

Sandscript Correspondent:**Anwar P. Motan**

Anwar Motan, Senior Systems Analyst, Computer and Hospital Information Centre (CHIC), traces his childhood and early education in Pakistan. He pursued higher studies in the United States, where he took up Computer Science at the University of Houston in 1973. At that time, not so many people were aware that personal computers would be in almost every home and office someday.

While still a student, Anwar got a part-time job in a small company. He worked on microprocessors using programs which were basically for the stores. Not long after, he was employed in larger establishments, where he worked on other computer programs. Anwar recalls that in those days, computer programs were limited and served only a few purposes. "We ran programs on decks of cards and had only index files. They were nothing like the database we have at present."

In 1985, Anwar joined CHIC as a Project Leader. His first supervisor was Ms. Selwa Al-Jasser, a co-alumnus of the University of Houston, who was then Head of the department. Anwar's initial project was the installation and demonstration of the laboratory database management systems (LDMS), a product of the University of Alabama.

Anwar says there have been tremendous changes since the early days of computers. "For the last 10 years, we have witnessed huge progress. The various computer programs we have at present suit almost every need of man. With the introduction of the Internet and electronic mail, the communication technology has become much faster and more efficient. It will not be surprising if one day we have a totally paper-less office, as every document will be available on the PC screen."

The goal he ardently wishes to accomplish is to construct a program which will enable physicians at the Hospital to access everything on their computer, such as patients' medical history, discharge summaries, medical reports, research, and images from different modalities.

Anwar considers KFSH&RC to be one of the best institu-



tions in the world. "I am lucky to have worked in a place where I am able to fully observe my faith. We have a very good working schedule at this hospital, which allows us enough time to rest, as well as to spend with our family. The traveling my family enjoys both in and outside the Kingdom would have been difficult to plan if I worked somewhere else." He cites Damam, Dhahran, and Jeddah as among the most interesting places they have visited in the Kingdom. But the best are Makkah and Medina, where he takes his family for Umrah.

One of the things he is grateful for is the support of his supervisor, Mr. Hamad Al-Daig, Chief Information Officer, and colleagues in the department, which has ensured success for their various undertakings.

What did he aim to achieve when he joined the *Sandscript* as one of its correspondents? "I have always felt the need to inform people on where we stand as far as information technology is concerned. I want to educate people on the usefulness of technology in our everyday life. They should be aware of the swift technological advances and avail themselves of the advantages they can bring."

At home, Anwar plays the role of a responsible family man. "I try to be with my wife and children as much as I can, and help them with whatever they need. I try to guide my children and lead them in the right direction. I believe this is every parent's responsibility."

Wanted Secretaries

Applicants are needed for **temporary secretarial positions** throughout the year. Experience is a prerequisite. Excellent working environment, short-term commitments, and attractive salaries await qualified candidates. For more information, call **Ms. B. Zimmerly at 442-7576 (direct line) or 464-7272, ext. 31044 (voice mail).**