

Yeop Ali pursuing DBA at 73

THE golden years are the time for one to indulge in travelling, spending time with grandchildren and reminiscing.

But for Yeop Ali Mohd Dobi, 73, these activities pale in comparison with pursuing his Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree programme at Asia e University (AeU).

A retired banker, Yeop Ali is one of the oldest students at AeU and he shows no sign of slowing down.

Born and bred in Lahat, Perak, he received his Bachelor in Business Studies from University of Brighton and MBA from University of Strathclyde.

"I knew about AeU from billboards, and AeU's advertisements in newspapers were a constant reminder to me that I should not waste any more time.

"I was attracted to AeU because its flexible programme structure allowed me to combine a busy life with life-long learning.

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Age not a factor in learning

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"In addition, the deans and academicians came with experience from renowned public and private universities."

Yeop Ali, who has two children, between 30 and 40, said he sometimes had difficulty in his doctoral journey.

"Writing a doctoral thesis is a journey. And like any expedition, the companionship makes a big difference. Once more in my life, I came to realise that it's not only the work that keeps you motivated but also the people around you who make it interesting and worthwhile.

"Dedication, perseverance and the ability to accept criticism with a light heart and starting all over again, are just a few of the many qualities that you'll need to succeed.

"Though I was aware that the self-study pathway for the DBA programme would be a daunting task, the attraction of being trained in applied research-based thinking and methods to define, implement and evaluate real business issues drove me to go for the challenge.

"The DBA programme should not be taken lightly, but AeU provides me with an experienced supervisor.

"I will be forever indebted to my supervisor for his guidance from the early phases of the literature review to the current stage.

"At times, progress was painfully slow, and sometimes I was stuck in a rut, but with a prod from my supervisor, Dr Oo Yu Hock, and the encouragement from many others at the AeU School of Management, I overcame it.

"The programme has not only trained me in

applied research-based thinking, but has also broadened my understanding of strategic management. However, the greatest experience has been to prove to myself that I can overcome the intellectual challenge to conduct research at the doctoral level."

Oo said Yeop Ali should be a role model to others when it came to learning.

"Yeop Ali is still willing to accept the burden of being a student. I monitor Yeop and other students in this age group to learn of their problems.

"Age is not a factor in learning and, sometimes, the old students do better than others. What's important is to have the awareness and willingness to study for self satisfaction. I invite you to explore the possibilities that AeU can offer in uncovering your potential."

The majority of AeU's faculty is recognised as conducting research that is ranked as internationally excellent or world-class.

When you are accepted into the DBA programme, you will be allocated a team of supervisors,

with an assigned primary supervisor who will work with you in guiding and supporting your research throughout your study.

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Events such as research seminar series, research methodologies workshops, academic forums and colloquiums involving distinguished speakers, are some of the activities directed at knowledge-sharing exchanges and dissemination of research information.

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