

“The glue that sticks all of us together, not only in the way we think, but also in the way we act to move towards an agreed common direction and objective - in short, the working culture - is our Tan Sri Jamal.”

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Group Chief Corporate Development Officer
Axiata, 2011 - 2020
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Starting a day early marked my first foray into a world outside after 18 years in investment banking, with a mid-year Board retreat in Bangladesh. My first day at Axiata as Chief Corporate Development Officer and I was all ready and excited to contribute and impress in front of my Board, CEO, and new colleagues.

At the end of the first day of the retreat I was left with a few A4 sheets, comprising not notes but abbreviations. That I didn't really understand, even after resorting to Google. When I returned home, my first few words to my wife were, "Very nice *biryani* in Bangladesh. Superb. But I doubt if I made the right choice to move out of banking."

More than eight years and two contracts later (hopefully with the third on its way), hundreds of proposals reviewed, successful closure of multiple acquisitions, mergers and disposal of assets, I have enjoyed every single minute of my time spent here.

Blessed with good colleagues, the main, if I may say, glue that sticks all of us together not only in the way we think, but also in the way we act to move towards an agreed common direction and objective - in short, the working culture - is our Tan Sri Jamal.

Equipped with a superb memory and the ability to easily dissect and compartmentalise complex issues and situations into few parts for ease of understanding, discussion and - hopefully - solution, Tan Sri Jamal has never failed to impress me throughout my tenure in Axiata. His passion for people development I will always treasure the most. That sincere effort to see that everyone is treated fairly in all aspects, from career development and opportunities, all the way to compensation and welfare.

I am now able to tell my wife, "I have made the right choice." The past 10 years have been great with their ups and downs, and I know for certain that the next 10 years will be equally interesting and challenging.