member of the Board of Directors at Samsun Makina Sanayi A.Ş.,  
President of POMSAD and Vice President of CEIR



SAMSUN MAKİNA  
SANAYİ A.Ş.

### What is your current job title and responsibilities?

 I have been working with Samsun Makina Sanayi A.S. (SMS) for about 24 years and I am a member of the company's Board of Directors. Samsun Makina Sanayi is one of the leading companies in Turkey with 54 years' experience in the fields of project design, production and installation of irrigation, potable water, wastewater and infrastructure equipment and their application. SMS manufactures various types of valves, pumps, ductile iron pipe and fittings. All the activities are performed in its three locations with factories in Samsun, Adana, and the head office in Ankara, where SMS's pump company Layne Bowler Pump Inc. is located. As Quality Director of the company, together with my team, I perform continual R&D activities in our laboratories and test benches to improve wear and hydraulic performances of our products.

I have been actively participating in POMSAD the "Turkish Pump and Valve Manufacturers Association" for the last 13 years. My duties have been Associate Treasurer and Vice President at the Board of Directors of the Association. At the discretion of our esteemed Board of Directors, I am currently serving the association as President. POMSAD is a member of CEIR and for the last four years I am a Board Member and for two years, the first Vice-President of CEIR.

### What initially interested you, and lead you to this industry?

 Working in a manufacturing environment creates a high satisfaction. You feel the creative power inherent in human nature to the fullest. In companies like ours which carry out every process, you are able to see how a sketch drawing turns to a finished product in each step of production: from a design drawing to model preparation, casting, machining, rubber part production, assembling, coating and hydro testing of the final product. This is a really satisfying atmosphere to learn different kinds of technics and technologies.

### Do you have any insights or advice for other women who may not know this industry as a potential sector for them?

 In addition to the above-mentioned positives, our industry will always exist as long as humankind exists. The industry covers manufacturers who are part of the pipeline equipment production, from the starting point of the water supply until it reaches the faucet of our homes, where we wash our hands. The pandemic period has reminded us once again of the importance of even a single drop of water. Our industry is aware of this fact and carries out all its work with this in mind. We do everything "for a drop". All the reasons I have mentioned above have made this sector important and indispensable for me for many years.

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### Do you have any insights into what could be done to encourage more women into this sector?

 Our industry needs and has qualified human resources, not only for white collars but also for blue collars. Hence, the people around you are generally well-educated. It is really important to work in an atmosphere which considers you, first of all, as human. The people around you are well-educated enough to appreciate what you are doing, independent of your gender.

I feel that the situation is the same not only in the company I work for but also at the Associations of POMSAD and CEIR. What you are doing, and how well you are doing it, is more relevant than what your gender is. In our Samsun factory, the factory manager is a woman who was promoted to this position due to her outstanding capacities; the group's finance manager and the tender preparation manager are also women. As for the board of directors, it consists of seven people of which two are women.

In POMSAD we have done a survey about women in our industry. The employment of women percentage changes between 5% to 36%. 69% of them are university graduates which is quite a high educational status. However, they mostly work in either sales, marketing, accounting, or HR departments meaning there are less women employees present in design and production.

### What do you as a woman bring to the industry?

 It is a difficult question to answer because when I look at what my colleagues are doing, I do not see the gender, I am concerned with the quality of the work done. However, it is worth noting that women with their innate talents are more protective and attentive; they are easily able to notice detail and get organised according to the situation.

### Where do you see yourself in five years? What is the big goal?

 Our esteemed President, Carlos Velazquez, has the ongoing presidency at CEIR. In the next five years, it is foreseen that I will take over the presidency, which will last for two years. During my presidency at CEIR, together with my colleagues, we will work on becoming a more powerful sector by improving the collaboration with the related industries. With our national association POMSAD, which I am currently chairing, my priority will be to conduct studies on how to increase awareness of the European Green Deal objectives in our sector. I also aim to determine criteria for certification in professional qualifications such as digitalization in our field.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that we will organize in 2023 our "11th Pump & Valve Congress", which we see as the pioneer of sectoral research and development studies. We have already started the infrastructure works for the congress.