

### ***Employer in the spotlight***



**Name:** Rena Lim

**Job Title:** Executive Director

**Company:** Boardroom Corporate Services  
(HK) Limited

Rena Lim is an Executive Director of Boardroom Corporate Services (HK) Limited. She speaks to us about the importance of obtaining an AAT qualification, her views on the AAT syllabus and why she likes to hire AATs.

#### ***Tell us something about your company. What are your role and duties?***

Boardroom Corporate Services (HK) is a subsidiary of Boardroom Limited, listed on Singapore Stock Exchange. Boardroom Limited has subsidiaries in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Boardroom HK's main business is in corporate secretarial, accounting & payroll services, trade support. As an Executive Director, I oversee operations such as IT, human resources, finance and administrative duties. But a great deal of my time is involved with marketing and networking.

#### ***How do you view accounting technicians with an AAT qualification?***

I think that, in the business of accounting, getting accredited or professional qualifications is very important. The HKIAAT is a locally established accounting body with its training strongly tied to Hong Kong's accounting practices. It is becoming more popular, is creating a strong foothold in Hong Kong and is well-received by employers and accounting technicians alike.



***Why do you think the syllabus and coverage of the AAT exams help an accounting technician become competent in their job?***

As I see it, the training behind the AAT qualification is sufficient for those who are working at elementary and middle positions. It gives them basic knowledge in accounts, taxation, law, auditing, business, IT and cost accounting.

***What roles do you think an accounting technician may play in a company?***

Accounting technicians at the entry level do a lot of data-entry, routine work and simply follow instructions. But it is important that they really understand why they are told to do certain things or else they will remain at that level. Accounting is generally perceived as boring and monotonous. But in fact I think it is the opposite. Accounting can be a very interesting and challenging career, requiring a very keen and active mind. We should take note of this.

Entry level technicians need to have a strong basic accounting knowledge. But if you move up one level, you go beyond understanding the debits and credits and must be able to understand the mechanism of the financial statements and the implications of those figures. You need to have strong analytical skills. And as you move further, say to being a CFO, you no longer just read numbers but you need to set forecasts and prepare budgets. At this level, interpersonal skills are very important as you need to seek assistance from different departments for their input.

***What are the recruitment requirements when hiring accounting technicians in your company?***

We'll even take fresh graduates if we feel that their personality suits the job. But an accounting background is a must for our accounting services department. You need to have the basic relevant accounting background, such as the AAT qualification. I personally prefer applicants who are more of an outgoing type or who are not too shy. The person need not be too outgoing but I must see passion in accounts in the person – that they are applying for the job not because it is something they studied but because they understand what accounting is all about.