

MY EARLY YEARS

After completing my master degree, I joined Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) as a lecturer in January 2002. My first journal submission was a paper extracted from the master thesis, with M. Azali and Melvin Hinich as the co-authors. Unfortunately, the three referee reports from *Macroeconomic Dynamics* suggested major revisions, and eventually we did not resubmit. In the same year, I have also submitted a paper to *Journal of Empirical Finance*, but it was rejected.

After the above frustrating outcomes, I decided to turn my attention to some Malaysian-based journals. For the period 2002-2004, most of my research papers were submitted to domestic journals such as [*Pertanika Journal of Social Science and Humanities*](#), [*International Journal of Management Studies*](#)

and

[*International Journal of Business and Society*](#)

. The reviewing process has been a great hands-on learning experience for me, especially in justifying the research motivations and contributions. After gaining the much-needed confidence, I started submitting my manuscripts to overseas-based journals and also prepared myself for further study. In early 2005, I applied for a staff scholarship from UMS to pursue a PhD degree in Monash University (Caulfield campus). The application was approved with a 4-year study leave from 15/10/2005- 14/10/2009, and a new journey in my academic life begins...

Recollection

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