



Zahiraniza MUSTAFFA

Home Country
Malaysia

Degree
PhD in Civil
Engineering

Expertise
Petroleum
Engineering

Research Focus
Probabilistic Design
and Offshore
Structures

Host University
Delft University of
Technology,
The Netherlands

Fellowship Awarded
2008

Zahiraniza Mustaffa, also known as Zahira, was born in Perak, Malaysia in 1978. The second child in a family of three siblings, she is married to a husband who has a similar career path. They have one son.

Her first degree, a bachelor of engineering (civil) with honors, was earned in 2000 at Petronas University of Technology in Malaysia, and in 2003 she obtained her Master of Science degree in water resources engineering from the University of Alberta in Canada. Her PhD research focus is in risk-based modeling, probabilistic mechanics and optimization techniques specializing in stochastic methods. Her work on probabilistic assessment of aging marine pipelines has widespread opportunities for application, and may attract the interest of specialists in stochastic methods and offshore engineering. She hopes her research will lead to a more economic, cost effective and safe design of offshore pipelines from an inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation point of view. The results of her research, conducted under the auspices of the Petroleum National Company in Malaysia (PETRONAS), will be beneficial not only to the university but also to her country, where a complex system totaling thousands of kilometers of offshore pipelines is still the most reliable means of transporting hydrocarbons.

Zahira has chosen an academic career path because teaching satisfies her in many ways. She feels that her friendly, easy-going manner encourages students to come to her for guidance in academic as well as personal matters. During her three years of teaching she received good evaluations from students in each academic semester, and in July 2007 she received an Effective Education Delivery Award.

Zahira plans to teach at the Petronas University of Technology in Malaysia, where she reports that according to Malaysia's Minister of Women and Family Development about eight percent of women are studying in science and technology at the national level.