

AG&P's Women's Welder Program marks 40 years of breaking barriers

Manila, March 27, 2019 – The trailblazing Women Welders Program of homegrown energy infrastructure and [construction services](#) company, [Atlantic Gulf & Pacific \(AG&P\)](#), is marking its 40th year of recruiting, training and empowering Filipino women to take up the skilled craft alongside their male counterparts.

AG&P's unique program was launched in 1979 in collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) at a time when women laborers in fabrication, and women welders in particular, were unheard of. Four decades later, AG&P's 'Orange Army of Women Welders' have worked on some of the country's and world's most significant infrastructure projects, while developing internationally-recognized skills that put them at the top of their field.

AG&P is proud to have upskilled and mentored two generations of Filipino women through the first-of-its kind program. The women received dedicated training through TESDA and AG&P's welding program to attain various certifications.

Marites Casao is a graduate of the program and has been welding for 20 years. She joined the program after she learned that a female cousin had been accepted.

"I was looking for a job to support my siblings through school and to fund the medical needs of my parents," Casao said. "Welding seemed like the best option, so I mustered the confidence to apply. Thankfully, I was accepted." Casao says that while welding remains a male-dominated skill, the environment at AG&P allows everyone to flourish.

Casao worked in New Caledonia in 2008 at the world's largest nickel mining project and today, she is working as a combination welder for the JG Summit [petrochemical plant](#) expansion project in Batangas, along with 4,000 other AG&P laborers.

"We are so proud that AG&P, over many years, has developed a meritocratic culture that welcomes and fosters upward growth irrespective of background," said [Joseph Sigelman](#), Chief Executive Officer of AG&P Group. "In one such example, our female welders are growing in number and now represent a meaningful proportion of all our welders. They are, as a group, outperforming in a field that was historically male-dominated."

AG&P proactively promotes equal opportunity at all levels across the company from hiring C-suite female executives to training women laborers. Currently women fill the roles of Chief-of-Staff, Chief Compliance Officer, Senior Counsel, Senior Vice President Strategic Services, Senior Vice President Business Development for the Americas, and Vice President Global Marketing, to name a few.

Founded in 1900, AG&P is a global industrial infrastructure company delivering [gas logistics](#) solutions and [construction services](#) to blue-chip clients around the world. The company places a premium on inclusiveness, the health and safety of its personnel, and the protection of the environment by everyone, everywhere. AG&P continues to hold a world-leading construction safety record, with zero safety incidents over 55 million continuous man-hours.

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Images and captions

Image 1. *Veteran welder Marites Casao is a graduate of AG&P and TESDA's Women's Welder Program. She has been welding for 20 years.*



Image 2. AG&P developed a curriculum with TESDA in 1979 specifically to train women welders. The pioneering program has brought livelihood opportunities to thousands of Filipino women.



Image 3. Marites Casao is among the 1,300 AG&P personnel who were deployed for onsite construction, commissioning and operations and maintenance works for a mining project in New Caledonia



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