

# My Invaluable Academic Journey in Master of Science (Management) (by Research) with Asia e University



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## By KHOOVOON CHIN

When I decided to become a part-time student again, and working full-time (and on night-shifts sometimes), I was very apprehensive if I could manage both tasks well. But if I didn't take the action to

restart studying, I would never know if I could do it.

Shuttling between the devil and the deep blue sea, I overcame my anxiety and initiated the first step to enroll in May 2010 with Asia e University (AeU) in which the Master of Science (Management) By Research or MSC (Mgt) programme offers the

best option for a working professional like me. I figure out that I could customize my work requirements with my study schedule because the flexible programme demand and the self-disciplined research project choice-to-complete allow me the freedom to pursue the MSc (Mgt) under supervision subject to AeU's admission requirements and procedural approval. At long last, my dice was cast!

My academic journey in AeU was not without its ups and downs. But it was indeed challenging and trying especially for a full-time working adult (and with family obligations too!) to complete the said degree within 2 years. Of course, the time period can be extended; I dared not think about it because I feared the consequences of incompleteness. As I ventured into the self-regulated study-research programme, I found that the MSc (Mgt) suited my personal agenda and work commitment in the semiconductor test-industry where, specializing in automation and semi-conductor testing and also as a sales manager with COHC, Inc., I've been responsible for multi-site test handling sales and service activities for years.

As time passes by, my fear subsided and my doubts about completing the programme (which was relatively very flexible and affordable compared with other research-based Master's programmes elsewhere) gave way to improved confidence.

The advisory and counseling services provided by the university through its program consultant-coordinator were invaluable, helpful and timely. In this respect, I am indeed thankful to its academic staff especially Dr. Oo Yu Hock – the MSc (Mgt) Programme Coordinator (and also assisting the DBA Programme Coordinator) in AeU's School of Management and Advisor to PhD candidates in AeU's School of Graduate School, for his dedicated guidance, elderly counseling and aged-experience touch. Together with my external supervisor, Professor Dr. Shahrul Kamaruddin, they have both contributed towards re-shaping my academic values and professional orientation.

My learning reward was truly enriching in AeU where I've benefitted from two challenging years in blending work and study at the same time. And this invaluable experience has culminated in my convocation on September 21, 2014, with the conferment of my MSc (Mgt) degree by AeU. My work-based and job-related thesis is now a living testimonial of my fruitful journey at AeU.