

Learning from the best



THE thought of taking up a PhD programme came about when I realised the importance in keeping myself updated as a university lecturer to avoid being made obsolete in the future.

The wake-up call for me was when I heard about the Government's plan to produce 60,000 PhD holders by 2020, just four years from now.

The other factor was my habit of

taking up challenging tasks.

I knew that the journey to attaining a PhD was going to be difficult especially at my age and with my full-time work schedule.

However, as the saying goes, "When there is a will there is a way" – and it was then that I made up my mind to pursue my PhD.

There were ample universities for me to choose from to pursue my PhD. However, because I wanted a course that provided me with a flexible mode of study, I did not choose a conventional university.

Instead, I found that Asia e University (AeU) offered PhD programmes with the criteria that I had been looking for, with an added bonus of tuition fee discounts for senior citizens.

AeU is a dual-mode international university established with the support of 33 Asia Cooperation member countries.

It was this that convinced me that AeU would be able to help me achieve my goal to obtain a PhD.

In January 2010, I enrolled in a PhD course in education to advance my nursing education.

It was an eventful five-year journey for me but I do not have any regrets.

I had a good experience studying in AeU, enjoying the research workshops and colloquium where I learnt so much.

I learnt more than I could have in a conventional university because I could listen to my lectures repeatedly until I mastered the learning concepts such as the quantitative and qualitative methods as well as statistical analyses involved.

I looked forward to attending the research workshops conducted each semester. I attended all the workshops whenever my schedule allowed me to.

I gained the opportunity to learn from experienced lecturers, including Prof Dr Siow Heng Lok and dean of School of Graduate Studies, and Dr Soon Seng Thah, former president of SPSS User's Association.

The other learning opportunity that I looked forward to was the colloquium that included many international guest speakers who shared their experience on PhD supervision and expectations, including chairman of Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

I also learnt from a Harvard University lecturer how to look for academic literature online via Google Scholar.

Another learning experience that I appreciated was the research clinic where I was able to consult the lecturer regarding my research proposal, where I finally decided on my area of study.

Through attending workshops and the colloquium, I gained the opportunity to meet and share my experience with coursemates from different backgrounds such as music, information technology (IT), army, business and law, among others.

Besides this, AeU provided me with adequate online resources that were useful for my studies. I did not need to come to the library to get information

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because I did my search online. The librarians were helpful in teaching me how to use online materials as I was not very IT-savvy at that point.

After five years of study, I am now confident to do an online search and this has taught me to appreciate the power of information technology in acquiring knowledge and learning.

In fact, I am now planning to use emerging technologies to conduct my teaching at my workplace in the future.

About AeU

AeU is a collaborative multinational university established under the auspices of the 33 Asia Cooperation Dialogue Countries (ACD).

All its academic programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by the Malaysian Ministry of Education and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

As an open distance learning university, AeU today has an enrolment of more than 22,000 students internationally in 65 countries and has more than 7,000 graduates thus far, with a diverse and international community of about 1,000 fellow doctoral students from 46 countries.

AeU's programmes are designed and customised for working adults to accommodate their various lifestyles.

With AeU's personalised learning, students are in the driver's seat – always moving forward and being in control of their education. – **By Dr Than Soo Nyet**

Dr Than Soo Nyet is a PhD graduate and alumna of Asia e University (AeU).

■ For more information, call 1300 300 238 or visit www.aeu.edu.my