



theSun

# postgradFocus

## Risk management **professional** bags AeU's Chairman's Award

> Flexibility makes learning suitable for busy adults

**A**SIA e University (AeU) recently held its fourth convocation ceremony, yet another milestone for the leading international institution that offers quality and flexible academic programmes for working adults.

Since its inception, the university has helped many professionals successfully meet the rigorous demands of university studies while holding full-time jobs and fulfilling their family duties.

Among them is Kumaresan a/l Muthusamy, a graduand in Master of Business Administration and among the recipients of the university's Chairman's Award this year. The award surely attests to his excellent academic achievement and personal attributes.

Kumaresan, who hails from Rawang, works full-time as head of risk management and quality assurance at Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd. He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Economics from Universiti Utara Malaysia in 1999 and has 14 years of experience in the field of internal audit, compliance, enterprise risk management, assurance and governance.

In August 2012, encouraged by his wife and two children, he pursued his passion in risk management when he enrolled in AeU's MBA programme at its School of Management. As a practitioner in the said field, his mission was to have a cutting edge academic qualification that would make him stand out from his peers.

Kumaresan said it took him six years of



Recipients of the Chairman's Award and President Award celebrate their achievements.

research to find a university offering an MBA with specialisation in Risk Management—when he found AeU.

He was especially impressed with the fact that the AeU MBA curriculum combines eastern and western perspectives, with special focus on Asian business perspectives.

Another aspect of AeU that appeals to him, he said, is the learning flexibility that makes it suitable for a working adult and family man like him.

"AeU has introduced a new approach to tertiary education, offering greater flexibility in learning as well as providing the knowledge necessary for individuals to cope with the ever-challenging workplace environment," said Kumaresan, adding that he was "on cloud nine" when he was informed that he was a recipient of the Chairman's Award.

"Endless support from my beloved family who understood my aspiration, fuelled my courage to go on studying for my MBA and eventually I made it through.

"What I did may have left a positive impact on both my children. Having seen their father work hard studying while working, they realised that education is important," he said.

Kumaresan believes the programme has taken him to "greater heights, both professionally and individually".

He is also grateful for the full support from his academic facilitators, course mates and colleagues. Other conducive factors, he said, include facilities such as the AeU Knowledge Centre which "holds incredibly large e-books and journals database", and highly supportive administrative staff.

His advice to prospective students is to give themselves a chance in lifelong learning and invest in their future with the AeU MBA.

### LEADING ODL PROVIDER

Established in 2007, AeU has grown to become one of the leading providers of

open and distance learning (ODL) in Asia. The university focuses on providing accessible and affordable higher education for all.

Reflecting the university's fine reputation are the many accolades that came its way, such as the Brand Laureate Award 2010 for "Best Brand in Education - e-Education" and the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards 2010 under the Most Promising Entrepreneur category.

AeU offers more than 40 academic programmes at all levels through five academic schools, namely School of Management, School of Education & Cognitive Science, School of Information & Communications Technology, School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences and School of Graduate Studies.

The university also offers more than 200 executive and professional programmes through the School of Professional & Executive Education and School of Technical Education, Engineering & Re-skilling.

AeU today has an enrolment of more than 16,000 students, and has produced over 5,000 graduates thus far.

It is one of the first few institutions in Malaysia to implement an Open Entry



Kumaresan receives his Chairman's Award.

System. This system awards entry to individuals with minimal formal credentials. This is done by assessing their prior learning acquired through formal and informal training, as well as work experiences that can compensate the lack of basic paper qualifications.

About 20% of the university's enrolment is made up of students who applied via Open Entry.

In recognition of its pioneering role in spearheading e-learning in the country, AeU has been appointed as a Gateway University for the development of international online and distance learning. This is one of the Entry Point Projects (EPP 6), part of the Malaysian government's Transformation Plan (GTP) to facilitate international distance learning.

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