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DR SUKUMARAN Gireesh Kumar, 38, from Kerala, India, graduated with a PhD (Business Administration) from Asia e University (AeU) last year.

He is an internal auditor for the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories certified by the Quality Council of India.

He has more than 10 years of experience in technical and managerial work engagements in healthcare. Dr Sukumaran shares his experience studying at AeU:

“After much survey, I selected AeU to do my PhD. I was attracted to AeU because it is a unique multinational university supported by 34 Asia Cooperation Dialogue countries. In addition, the PhD programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by the Higher Education Ministry and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

“AeU’s e-learning mode offers the freedom to study fully online. I used my free time to do my research in my office, which was also used as a classroom for my research. My supervisors, having eminent knowledge in research methodology, helped me a lot in completing my dissertation.

“The resources and learning materials from AeU’s digital library were very useful as I could access them anywhere and anytime. I also found the attitude of AeU’s administrative staff commendable whenever I communicated and interacted with them.

“The title of my PhD research is ‘Quality Parameters In Health Care Organizations’. The biggest challenge I faced at AeU was following the strict rules and regulations of the PhD programme. Initially, I was fed up with the rules, but when my work was rejected from the viva voce committee, I began to realise my weakness in statistical analysis and at the same time discovered the beauty of pedagogy.

“I counselled myself that getting a PhD degree from an international university such as AeU was not going to be an easy thing to



Dr Sukumaran Gireesh Kumar.

“In my first viva voce (through Skype), I mistakenly thought I was already an expert on my health care subject but soon realised I had to learn statistical analysis, copy writing, research methodology and more. After I did that and finally passed, I realised I could stand on any stage to speak confidently to present my PhD work.

“Pursuing my PhD was a milestone in my career. Every year, I attended a minimum of two to three national conferences and at least one international conference to present my papers. I won the best article award from Madras University in 2016 for my article about biomedical waste management in corporate hospitals of Kerala. I have published my articles in six journals, including e-journals.

“It’s my privilege to recommend my family and friends to pursue higher education at AeU. Studying at AeU has improved my self-confidence. That said, I could not have succeeded in my PhD journey without the unwavering support from my family.”

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