Asian American Executive of The Year

Gary Hamatani
Chief Project Engineer
The Boeing Company

Citation:
A dedicated, results-driven executive whose background in leading aircraft engineering teams shapes his championing of diversity and mentorship for next-generation leaders.

Gary Hamatani is the 737 MAX chief project engineer for Boeing Commercial Airplanes. Named to this role in December of 2017, Gary is responsible for the technical integration of the engineering design, certification, and safety activities for the 737 MAX as well as leading the program management for the 737 MAX Development airplanes. In his more than 30 years of service, Gary has built a diverse background in leading engineering teams in design, development, and production, and he is experienced in working with multifunctional, international, and domestic supplier-partner teams solving technical problems and delivering on-time results.

Before his current role, Gary led the integrated product team responsible for the 737 MAX landing gear, where he managed and directed the engineering, business operations, fabrication, and procurement teams responsible for the development, design, qualification, and test of the new main landing gear on the 737 MAX 10 airplane.

Since joining The Boeing Company in 1985, Gary has held a wide variety of assignments, including chief engineer for Propulsion Structures and Systems at Boeing Commercial Airplanes and senior engineering roles leading airframe teams responsible for engineering design of the landing gear, door systems, and windows for the 787, 747, 777, and 737 teams.

A champion of strength through diversity and inclusion, Gary is an executive sponsor for the Boeing Asian-American Professional Association, where he supports community activities and promotes mentorship for technical, personal, and leadership development. As a second-generation Asian-American engineer at Boeing, Gary gives credit to the outstanding mentors who helped him navigate the complexities of working in a Fortune 100 industrial company. Reflecting on this, he says, “While I have not experienced overt obstacles, I’m very aware of what can happen in a large organization. As such, I have made it a personal priority as an executive leader to engage with individual mentoring and strive to enhance Asian-American employees’ leadership potential to deliver lasting values to both the company and community.”