

# SPECIAL COVERAGE : ASSOCIATE

Associate  
Professor  
Dr. Murnizam  
Hj Halik



## MY BACKGROUND

I hail from Petagas, which is 5 minutes from KKIA (Kota Kinabalu International Airport). I went to Sacred Hearts Primary School, La Salle Secondary School and finally entered matriculation at International Islamic University Malaysia. I am the seventh child in a family of 14 siblings. Being part of a large family, it teaches me diplomacy which helps me greatly in my everyday dealings with administration staff, lecturers and students.

## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF

Well personality wise, although people mostly think I am an extroverted person, actually I am more of an introvert. Although I enjoy the company of people, there are times when I prefer to be alone, especially when I have a problem to solve or when I have some thinking to do. There are times when you can see me walking with my head bowed down; it was because I was thinking to the point where I don't even hear people greeting me. So to those people that I did not greet, I am

sorry, it wasn't intentional.

I associate myself most with McClelland's Need Theory, specifically Need for Achievement. I have a great desire for significant accomplishments; I set myself a high standard of work but never scared of failures, I prefer to look at it as an opportunity to learn from mistakes. I also enjoy performing challenging tasks and see difficult tasks as opportunities to better myself. People who knew my management style knows that I constantly seek improvements and ways of doing things better. My greatest personal satisfaction is when I can accomplish a task entrusted to me especially if I can set an even higher benchmark for others to follow.

I consistently push myself and the people around me to better themselves, and I took a personal pride if they improved. I can easily forgive mistakes as long as they genuinely promised not to repeat the same mistake twice. I have this so called personal dislike against chaotic management. During my tenure as a Dean, I have restructured a lot of things, invented new systems and introduced a few initiatives mostly to the betterment of the school. Not everything I have done is successful though, there are a few failures, but trust me, I learn from each mistake. I am not so single minded that I ignored other people's opinion and become blind to my mistake.

My indicator of how well I perform is never about the praise given to me, but the feedback on what I did right, and most important of all, what I did wrong. I seldom celebrate my achievements. That is why if you go to my room or my house, you would not see a single picture of me in my graduation gown. Even my PhD thesis is not bound and still resides in my computer's hard drive.

## WHAT I DO IN MY FREE TIME (HOBBY)

My favourite hobby, which I will be able to enjoy again after the respite from my administration duty, is reading. Not the boring academic book, but mostly fantasy and fiction. I love to read and this desire to read has made me collect numerous books. Enough books to make a mini library in my house.

I started my reading habit when I was in primary four. After two years, I ran out of Malay books to read from the old KK library. Then my cousin suggested that I should read English novel. Being hungry for knowledge, I took up the challenge by reading English novels with a small dictionary in hand. Until now, probably I read over 1,000 books in both English and Malay.

My favourite author for fantasy genre would be JRR Tolkien, George RR Martin, Robert Jordan, Raymond Feist, Steven Erikson and Patrick Rothfuss. I am just amazed how they can create entirely different worlds, with their own language (Tolkien) and characters. I wish I could be as creative as they are, and probably that is where I learned to be creative...well probably just a teeny tiny spark of creativity compared to these writers. As for fiction, I am into Sidney Sheldon, Jeffrey Archer, John Grisham, Dan Brown, Wilbur Smith and Bernard Cromwell. It is hard to put down a good book.

At distant second is music. I learned how to play piano, guitar and drum on my own. I can never be good at it, but I can play and sing a few songs, especially when I need a respite from my daily work. I also play snooker and pool which is a great way to meet new friends and coping with stress.