

## A day in the life of an NEC accredited Project Manager



**Gordon Ng**  
Construction Manager  
China Road and Bridge Corporation

*Please introduce yourself including your background, role and company.*

My name is Gordon Ng and I am a Construction Manager at China Road and Bridge Corporation for the past 6 years. I have a first class degree in Civil Engineering (BEng) and master's degree in Business Administration (MBA). Apart from this academic background, I have obtained various working experiences and appreciation in different civil engineering jobs for more than 35 years.

*What does your role involve?*

I have been assigned as the Construction Manager to lead an operations team in a civil engineering project for Tseung Kwan O. My operations team is supported by a surveying team and a commercial team. We work in collaboration with the Project Manager, Supervisor and other stakeholders as a whole to deliver the project. Within the ambit of NEC3 ECC Option C, my role mainly revolves around administering and managing the project with the assistance of commercial teams in shaping up the strategic approach towards the Project Manager, Supervisor and Subcontractor. This includes forming tendering procedures set out in accordance with the contract and taking lead in the tender review meeting.

*What does a typical day look like to you?*

Most of my time is spent dealing with the technical issues and programme planning with the operations team, including conducting safety and environmental inspection with the Project Manager and Supervisor on site. On the other hand, my time is spent resolving the

contractual issues in giving early warning notifications included in the prepared agenda for discussion. This consists of the Risk Reduction Meeting and notification of compensation events in discussion with the Project Manager and Supervisor.

*What do you enjoy the most about your job?*

With my extensive experience and knowledge in running NEC projects, I am one of the key members that provide contractual analysis and strategic advice to the Board for decision making. My role as the Construction Manager involved being the leader, this allowed me to realise the successful delivery of a project on time, in a safe and environmental manner required the full support of my operations team. Their support is critical in alleviating financial and commercial issues with the Project Manager and Supervisor. Above all, sharing this experience and knowledge of NEC with my colleagues and peers is what I enjoy the most.

*How many NEC procured projects have you worked on?*

I started my engagement with NEC procured project in 2014 and continued through two government projects since then. The first one was completed a couple of years ago with the final account settled.

*At what point in your career did you (or your organisation) decide to take the NEC accreditation course?*

After 3 years of practical experience and engagement with NEC contracts, I realised a formalised recognition through the NEC accreditation will help further my

**“** I was the first candidate to obtain the NEC Project Manager Accreditation in my organisation. Soon after my successful achievement in the course, I encouraged my senior management to attain the accreditation as well. **”**

career and development within the industry. As well as attaining the accreditation certificate, this bettered my NEC understanding and provided on the job skills. I was the first candidate to obtain the NEC Project Manager Accreditation in my organisation. Soon after my successful achievement in the course, I encouraged my senior management to attain the accreditation as well.

**“** It is critical to follow the clauses and provisions stated in the NEC contract when dealing and resolving commercial or technical issues, interim payments, quotation submission, programme update and review, technical query and early warnings. **”**

*What was the one takeaway from the course that you are using every day?*

I adopt the core philosophy of NEC of acting in “a spirit of mutual trust and co-operation” when working with Project Managers and Supervisors. It is critical to follow the clauses and provisions stated in the NEC contract when dealing and resolving commercial or technical issues, interim payments, quotation submission, programme update and review, technical query and risk reduction (early warnings).

*What was the first NEC procured project that you worked on?*

My first NEC procured project was with Water Supplies Department in Cheung Chau for improvement of fresh water supply to Cheung Chau in 2014.

*What was the most memorable NEC procured project that you worked on and why?*

The most memorable NEC procured project was with the Water Supplies Department. People administering the project were adopting the traditional GCC (Government Conditions of Contract) approach and mindset to administer the NEC3 ECC Option C contract. Establishing the underlying principle of “mutual trust and co-operation” stipulated in the NEC contract among the contracting parties; project manager, supervisor and contractor was difficult. It showed the necessity for a mindset change within the industry to fully embrace the NEC philosophy.

*What advice would you give somebody pursuing engineering as a career?*

Engineering is an industry that attracts the youth with enthusiasm and dedication in pursuing their career. To keep up with an ever-changing industry such as engineering, it is critical to continue your professional development such as achieving chartership and acquiring an NEC project manager accreditation. For young engineers, these achievements are often seen as climactic in the industry.

**“** To keep up with an ever-changing industry such as engineering, it is critical to continue your professional development such as achieving chartership and acquiring an NEC project manager accreditation. **”**