Azhar Fakharuddin, PhD (Advanced Materials)

Azhar Fakharuddin originates from Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. He has Bachelor and Masters degrees in electronic engineering. The decision to change to science and technology field was one of the most difficult decisions he has ever made. It can never be easier until he met a professor, which happens to be his current PhD supervisor. The first question from the professor was, "What is your intention of switching to nanotechnology?". He paused and after deep thinking; he answered "I am looking for a place that could offer me a platform to make differences and a thrust to do something non-existing which one should dream of". The professor answered, "You have come to the right place".

"We all have ability. The difference is how we use it"

After one semester, he confronted the hurdles which he faces with smiles. The teamwork, cooperation from the team members, a real research environment in the lab and motivation from his supervisor have made him stronger and confident of his path. He is working on charge transport phenomena in dye sensitized solar cells, under supervisions of Prof. Dr. Jose Rajan. He is actively involved in publications, presenting research papers in conferences and the International Conference on Nanotechnology 2012 (ICON 2012) committee as Secretary. His final remark at the interview was "I have finally discovered a place where my hearts feels it belongs to. I am proud to be a part of the family".

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY MEMBER

Azhar Fakharuddin was born in 1971 in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. He received a B.Sc. degree from the University of Kerala and an M.Sc. degree from Andhra University, India.

"Knowledge is power"

In 1995, he started his career as an academic and industrial researcher at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India, and received a PhD degree from the Mahatma Gandhi University for his pioneering work on nanostructured materials for microwave and superconductivity applications. After submission of his PhD thesis, he was awarded the prestigious Dr. K.S. Krishnan Research Associateship from the Government of India, which enabled him to work at India's first fast breeder nuclear reactor at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research.

In 2003, he joined the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Sciences and Technology (AIST) in Japan where he worked on luminescent quantum dots for energy and healthcare. He published pioneering articles on the relationship between structure and properties of popular II–VI semiconducting quantum dots which was highlighted in Japanese newspapers and televisions. In 2005, he joined the Toyota Technological Institute at Nagoya, Japan where he continued to work on nanomaterials as well as glasses and glass ceramics as optical waveguides and signal processing devices and developed new materials systems characterized by high optical gain and large optical gain bandwidth. In 2007, he joined at the National University of Singapore and started working on nanostructured materials for renewable energy.

He joined the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FIST) of Universiti Malaysia Pahang in March 2010, where he is presently a Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. He holds 15 patents including US, European, Japanese, and Indian. He has published nearly 100 papers in science citation indexed journals which are cited about 1000 times. He has a family of four: Susanthi (wife); Maleaya (Daughter born on March 2000) and Shravan (Son born on November 2005).