



## InspireMe Talk on Attitude & Passion Road to Success

by Mr. Sivarama Rajah

Mr. Sivarama Rajah is currently a committee member in Electronic Engineering Technical Division (eETD).

### *Abstract of the Talk*

### Biodata of Speaker



Shanmuganathan (Shaan), a transformational leader with high interpersonal skill and passion for innovation. He is the current Kontron Malaysia's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Prior to joining Kontron, after a short stint in Malaysia upon graduating from USA, he was based in overseas assignments at Hong Kong, China and Canada where he was involved in various R&D Groups developing and manufacturing products for consumer, RF, Medical and embedded industries. He returned to Malaysia to continue contributing in R&D field.

With his passion and versatile executive capabilities in engineering with development background, he managed to transform Kontron Malaysia from a manufacturing incline company to today's R&D CoE (Centre of Excellence) for Kontron embedded boards, system and IoT (Internet of Thing) mainly focusing on vertical applications in Industrial 4.0, Avionics and Transportation.

Shaan begins his career as a RF engineer and continue building his career holding various technical and executive management positions through his 27 years of tenure. He holds Bsc. Electrical Engineering (Major in Electronic and System Control) from University of Toledo, Ohio, USA and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Multimedia University Malaysia.

Being a Transformational leader who is enthusiastic, passionate and energetic, Shaan always focuses on transforming employees and encourages them to look out for each other and work & win as a team. He also enhances morale, motivation and performance of employees through his regular talks on leadership, digital transformation and branding.

Shaan, also known as a visionary leader who creates more leaders, particularly in Kontron through his various programs and discussion sessions with Young Management Group and Middle Management Group to bring them and guide them to reach next level in Career & Industry.

He always believes in, "**Leadership is not always a position or title, it is action and example**".

**InspireMe Report**

An InspireMe talk entitled “Attitude & Passion Road to Success” was presented by Mr. Shanmuganathan (Shaan) at KDU Penang on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Mr. Shaan was accompanied by Miss Asuvani (Head of HR), Ms. Tan Yeun Nee (Head of R&D), Pn. Tengku Norasyikin (Sr. Secretary) and Anu Shuzany Dev (Engineer) from Kontron Asia Pacific Design, Sdn. Bhd. The event was organized by IEM Electronic Engineering Technical Division (eETD) and co-supported by KDU Penang.

The InspireMe talk was started off by Dr. Yeap, Head of School of Engineering Computing & Built Environment at KDU Penang, and committee member of IEM eETD, provided a brief introduction about eETD and InspireMe Talk. Followed by Mr. Sivarama, committee member of IEM eETD, introduces the InspireMe talk speaker and a transformational leader, Mr. Shanmuganathan and provides a brief synopsis of the talk. Thereafter, a loud applause was given to welcome Mr. Shaan to begin his talk.

Mr. Shaan started by introducing himself and provides a brief background of his career with Kontron Malaysia. He shared his invaluable experience and how his passion to begin a career as a R&D Engineer in electronic industry become a reality, and then how he progressively advance in his career and became the CEO of Kontron Malaysia. He shared some of his challenges, how they were managed, and he emphasized that there are opportunities in every challenges that need to be discovered with right attitude and passion for personal and professional advancement & growth.

The key takeaway from Mr. Shaan’s InspireMe talk is, enthusiasm is a key driver for passion and innovation and attitude will define the direction to make a difference and create impact in whatever we do. The event was attended by more than 30 participants comprises of IEM members, students as well as staff from KDU Penang’s Department of Engineering and Department of Computing.



*IEM eETD committee member 2017/18, Mr. Sivarama (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Shaan.*



*Head of School of Engineering, Computing & Built Environment at KDU Penang, Dr. Yeap (from left) presenting a token appreciation to Mr. Shaan.*



IEM Penang Branch is the administrator of the above activity