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Mimos chief nifty with gadgets

What started off as a hobby toying with gadgets set Mimos Bhd president and chief executive officer Abdul Wahab Abdullah on the path to a career in the technology-related field.

By RACHAEL KAM

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It pays to dabble in gadgets, at least for Abdul Wahab Abdullah anyway.

Since his school days in Penang, Wahab had read *Hobby* magazines and toyed with whatever gadgets he could get his hands on.

He bought resistors, transistors and all electrical-related gadgets and tried to make something out of them.

Looking back, Wahab, who is Mimos Bhd president and chief executive officer, feels that it was his hobby that has brought him to where he is today.

"The dabbling in gadgets had really built my interest in the engineering and electronics field," he said.

Wahab, 52, said his education at Ungku Omar Polytechnic in Ipoh reinforced and added skills to his favourite technical subjects.

"I just love jobs that make use of my hands and skills," he said, adding that he used to help his uncle, a carpenter, during his teenage years.

Over the years, Wahab had a big collection of electrical gadgets. However, he no longer keeps them now as "as they took up too much space in my home," he said with a trace of regret.

"I still keep all my tools because they are important and still useful," he told *StarBiz* at his office in Technology Park Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

A graduate in engineering from Universiti Malaya, Wahab was a Motorola scholar and joined Motorola's R&D (research and development) Centre in Penang in 1979.

"One must have the passion and loves what he does everyday," advised Wahab, who has six children. His eldest daughter is a mechanical engineer and his son will be completing his degree in computer engineering soon. His other children and wife are staying in Penang.

During his stint with Motorola, he helped to develop many major global portable and mobile radio development projects.

Wahab brought his vast leadership experience in the field of R&D and information and communication technology from Motorola to Mimos in July 2006.

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"I go back to Penang most weekends to spend some time with my wife and children," Wahab, who resides in Kuala Lumpur.

Wahab likes to read and his favourite books include those on management, philosophy, feng shui, cooking and, of course, those that enhanced his technical skills.

"Those days in Penang, I used to cook with my wife and we would always try the new dishes that I learnt from books," he added.

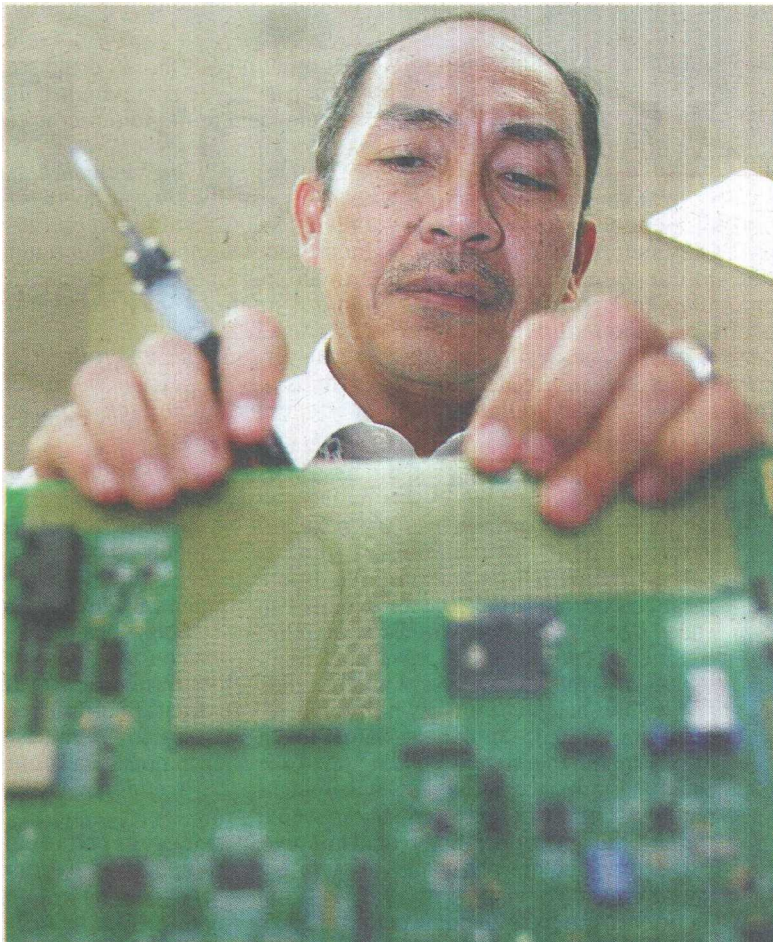
Wahab also loved walking, and he would do that for hours at the beaches in Penang on weekends with his family or friends.

Apart from his work and contributing to the technology industry,

Wahab also does community services like providing financial help and giving advice to schools.

"I am still active in community work," he said. "So, my time is actually divided by my work in Mimos on one hand, and community work and hobbies on the other," he said.

Wahab believes that putting the right people at the right places is easier than motivating them to perform.



Abdul Wahab Abdullah is also active in community work