

“As a Group operating in a competitive and challenging environment in many different jurisdictions, this ‘University of Life’ called Axiata offered many opportunities to experience the whole roller coaster corporate ride.”

Suryani Hussein

Group Company Secretary, Axiata, 2008 – Present
Head of Legal & Secretarial, Celcom, 2002 – 2008

Codenamed Project Ontario the demerger, first announced in September 2007, was executed in record time with legal completion achieved on 25 April 2008 followed by three days later, the listing of TMI on the main market of Bursa Malaysia. I was then the Head of Legal and Secretarial of Celcom and was roped in to be part of the project team, and then entrusted with the responsibility of being the Group Company Secretary of TMI.

It was hard in the beginning. Starting from ground zero as a new Group but TMI as a company had been operating well as an entity for a number of years. For a while there was a clear distinction between the ‘old/classic TMI’ employees and new ones click-clacking in our heels on the wooden floors of Menara TM.

Circa March 2009 TMI found its new name and identity - Axiata. That same year, we found a home in KL Sentral. Advancing Asia became our tag line and while we worked hard to build a new distinct company, the original aspiration of being Regional Champion was never far from sight. Bit by bit, as we faced new challenges and celebrate new achievements together, the difficulties of the past became slowly irrelevant.

Those of us who have preserved through the years have seen it all, the good, the bad and the ugly. As a Group operating in a competitive and challenging environment in many different jurisdictions, this “University of Life” called Axiata offered many opportunities to experience the whole roller coaster corporate ride. There certainly is never a dull moment!

