

Award recipient completes postgraduate studies in quick time

By *Walter Glass*

Sometimes a leap of faith is all you need to push your career to the next level.

Around the end of March 2011, Zaad Lathiff, a senior transport officer, commercial vehicles, at the NZ Transport Agency in Palmerston North, came to us to discuss his options for undertaking a reputable logistics and supply chain management qualification. Zaad had applied for, and been awarded, a CILT NZ Transport Research and Educational Trust Award to cover his fees and was keen to start as soon as possible. We spoke about what he wanted to achieve, and it transpired that Zaad had an impressive technical background and considerable experience in heavy commercial transport, but he was also interested in the wider issues of transport logistics and how it integrated into wider supply chain activities.

It was clear that Zaad was an intelligent person, but it had been quite some time since he had

attempted study and he did not have a degree, so he was somewhat nervous. We discussed the qualifications that LTG could offer, namely the CILT UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport, and also the CILT UK Certificate in Logistics & Transport. LTG teaches the former at postgraduate level and the latter at graduate level. Zaad went away with plenty to think about. He returned a week later to sign up for the certificate course, and collected his course books. Another week went by, and Zaad returned – he'd done a lot of thinking and had changed his mind. He wanted to do the diploma. Another discussion ensued, followed by an exchange of books, and Zaad departed, looking a little worried, but very pleased that he was going to take on the challenge of this two-year part-time course.

While I was a little concerned,



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plainly I hadn't realised the apprehension that Zaad was feeling.

Zaad's story

"When I read through the first module of the Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport course, I wondered how I had got myself into this mess. How was I going to get through this? It had been a very long time since I had done professional studies," Zaad says.

"Receiving the trust award enabled me to sign up for the diploma, but now I had to reorganise myself to accommodate studies while balancing other aspects of my life, including work. Initially I found it extremely difficult to adapt to the new routine, but with some inner discipline I managed to settle in.

"It was a matter of dedication and taking responsibility for my own commitment. Always in the back of my mind was the thought that I was accountable to the funding agencies, and this was one of the main encouraging factors for me to complete the course of studies. "Today, I am proud of myself that through discipline, encouragement, dedication and support I turned my 'plight' into a smooth 'flight' and took off to complete the CILT UK Professional Diploma with good grades.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Walter and Tessa Glass for extending their invaluable support. It came at times when I desperately needed it. I also sincerely thank my manager at work for keeping an eye on my workload – his support contributed to me submitting the completed tasks ahead of their



Through discipline, encouragement, dedication and support, Zaad Lathiff completed the CILT UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport

deadlines. Another big vote of thanks goes to the CILT NZ Transport Research and Educational Trust Board for the award, without which I wouldn't have thought of commencing the course."

Walter's endorsement

Zaad took a leap of faith in his own capability, worked hard, and completed the Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport in just 17 months, achieving very good grades all the way through. The business case project he undertook was realistic and was successfully implemented as a pilot project.

While he ponders the possibilities for gaining more experience, he now has the option of applying to Massey University to undertake a masters degree in logistics and supply chain management. LTG congratulates Zaad Lathiff on his dedication and determination.

Walter Glass is the course director at LTG; for further information, visit www.LTG.co.nz

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