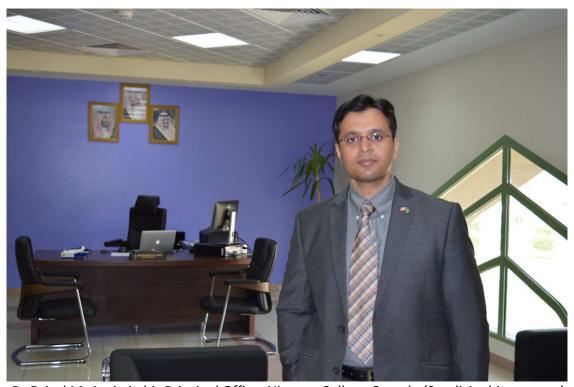**Dr Faisal M. Arain (Building PhD Class of 2007) appointed new Principal of Canada's Niagara College (Makkah campus, Saudi Arabia)**

Dr Faisal M. Arain in his Principal Office, Niagara College Canada (Saudi Arabia campus)

Dr Faisal M. Arain was formerly Associate Dean of the School of Sustainable Building and Environmental Management (SSBEM), Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). In August 2016, he was appointed to be the new Principal by Niagara College Canada to head the college's campus in Saudi Arabia. Dr Arain graduated from the NUS Department of Building with a PhD degree in 2007.

The Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology (frequently shortened to Niagara College and branded as Niagara College Canada) is a public College of Applied Arts and Technology within the Niagara Region of Southern Ontario, Canada. On 21 May 1965, Ontario led the way for colleges of applied arts and technology with the creation of its college system. In 1967, Niagara College's Welland Campus was established.

The college has 9,000 full-time students, including more than 500 international students from more than 60 countries. The college offers over 100 post-secondary diploma, baccalaureate degrees and advanced level programs. The continuing education division attracts approximately 15,000 registrants to more than 600 courses each year. Niagara College employs about 291 faculty, 89 administration staff and 224 support staff and has graduated more than 50,000 students (http://www.niagaracollege.ca/).

The college has four campuses: the Welland Campus in Welland, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Maid of the Mist Campus in Niagara Falls and the Makkah Campus in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

At the Makkah Campus, Saudi Arabia, as the newly appointed Principal, Dr Arain is tasked with establishing a "national centre of excellence" in IT, tourism, hospitality and business innovation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In acknowledging the contributions made by NUS in nurturing him to take on this leadership role, Dr Arain recalled that:

"My career success is all due to the support and guidance in NUS, and certainly NUS name and recognition played a huge role in securing these opportunities. I am a proud alumNUS. Things were really transformed when my family and I came to NUS, Singapore. The skills and competencies that I learned were really helpful in grooming me to be an effective leader, manager, supervisor and faculty. Thank you for everything."

Dr Arain's PhD research topic in NUS was related to IT-based Project Change Management System which he conducted in collaboration with Singapore's Ministry of Education.

Our NUS Department of Building congratulates Dr Arain on his new appointment as the Principal of Niagara College Canada (Makkah campus, Saudi Arabia) and wishes him well in all his future endeavors.

(19th September 2016)