

## Lifelong Learner Story Series ▶▶



### Syed Fazal Sakaf Bin Syed Husain Sakaf

- ▶ Executive at LPM An-Nur
- ▶ Pursued courses stackable to Graduate Certificate in Power Engineering

#### What attracted you to your chosen certificate?

NTU stackable certificate courses were conducted at the pace which was friendly to working professionals. Coupled with the generous 90% course fee funding given to the learners above 40 years old has also encouraged and attracted me to enrol in their courses and upskill.

#### Describe the factors that led you to choose PaCE@NTU.

NTU being one of the top universities in Asia made me wanted to further my studies in NTU. I am glad to have the opportunities to learn from the best lecturers who are the subject experts with many years of experience in the industries. I found studying in NTU is fulfilling and rewarding.

#### Share with us a memorable experience you had during your time at NTU.

After a long period of absence from studying, the first course that I took from NTU was EE6501: Power Electronic Converters in 2019. This course was challenging as the subject matter taught was tough for me but at the same time, I found it essential to the current electrical and electronics industries. This course opened my eyes to a whole new world of possibilities of using components that could generate greater power without relying on traditional methods. The course lecturers were also subject matter experts and journeyed through each course with us at the right pace. This made me fully enjoyed my learning in NTU while gaining a deeper understanding of the courses.

#### What were the challenges you faced when trying to complete this certificate?

Time was the main factor followed by my age. Basically, due to the nature of my job, I had to, at times, work late to fulfil certain requirements. The other challenge I faced was the energy level. Often, I noticed I was feeling tired and lacking in concentration during lectures. I overcame these challenges by befriending younger fellow course mates, mingling with them and learning together with them as one regardless of age.

#### How did you juggle family and working life with your studies?

My family deeply understood the importance of upskilling and learning new technologies. My wife, mother and children supported me by allowing me to have “time off” from family for my studies. When the family was faced with challenging moments, my wife was able to resolve the problems without my intervention, which enabled me to concentrate more on my studies.

#### Will you recommend PaCE@NTU’s programmes to your friends and family?

Definitely! I would recommend PaCE@NTU’s programmes and courses to my friends and family who want to upskill and reskill themselves. The courses that I enrolled in helped me in my profession and allowed me to think differently. At a certain juncture in my career, I was able to resolve many complex problems at my work after gaining advanced thinking skills.