

## ***Thoughts from an accounting student***

### **Get prepared to be an accounting professional**



#### **Mak Man Lung**

Programme: Diploma in Accounting Profession  
(an HKIAAT accredited programme)

Institution: Caritas Institute for Further and Adult  
Education – Kowloon

While some may have lost confidence in the financial markets, accounting student Mak Man Lung continues to see opportunities within the accounting profession. Here, he tells us his passion for accounting and explains what the AAT qualification means to him.

#### ***Why have you chosen to study accountancy?***

After I graduated from Form 5, I enrolled in a Business Management programme under the Yi Jin Project offered by the Caritas Institute for Further and Adult Education (Caritas). This gave me an opportunity to “taste” accountancy and to realize that accounting is a very interesting subject. I took a one-year Certificate in the Accounting Profession and now I am studying a one-year Diploma in the Accounting Profession. The main reason that I enjoy accounting is the satisfaction I get from making accurate calculations. I have been fortunate to have gained lots of support and encouragement from my family, friends and teachers. The confidence I have towards the development of accounting profession drives me to be devoted to the study of accounting.

#### ***What are your views on the accounting subjects you have learned so far?***

Among the subjects I have learnt, I have to say Business Law is the most challenging subject since this is totally new to me. It involves a lot of legal terminology, the study of legal cases, and it requires a high level of language proficiency. Auditing is the subject I like most. It is about internal controls, high standards and discipline. It also trains up my analytical skills. The wide exposure offered by auditing jobs attracts me much as it can broaden my horizons. I plan on becoming an auditor in my future career.

#### ***Tell us about your student life.***

Studying the diploma programme at Caritas is both intensive and rewarding. After finishing classes, my friends and I stay behind to review what we have learned. Our lecturers also provide us with a lot of support. This amicable relationship with our lecturers makes it easier for us to approach them and ask questions. I feel a strong sense of belonging within my school. As a member of Caritas’s Accounting Society, I also actively take part in promoting accounting in school, such as organizing quiz games to inspire my schoolmates’ interest in accounting.



***When did you first hear about HKIAAT and what are your plans for the future?***

When I was studying the Yi Jin Project, there was a school talk about the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification, and about accountancy as a career path. The talk was informative and so I considered continuing my accounting studies from that moment.

My final examination in the diploma programme will be in June 2010. After completing the certificate and diploma programmes, I will be entitled to claim exemption from six papers in the AAT examination. I will then sit the remaining AAT examination papers in June 2010 and hopefully, I will be admitted to the top-up degree programme offered by Napier University. Being an AAT graduate does not only fulfill the admission requirement to certain top-up degrees, it also opens doors for me to join the accounting profession. My ultimate goal is to be an accountant. I think the solid foundation built on the AAT qualification can equip me well to prepare for the challenges ahead.

***What kind of firm would you like to work for in the future?***

Working in a sizable CPA firm is my first career choice as that would enable me to be exposed to a diverse range of clients handling different accounting jobs. After working in CPA firms for a few years, I could bring these diverse experiences to jobs in the commercial sector.

***What qualities do you think are required to be a successful accounting professional?***

To be a successful accounting professional, I think I have to be familiar with the accounting standards, act honestly and professionally, and also have a strong sense of responsibility. My teachers at Caritas have already instilled the importance of these qualities into me.