



Mohd. Mustafa AlBakri Abdullah

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Please tell Explore about your educational background & working experience.

I obtained my first degree, in Civil Engineering with specialization in concrete, from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) between 1999 and 2002. Later, in 2005, I pursued my Masters, also from 2005. This time I chose to specialize in Ceramic Composites. I had joined the UniMAP workforce, KUKUM as it were before, in October 2002. Prior to that I had worked as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Civil Engineering Education. In UniMAP I had started as a Civil Engineer before becoming a lecturer in 2005

Besides being lecturer, what are your positions in UniMAP?

I am currently a lecturer at the Materials Engineering School. Besides that, I am also Head of Student Hostels as well as Deputy Dean of Student Affairs & UniMAP Alumni.

Could you explain about your field of research?

I have chosen a field of specialization and research that leans towards concretes, production of light aggregates, composites and ceramics. Personally, A lot of my research work focus around recycling of used materials and creating an environment that is sustainable as well as clean and preserved.

How would UniMAP or society benefit from your research?

In certain ways, my research is able to dignify UniMAP, in the eyes of the local and international society at large through participation in product competitions as well as via conference presentations and journal publications.

Besides, some of the research work I have done focus on solving problems for the society. “Easy Fix Concrete Block” is a good example of that. This particular research product is about hollow bricks for low- and medium-low cost houses that can be handled by almost anybody and is aimed at reducing building cost reduction. In addition to this, I have carried out some research work in solving environmental related issues such as plastics recycling, whereby these are recycled into usable concrete fillers. In short, most of my research work has concentrated on environmental and cost-saving engineering.

What would be your advice for researchers, of your age group, in UniMAP to excel in research?

In my view, both for my colleagues and myself, young researchers need to be highly disciplined in all aspects, most importantly with time management. Although personally I have a very tight schedule and limited time to spend in the laboratory, however, I try my level best to make every available time count and go to the laboratory for some serious research. Additionally, we as the younger generation, need to refer to senior researchers for ideas, advice and outlook in order to succeed in research. The moral support from both colleagues and family is also much needed in order to become a successful researcher.

As one of the younger generation of researchers, where, would you like to see research in UniMAP, head towards?

I see that there are many young researchers in UniMAP, of my age group, who have bright futures and a good potential for their research to flourish. UniMAP is blessed in such a way that she faces no shortage of researchers with potential to excel. This is clearly seen with some research output from UniMAP going the way of commercialization, with the help of the R&D and other units. As such I think that this should be the way to go – commercialization, since we have to give back to the people their tax-money worth. This is how a country grows and we must go that way.

