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UiTMLaw eNewsletter

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“Triumph The New Normal”



- 1 Can you briefly share your career journey in ITM/UiTM?**

I joined as a lecturer in 1986 upon completion of my LLM at the University of Bristol, England. I was awarded the prestigious Young Lecturer Scheme personally by the late Datuk Nik Rashid, affectionately called Pak Nik Rashid.
- 2 Who was your mentor in your early years in ITM/UiTM?**

I was very fortunate to have the seniors who were my lecturers when I read law at ITM. Upon joining the Faculty, they were there to guide me briefly and then I was on my own. When I first joined the management, I had the Vice Chancellor then, Tan Sri Prof Ibrahim Shah, to guide me with his management skills and wisdom. UiTM leadership has to be earned. I was lucky again to be selected by many senior leaders at that time. Some are not with us anymore. Al Fatihah to all of them.

Can you share with us your experience as the Secretary-General at the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and how it shaped your view as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in UiTM?

I was already holding the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Development) prior to joining the Secretary General of AALCO in 2008. I managed to apply the management skills I acquired in UiTM in managing AALCO. Of course, managing AALCO required different skill sets. As an academic, I was on a steep learning curve. Every day is a lesson to me. How do you behave as a diplomat to begin with. I am not a career diplomat. Communication skill necessary at AALCO differed from that of the academic world. Diplomacy is a skill that you must compulsorily acquire in a short period of time where no textbook written by any leading author on diplomacy will tell you what to do in difficult situations. You have to learn and always be on your toes. Observe, analyse and apply. University and diplomacy are two different worlds. I don't regret my 8 years tenure at AALCO. Every moment of that journey was truly enriching and meaningful. I then see myself immerse as a practitioner of international law. An opportunity and a once in a lifetime chance given to me as an academic that I cherish.
- 3 Being an alumnus of ITM, what is your vision on the synergy between the institution and the alumni?**

As an alumnus, I would like to contribute as much as I can to the alma mater. As I am not amillionaire, I would like to contribute in a different way. I truly believe that every alumnus has the desire to give back to the alma mater. We have currently more than 500,000 alumni of UiTM. It's easy to think that if one alumnus would donate RM10 imagine the amount of money collected. It is not as simple as that! Giving back to the alma mater is a culture that we need to nurture. It's not like Harvard or Yale where they have more than 100 years of tradition for wealthy families to endow generously to the universities. That being said, it is not too late to nurture that culture here in UiTM. Transparency and effective communication are two elements that will determine the successful implementation of any projects that will enrich UiTM. In short, continuous communications and engagements with every alumnus are very significant strategies to ensure sustainability and relevance of Alumni and UiTM.
- 4 In your opinion, how could the Faculty of Law contribute in achieving UiTM's aspiration to be a leading university in the region?**

To be successful, the Law Faculty must have the following fundamentals:

 - Dedicated team of academics who maintain good quality of teaching, research and publications. I think the Faculty has the capacity to fulfil this.
- 5**

 - Sufficient funds through grants to invite foreign lecturers to teach and research at the Faculty. Internationalisation will carry the credential of the law school.
 - Always engage the industry. The Bar, Judiciary and corporate world are integral part of the life of the Faculty.
 - Engage the Alumni. Leverage their presence at the Faculty.
 - Mobility of our students and staff. To be our ambassadors to the world.
- 6 Last but not least, any message for the UiTM Law lecturers, students and Alumni?**

I have a small request for students, colleagues and alumni. The success story of our Faculty depends on all of us. We are the true actors that will colour the law school. The real talent is us. Our investments are our students. Do well for them and they will return the favour by doing well for our law school.



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