

PERSATUAN GRADUAN INDIA INDIAN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION



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IGAUPM Council
2004-05

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NEWSLETTER (for internal circulation only)

Issue 2: November, 2004

Editorial - Leadership

Belated Deepavali greetings! As this year comes to an end, it's a good time to reflect on our experiences - good, challenging or bad. In the journey of life, people are constantly pursuing goals that provide them the medium to be accepted and gradually being elevated in society. Such elevations relate generally to excellence. Excellence is subjective to each individual. To some it may be irrelevant to have a separate idea of excellence, as it should be a natural phenomenon in our daily life. While to others it forms an integral part in the responsibilities we need to fulfil. Whichever it may be, the idea of excellence is indeed inevitable among the top achievers. The elements which constitute excellence include leadership skills. The art of leadership lies in the ability to guide and ensure one attains the desired vision. Spend a moment to ponder this fact and reflect on the people who depend on us to fulfil this rather obligatory role. Being in a position to lead others allows oneself to ensure the path which we define as right. Among the many skills needed in leadership is the value of conflict. Conflicts generally denote negative sentiments. A difference of opinion is usually linked with disrespect or overshadowing of the superior. Condoning to such believes will only weaken the entity in which we lead. Conflicting opinions are essential in forming healthy competition. However, the art lies in the manner we forward as well as receive these conflicting opinions. Convincing our peers or subordinates depend on the validity as well as correctness of the decision. Many believe that instructions are meant to be followed and not questioned. If this is so, do we have absolute authority? Can people adhere to decisions without even comprehending its logical interpretations? Transcending into an open decision making system will foster stronger ties between ourselves and the people we lead. Knowing that the leader is highly pro-active in receiving the views of the people, executing decisions will generate indeed a great amount of respect. Thus, in this manner leaders will need to ensure they are equipped with the skills and qualification to enable such correct and valued decisions to be made. Thus, if we need more skill and wisdom, ensure that you acquire them and keep up with the fast changing trends of our globalized society.

Leaders must realize that the correlation between themselves and the people they lead is a two-way relationship. Just as much as people need leaders, leaders also need people. Making each other feel respected and worthy of the relationship is an idealistic situation. This relationship must therefore be harnessed with proper cooperation. Leaders must be able to motivate and make one see the talent within. Do not restrict yourself with thoughts of people not appreciating or becoming better than us. The more talent we cultivate in others, the more we will harness from within. We should allow ourselves too to be lead. Follow the advise of people who we belief will ensure we reach greater heights. Healthy criticism should be received with grace and before accepting or rejecting them, spend some solid time thinking about what people are trying to tell us.

Spend sometime to appreciate the people around us. Many a times, we forget that our success is partly due to our complementary surroundings. Appreciations are not obligatory, but they make us better humans. Spend sometime to listen to people and show them that they are indeed vital in our life. Observe the number of people who as they pass you ask "How are you?" and notice how often they stop to actually listen to the answer. Do we just send these greetings as common courtesy or are we really concerned? You'll be surprised at the power of listening and sincerity of concern. The people we lead may be a department, an entire organization or most importantly our very own family members. Just as the famous saying "charity begins at home", the family entity is the nucleus towards nation building. Just remember that you may be making a world of difference in someone's life. Even if this happens to be just a single person, treat it as a blessing and make yourself aware of this great responsibility you shoulder.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Shamala Subramaniam
shamala@fsktm.upm.edu.my

APJ Abdul Kalam The Science Based Indian President

President APJ Abdul Kalam is an ideal example and motivation for us. He started from a humble beginning and in no manner did this hinder him from reaching the great heights he has now. He was born into a middle-class family in the island town of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. His father, Jainulabdeen, had neither much formal education nor much wealth; despite these disadvantages, he possessed great innate wisdom and true generosity of spirit. President Kalam, worked himself from these humble beginnings to many successes in his life. Among which was the planning, designing and launching of a full-fledged Indian Missile Program. His story is exemplary and his leadership qualities were truly harnessed especially when he had to manage a total of 4,000 engineers in the missile program.

President Kalam defines a productive leader as one who's very competent in staffing. He or she should continuously introduce new blood into the organization. He must be adept at dealing with problems and new concepts. The problems encountered involve a trade-off among a wide variety of known and unknown parameters. Skills in handling these complex entities are important in achieving high productivity. He emphasizes that the leader must be able to instill enthusiasm in his team. A leader should give credit when due, praise publicly but criticize privately.

President Kalam penned the following poem:

"God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our life through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God has promised
Strength for the day
Rest for the labour
Light for the way."

Activity Report

IGAUPM was invited by the Persatuan Hindu Universiti Putra Malaysia (PHUPM) to a lunch-hour capacity building forum on August 27, 2004 at UPM. This forum, themed 'Sharing Experiences: Getting the Best out of Campus Life' was attended by 60 PHUPM members. The IGAUPM President chaired the forum which comprised the following panelists (topics):

- ☞ Dr. Siva Balasundram (Aim in Campus, Importance of Year 1, Expectations and Opportunities)
- ☞ Dr. Shamala Subramaniam (Matching Academic and Non-academic Needs, Excellence in Sports as well as Academia)
- ☞ Mr. Murali Subramaniam (Meeting Industry Needs and the Skills to be Developed)
- ☞ Ms. Santhi Raghavan (Transition of Human Resource to K-Workforce)

Advise on Grad School

<http://www.sce.carleton.ca/faculty/chinneck/thesis.html>

It is truly commendable to see the passion and determination working people have for studies. Many of these working-class students attend lectures right after a long day at work. Balancing the need for higher qualifications and working experiences is a pre-requisite in the working world today. With the government pushing for Malaysians to strive for innovative ideas, pursuing a Masters or a PhD by research is becoming increasingly popular.

This article may provide you some useful pointers in the preparation of a thesis. The distinguishing mark of graduate research is *an original contribution to knowledge*. The thesis is a formal document whose sole purpose is to prove that you have made an original contribution to knowledge. Failure to prove that you have made such a contribution generally leads to failure. To this end, your thesis must show two important things:

- ? you have identified a worthwhile problem or question which has not been previously answered,
- ? you have solved the problem or answered the question.

Your contribution to knowledge generally lies in your solution or answer. Because the purpose of the graduate thesis is to prove that you have made an original and useful contribution to knowledge, the examiners read your thesis to find the answers to the following questions:

- ? What is the research question?
- ? Is it a legitimate question? (Has it been answered before? Is it a useful question to work on?)
- ? Has the student's research adequately answered the question?
- ? By doing so, has the student made an adequate contribution to knowledge?

A very *clear* statement of the question is essential to proving that you have made an original and worthwhile contribution to knowledge. To prove the originality and value of your contribution, you must present a *thorough* review of the existing literature on the subject, and on closely related subjects. Then, by making *direct* reference to your literature review, you must *demonstrate* that your question (a) has not been previously answered, and (b) is worth answering. Describing how you answered the question is usually easier to write about, since you have been intimately involved in the details over the course of your graduate work. If your thesis does not provide adequate answers to the few questions listed above, you will likely be faced with a requirement for major revisions or you may fail your thesis defense. Always remember that a thesis is a *formal* document: every item must be in the appropriate segment, and repetition of facts should be eliminated.

Upcoming Activities

☞ **Professional Image Enhancement Workshop**
Scheduled for somewhere between December, 2004 & January, 2005

☞ **Financial Planning Talk**
Scheduled for February, 2005

Further information on these activities will follow via email

It is better to keep your own mind free and to not let the thinking of others interfere with your own free thinking

-- Mr. Cha (as quoted in L. Sharon, *Ruined By Reading*)

Investment and Business Opportunities

Check out this website: <http://www.cradle.com.my/>

An idea remains an idea until you take ACTION on it.

Cradle Investment Program (CIP) supports you to turn your dreams into a reality. CIP is Malaysia's first investment fund for ideas and is managed by Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (MAVCAP). A sum of RM100 million has been allocated for this program by the Ministry of Finance. The fund provides you with a grant of up to RM50,000 per idea for development of a prototype, proof of concept and/or a business plan based on your very own idea.

CIP- Microsoft partnership

Objective: To assist CIP technopreneurs under the CIP in developing, refining and commercializing their ideas that are built and supported on the Microsoft platform. This is in hope that more Malaysians will be spurred to innovate and develop world-class ideas especially in the field of technology.

Eligibility: The first 100 CIP technopreneurs who develop software solutions to subscribe to Microsoft's [EMPOWER for ISV](#) initiative will also receive certification, training, access to latest technology, access to markets and more.

Microsoft's [EMPOWER for ISV](#) is designed to enable a software developer to have access to latest Microsoft development tools through an affordable annual subscription model.

CIP technopreneurs who meet the eligibility criteria above will enjoy the following benefits:

- ☞ Full subsidy for the first 10 CIP technopreneurs to have their solution successfully certified to be Windows and .NET compatible under the [Microsoft Platform Test for ISV](#)
- ☞ CIP technopreneurs who have developed a solution based on Microsoft technologies and are ready to market it may be eligible to register in the [Microsoft Partner Program \(MSPP\)](#). MSPP offers a single, integrated partnering framework that recognizes the partner's expertise, rewards them for their total impact in the technology marketplace, and delivers more value to help their business become successful
- ☞ Access to the [Net Technopreneur Development Centre \(NTDC\)](#) for development, testing and benchmarking of applications
- ☞ Invitation to attend workshops related to the areas of the commercialization of intellectual property, and other issues facing the technology industry and technopreneur environment
- ☞ Invitation to attend relevant training, seminars and other events organized by or affiliated to Microsoft
- ☞ Invitation to participate in [MIND – The Malaysian Independent Developers Community](#)

Chances that the world's cars, trucks, buses and motorcycles are owned and are in use in Asia: 1 in 6

Random Information

☞ Events

A' Famosa Carnival 2004

When: November 01 through December 31, 2004
Where: A' Famosa Cowboy Town, Malacca
Contact: 06-552 8189 (tel), 06-552 8103 (fax)

Penang Festival 2004

When: November 01 through December 31, 2004
Where: Throughout Penang
Contact: 04-262 1957 (tel), 04-261 8618 (fax)

☞ Job

Position: **Sales and Development Manager / Executive**

Requirements: ?Diploma or Degree in any field
?At least 5 years working experience
?Good verbal/written skills in English & Bahasa Malaysia
?Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Contact: SLP Media Sdn Bhd
35 Jalan PSK 2, Pusat Perdagangan Seri Kembangan,
43300 Selangor Darul Ehsan
Email: slpm@tm.net.my, Fax: 03-8945 5352

Cereal diet, anyone?

CEREALS	Energy (KCal)	Protein (g)	Carbohydrate (g)	Fat (g)
All values are per 100 g of edible portions.				
Bajra	361	11.6	67.5	5.0
Barley	336	11.5	69.6	1.3
Jowar	331	12.3	60.9	1.9
Maize (dry)	342	11.1	66	3.6
Maize (tender)	125	4.7	24.6	0.8
Rice	345	6.8	78.2	0.5
Rice flakes	346	6.6	77.3	1.2
Rice (puffed)	325	7.5	73.6	0.1
Wheat flour	341	12.1	69.4	1.7
Semolina (Suji)	348	10.4	74.8	0.8
Vermicelli (Sewia)	352	8.8	78.3	0.4
Brown bread	245	7.8	51.9	0.7
Chana	360	17.1	60.9	5.3
Chana dal	372	20.8	59.8	5.6
Kala chana (roasted)	369	22.5	58.1	5.2
Urad dal (whole)	347	24.0	59.6	1.4
Lobia	323	24.1	54.5	1.0
Beans (sem,dry)	347	24.9	60.1	0.8
Moong dal (whole)	334	24.0	56.7	1.3
Moong dal	358	24.5	59.9	1.2
Kala chana	321	22.0	57.2	0.5
Masoor dal	343	25.1	59.0	0.7
Moth dal	330	23.6	56.5	1.1
Peas (green)	93	7.2	15.9	0.1
Peas (dry)	315	19.7	56.5	1.1
Peas (roasted)	340	22.9	58.8	1.4
Rajmah	346	22.9	60.6	1.3
Soyabean	432	43.2	20.9	19.5