

# WINLPG

## Women in LPG



**Ms Elifcan Yazgan**  
Supply Chain Director,  
Aygaz,  
Turkey

*"I believe there is a big room for growth in our industry in terms of embracing women. We need to work on making our industry more attractive and thereby enhance women involvement."*

Ms Elifcan Yazgan

### Meet the Role Models

**WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.**

I was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. I had a summer internship at Aygaz in the Supply Chain Division. I enjoyed my time so much that I prolonged my internship voluntarily and worked longer than I was supposed to. I have always been an ambitious person who truly enjoys producing things and overcoming challenges. After finishing my university degree, I was offered to join Aygaz, which I welcomed with great excitement. I worked in all different parts of Supply Chain for ten years. In 2017 there was an opening in the Business Development unit. Although I was very happy at what I was doing, I thought changing my function would be a good challenge and a good opportunity to grow. So I decided to move out of my comfort zone, put myself out there and try my best. I still think this was the best decision I made, not only for my career but also for my personal development. After heading this unit for four years, in 2021 I came back home, to Supply Chain, as the head of the department.

*"When I join an industry event or even look at photos from gatherings, it strikes me to see how seriously we lack women involvement in our industry. Diversity and inclusiveness create ground for creativity, they enhance cultivation of new and better ideas. It should be our duty, not only as women, but as the whole industry to support and enhance inclusion of more women in LPG. In this perspective I admire and fully support all the great work that WINLPG has developed so far."*

Ms Elifcan Yazgan

# SIX KEY QUESTIONS

**What is your goal today, this can be personal or professional?**

My goal in life, on both professional and personal fronts, is being a better version of myself. I have always focused on growing, overcoming challenges, learning new things and becoming better. Every evening, I reconsider my whole day. I think about the things I did, the way I handled things, the feedbacks I got, my reactions to specific events, my conversations. I appreciate myself for the things that I did better and think about how I could improve other things the next time. This is a mechanism I have for many years which I believe gets me closer to my goal.

**Describe your pathway (your career path)**

I started working in Aygaz right after my graduation from the university. I worked in all different parts of Supply Chain for 10 years and gave great importance to developing myself in every area of my profession. In 2017 there was an opportunity in the Business Development unit of Aygaz. As a person who loves new challenges, I wanted set on a new journey and a new career path through this new job. I must say it wouldn't be possible without the support and belief of my company in my potential. This role helped me grow both professionally and personally through the challenges I had to overcome. I gained a vast experience through the M&A and greenfield projects that I had to conduct. I had to travel a lot. Moreover, coming from a different background, I had to continuously develop myself and learn. At the same time, I had a two year old son waiting for me home. All in all, it was the most challenging period of my life. Nevertheless I believe this struggle made me who I am today. I'm very happy I had the courage to move to another field despite all the constraints, for it has made all the difference. After conducting numerous projects in this unit for four years, in 2021 I came back to Supply Chain, as the head of the department.

**What any specific challenges do believe face women in our industry?**

Historically, LPG, just like other energy sectors, have been a male dominant industry. I remember in my initial years, one person had mistakenly called me Mr. instead of Ms., although I was standing right in front of his eyes! One can see this as a simple mistake that could be made in the moment. I believe it had more to it because people in our industry almost had no Ms. in their vocabulary, simply because they did not encounter them frequently.

I believe the main challenge for women - not only in our industry but all around the world - is underrepresentation. It is evidenced by many studies that women leaders still face stronger headwinds and are prone to a glass ceiling. Although I believe there has been a magnificent development in this matter all around the world, there is still a big agenda to cover.

I'm proud to see that our industry is supporting strengthening the role of women in LPG through the efforts of WLPGA and I'm very happy to be part of this journey via WINLPG. I'm also more than confident that young people in our industry will improve this initiative even further.

**Did you have a mentor and how did they help mold your inclusive management style?**

I had a mentor. She is someone I admire because she is both a very strong woman leader with great achievements in a male-dominated industry and she is also a very influential person for many others with her qualities of having high self awareness, being authentic, dependable and inspirational. She has helped me hugely by sharing her experiences and her ideas boldly, openly and directly. She showed me the importance of having diversity and inclusivity in teams. She demonstrated how these two can help build better teams get better results and improve not only the work place but all our lives.

**What does leadership mean to you?**

I find myself to be a very lucky person because I had the chance to work with very good leaders throughout my career. These leaders were great examples to me. I learned the essence of good leadership by working with them, traveling with them, observing them, analysing their decisions and reactions etc. Through my working experience with them, I learned not only what to expect from a leader, but I also learned what to expect from myself. For me, leadership entails inspiring others, supporting them so that they can do their best and by this way creating impact. I love a quote by Simon Sinek on leadership where he says "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I agree with Sinek that leadership is not a position that is given to you, it is a choice that you make regarding how to think, how to act and how to communicate with others around you. It is a responsibility to take, which comes with its costs, as well as its rewards.

**What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?**

LPG is a vibrant sector where dynamics change very quickly. I think anyone embarking on a career in this industry should have an agile mindset and should be responsive in adapting to changing conditions quickly. Secondly, I would suggest them to grow their networking skills as this is a somewhat niche but also an embracing industry. Last but not least, I would suggest them to move out of their comfort zones and gain new experiences in different areas, as it would provide them with new perspectives which could be utilised both in their professions as well as in their personal lives.



#WINLPG

Women in LPG Global Network

[www.wlpga.org](http://www.wlpga.org)