

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful. Indeed all praises be unto Allah, and we praise Him, and we seek help from Him, and we seek forgiveness from Him. We seek refuge from Him from the evil of ourselves, and from the evil of our actions. Whomsoever Allah guides, none can misguide. And whomsoever He leaves astray, none can guide. May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you.

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To those in my extended family with PhDs, I thank them admiringly for their strange looks and jokes. One senior poked fun with a comment at me. He said, "Considered to be the most intelligent among us, he does not have a doctorate. Hahaha." My cynical response was, "Is it not inspiring that for many years I have been doing work of people with PhDs, but without a doctorate myself? I feel, it is certainly humbling but yet assuring being accorded that kind of believe in my capability."

To my friends, I kindly thank them for all support and encouragement rendered to me during my research journey. To Multimedia University (MMU), I thank them for the opportunity provided to me for teaching, conducting research and the unforgettable inter-

actions with Prof Singh and staff at the university. To University Malaysia Pahang (UMP), I thank them for accepting me as a research student (at the age of mid 60s) and for the generosity of providing research equipment and resources.

Finally, I again praise Allah, for the invaluable gifts of health, time and clear state of mind, without which, I would not have been able to go through this arduous and exhausting journey. There is always a purpose in everything. Thinking of it, I recalled the motto of a local university, "To Allah and Mankind". Without hesitation, I say, this is exactly the one for me. God Willing, may Allah grant me this deserving wish. In closing, I wish to share the following passages from Allah, the All-Knowing and All-Mighty.

And in His Providence are the keys of the Unseen; none knows them except He. And He knows whatever is in the land and the sea. And in no way does a leaf fall down, except that He knows it, and not a grain in the darkness of the earth, not a thing wet or dry, except that it is in an evident Book. Whoever submits his whole self to God and is a doer of good, he has grasped indeed the most trustworthy handhold. And with God rests the end and decision of all affairs. Verily, When He (Allah) intends a thing, his command is "Be ! and it is !". (*Combined verses Al-Quran, Chapters Al-An'am 6:59, Lukman 31:22 and Ya-Sin 36:82*)

A recruiter once told this famous story. He was invited to attend a college team competition where autonomous underwater vehicles must avoid obstacles before reaching the finish line. The competition was held in a swimming pool. After the competition, seeing that the runner up team was sad, he approached them and asked a question, "How much do you spend on your project?" The answer he got was 20K. He remarked, "Oh yeah. But the champion spent 100K. Now who is better?"

Alhamdulillah. With all my love. Always.

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