



BIOGRAPHY

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Usama Karim is born in 1953 in Baghdad, Iraq and is a resident of the Netherlands since 1990. He speaks several languages fluently (Dutch, English, and Arabic). He is married to Celeste P. M. Wilderom, a professor of organizational behavior at the UT, the parents of their two children Noor and Senna. After finishing secondary school in Babylon, Iraq, he started his international education in Britain (1972-1982) and then the US (1982-1996). After finishing his PhD studies in the US he spent a period in Iraq (1996-1990) where he did his military service, taking afterwards lecturing posts at the University of Technology, the Technical Military Academy, and worked at the National centers of Construction Laboratories (NCCL) and Center of Engineering Consulting (NCEC) as external consultant. His studies and professional work took him around the world. After finishing his Bachelors Honors degree in Civil Engineering at Queen Mary College, London and his M.Sc. at Sheffield University, he worked as a civil engineer in the UK with a contracting firm. After his studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY) he worked for the New Jersey Department of Transportation (as foundations engineer) and for Applied Mechanics inc., Denver, Colorado (as senior R&D engineer). He worked on projects in the US, the Netherlands and several other countries as a geotechnical engineer and specialist in onshore and offshore (marine) geomechanics and foundation engineering. The bulk of the work was for the oil research and the constructions industry working. His Dutch experiences include working for Fugro Engineers (on off-shore site investigations and foundations) and with Vrijhof anchors (on offshore anchors research, design and installation). He worked on some mega offshore and oil-platforms and bridge foundations design projects in the North Sea and Scandinavian countries. Usama lectures and does research at the University of Twente at present at the faculty of Engineering, Department of Infrastructure. He is the coordinator of Middle East projects and proposals for the University together with Knowledge Park Twente. He coordinated large EU Erasmus Mundus exchange proposals building large consortiums of top European Universities with partnerships involving universities in Iraq, Yemen and Iran. He also represents the UT in current projects with the Gulf States and the Caucasus. He was involved in the organization of several Iraq symposiums and consultations around the theme of re-building Iraqi higher education system after the 2003 war. Between 2006-2008 he was an honorary consultant to the Iraqi Embassy in the Hague on cultural and higher education affairs. Currently he is an advisor to two Ministries in Iraq on research, training and funding in the EU (to the Ministry of Oil, and the Ministry of Science and Technology). Besides his full-time job at the UT and external consulting for these ministries, he is the technical developer of "kinetic art" sculptures working together with a famed Dutch Artist (www.alwiekunst.nl) in the region of Twente, the Netherlands. He is a member of several International, professional and engineering institutions (ASCE, ICE, KIVI, ISSMGE, ISSMGE, IEU) as well as member of several other professional networks and service organizations (NISA, IHEOC, HSB, RI). He works closely across faculties. He has over 60 publications on technical and scientific journals and proceedings.