



Think Like an Engineer: Use systematic thinking to solve everyday challenges & unlock the inherent values in them

By Mushtak Al-Atabi

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Engineers conceive, design, implement, and operate (CDIO). ‘Think Like an Engineer’ presents CDIO and systematic thinking as a way to achieve the human potential. It explores how we think, feel and learn, and uses the latest brain research findings to help us unlock value and have a balanced life. The practical, easy to follow exercises given in the book can be used by individuals to improve their thinking and learning and by educators to empower their students to thrive for success.

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Editorial Review

Review

"I am struck by the similarities between the approach (described in this book) and the outcomes we have seen in Yale's interdisciplinary Center for Engineering Innovation and Design, where artists and business students work alongside engineers."

Prof. Peter Salovey, President, Yale University

"This book describes how to think like an engineer - using creative formal and informal approaches - and how to arrive at optimal solutions using the CDIO process."

Prof. John Fothergill, Pro Vice-Chancellor, City University London

"This book is a real tour de force. It approaches the topic from the very foundations of how our human brain operates, and interacts with our senses, how we build models of our world and use these models to guide us to realise (and when necessary limit) our dreams."

Prof. Iven Mareels, Dean, Melbourne School of Engineering

"A must read for citizens in this technological world!"

Prof. Ben Koo, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

"The engineering CDIO process is cleverly interlaced with relevant and innovative concepts in brain function biochemistry, positive thinking, emotional intelligence, brainstorming, project management, and entrepreneurship. "

Prof. Pete Halley, Head of School of Chem. Eng., University of Queensland

"In summary an enjoyable and essential read for student scientists, engineers, and educators who want to impact society by thinking how they can develop a systematic approach to solving challenges."

Prof. Richard A Williams, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham

'Think Like an Engineer' presents the CDIO framework of practice in an easy to read, down to earth manner that makes it accessible not only to engineers, but to the wide public as well. The book also provides a holistic personal and professional development programme as it incorporates the latest in brain science, emotional intelligence and entrepreneurship. It is a must read for engineers, business leaders and educators in general.

Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, Founder of Global Engineering Deans Council, and one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds

Dr. Al-Atabi's book unlocks the conundrum of what to learn today to be relevant in the face of future challenges and opportunities that do not exist yet. He infuses his stories with an infectious passion to make an enjoyable read. Highly recommended to anyone who aspires to live a meaningful and productive life.

Arnold Teo, Shell (Malaysia)

From the Back Cover

The challenges of the 21st century will require a whole new kind of engineer: engineers who can both design complex technical systems and appreciate their interaction with society; engineers who possess both analytical intelligence and emotional intelligence; engineers who can work with others, take risks, and learn from failure. Al-Atabi's text provides engineering students with a thoughtful roadmap to grow and develop as this kind of engineer; students and faculty alike will benefit from his insights.

Prof. Mark Somerville, Olin College. Co-author of 'A Whole New Engineer'

This book provides a thoughtful connection between a hallmark engineering approach and the psychology of human decision making. Using practical tips, summaries of important studies, and personal anecdotes, 'Thinking Like an Engineer' links relevant contemporary learning research to CDIO. This is a great resource for those interested in blending engineering thinking, global competence, emotional intelligence, and empathetic design.

Jennifer DeBoer, Asst. Prof. of Engineering Education, Purdue University

There are many books that talk about success and how to achieve it. What Prof. Mushtak has brought forward in this book is a unique view of how engineers think and what makes engineers successful. In summary, it was never more than following your passion relentlessly. I've always been a great fan of Prof. Mushtak and I'm absolutely pleased that he has taken this mammoth effort of documenting his lifelong journey of discovering what makes engineers tick.

Harvinder Singh, Chairman and Group Managing Director, PSI inCONTROL Sdn. Bhd.

Engineers are known as problem-solvers. They apply science and maths to solve problems creatively. Mushtak Al-Atabi has captured the essence of engineering and made engineers more human by linking the brain and emotional intelligence. This well-written book provides coverage of a number of important issues and techniques not commonly covered in most introductory engineering textbooks. It would benefit both engineers and non-engineers to read it as it may help them solve problems or develop opportunities in the real world.

Mastura Mansor, Vice President-Global Supply Chain, Scomi

About the Author

Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi is currently the Dean of School of Engineering at Taylor's University, Malaysia. A passionate educator, innovator and an agent of change, Mushtak always challenges the status quo to unlock value. He pioneered the use of the CDIO educational framework in Malaysia and offered one of the first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in Asia in 2013. His online classes of Entrepreneurship and Success attracted thousands of students from 130 different countries. He speaks at international conferences and consults for national and multinational corporations, including banks, manufacturing, and energy companies, in the areas of leadership, innovation, human development, performance and technology. Mushtak is the author of 'Driving Performance' and the Editor-in-Chief of the 'Journal of Engineering Science and Technology.' His research interests include thermofluids, renewable energy, biomechanical engineering, engineering education and academic leadership. He has numerous research publications, awards and honours. Mushtak is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (UK), a member of the Global Engineering Deans Council and an Honorary Chair at the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Birmingham.

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Patrick Richards:

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