
Spotlight

Exclusive Interview with Justin Angeles

Vice-President of Water and Waste Management, J.V. Angeles Construction Corporation

PUB: Please tell us about yourself and the organisation that you work in.

Justin: J.V. Angeles Construction Corporation (JVACC) celebrates 50 years of engineering and construction excellence in 2019. It follows a family-oriented style of leadership, which is now in its third generation. As Vice President for Water and Wastewater, I supervise and drive its engineering and construction operation divisions. From Engineering, Procurement, and to the Construction of the project, the team and I work closely to complete within project timeframe.

JVACC's core engineering and construction competencies are water and energy. Most if not all its projects are centred around water because we understand the importance of the environment, climate, energy, natural resources, and their contributions to the sustainability of the world. JVACC provides Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) services for water and wastewater (sewage) treatment plants, water supply and sewerage systems, tunnels and aqueducts, hydroelectrical powerplants, power transmission and distribution facilities, dams, utilities, earthworks and site development, irrigation and flood control, special foundation works, structural steel works, and outside plant for telecommunications.

JVACC has moulded, developed, and achieved a reputation for its quality-oriented engineering and construction services as it is also certified to ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System), and OHSAS 18001:2007. As JVACC perseveres to operate another 50 years, it is a must that the organisation continues to adapt and improve its systems to the increasing and changing demands of the world.



Pile Driving Works

PUB: Could you tell us more about the situation of the water sector in the markets/countries your organisation operates in, such as the stormwater management market or water treatment market? Which issues in particular do you think are most important/are most pressing?

Justin: There is a great demand to address the needs of the community in the Philippines, especially in the three sectors of water, wastewater, and energy. One major project that JVACC is currently constructing is the Davao City Bulk Water Supply Project (DCBWSP). The treatment facility aims to provide 300 million litres per day (MLD) to the Davaoños. The shift from groundwater to surface water is to allow groundwater resources time to replenish naturally. In the future, both resources would be combined to address the needs of the community without straining either one.

In addition, the DCBWSP is energized by the same water it treats. Before the treatment stage occurs, a hydroelectrical power plant generates the energy and this will run the plant. The water sector is seeking ways to maximise the potential of its resources and this is how the water-energy nexus was developed for the project. The same could be said for the wastewater (sewage) sector wherein they look to use the sludge created by these plants for energy.

I believe that the concept of water-energy or wastewater-energy should be further researched and developed to improve these processes, which will enable the processes to be more efficient and economical for developing countries.



Sustainable Urban Drainage System Study Reporting

PUB: What are some of the key water management challenges that you are tackling in your projects with J.V Angeles Construction Corporation? What are some personal stories that you have garnered, based on your experience in these projects?

Justin: A major key water management challenge that I experienced the need for is an increase in awareness of the natural resources and its safety. I learnt from PUB a simple yet effective method to protect water is through signs or symbols. As part of the watershed management procedures, a sign must be erected with these words: “This is the water your children will drink. Please protect!” With such a simple method, people are able to understand the impact their actions have on the environment.

Though there are these effective methods, one must also collaborate with the local government authorities to achieve constant implementation. It is the combination of the private and public sector that increases the success rate.



Water Reservoir Finishing Works

PUB: There is a need for global collaboration to co-create solutions that address the world's water challenges. The Singapore Water Academy has a broad alumni network, comprising management executives and technical staff. What possible collaborations do you see between your organisation and other alumni?

Justin: Some of the possible collaborations could be with process technology equipment providers, engineering and design firms, operational experts, research and development teams, water quality and watershed management groups, and policy creators.

PUB: You attended the Singapore Water Management Series Water Quality Management course. What are some of the valuable takeaways from this programme for you?

Justin: Firstly, I would like to thank PUB for the opportunity to meet and collaborate with the attendees of the training including the professors, lecturers, and industry leaders from all over the globe. Each of the individuals presented their perspective or experiences from their own countries and from those, I was able to learn and adjust my mindset in tackling the challenges faced in the water sector.

Practical experience or hands-on training is as much important as theoretical in the development of future members. We must start early even during elementary school in educating the future leaders not only in the technical aspect but also ethically and morally because of the need for global collaboration.

I look forward to participating and contributing in future PUB events and trainings.



River Inspection Works