Simon Weng

Simon Weng grew up in Taiwan and moved to Australia in his mid-twenties on a working holiday visa. Unsure about his career and postgraduate study, he came with his former girlfriend to experience a new environment. Although he knew little about Australia, his easy-going nature and openness to new experiences led him to embrace the opportunity. He soon developed a strong appreciation for Australian life and decided to remain and pursue a master's degree in civil engineering.

Simon's strength in mathematics, science and logical problem-solving drew him to engineering. His research supervisor, Dr Soma, helped him understand what research should examine, why it matters and how it should be conducted. Simon is completing a master's degree in civil engineering, including a thesis on road-safety strategy. After graduating, he hopes to work as an engineer in Australia while exploring transport, hydraulics and structural engineering rather than limiting himself to one field.

Simon sees a gap between technical work and public understanding. For example, people may criticise Brisbane's public transport without knowing that improvements are planned or under way. He also identifies housing affordability as a major Australian challenge. In his studies and personal projects, he uses artificial intelligence by supplying his own data and checking the results rather than relying on online answers. He is experimenting with AI agents, research searches and coding while remaining alert to inaccurate or misleading outputs.

Outside study, Simon relaxes by reading Japanese manga, playing games and watching television and films. He also enjoys road trips with his partner, including short visits to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, which help him balance study with leisure.

What I gained from the Conference

The conference was an eye-opening and inspiring experience, allowing me to learn from senior transport leaders about emerging technologies, future mobility, the Brisbane 2032 Games, and particularly Artificial Intelligence. Seeing how industry professionals apply AI to real-world transport data expanded my understanding of its potential to solve complex infrastructure challenges and inspired me to explore its application in my future engineering career. The networking opportunities were equally valuable, allowing me to engage with industry practitioners, exchange perspectives, and build friendships with fellow student delegates from across Australia.