



Employer in the spotlight

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Name: Vivian Tong
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Company: G.M.I. Technology Inc.

Reputable qualification for local and Mainland talents

As the economic partnership between Hong Kong and the motherland grows closer, the exchange of materials, expertise and talent has never been greater. Listed company finance director Ms. Vivian Tong talks about the impact and implications of the growth in Mainland accounting personnel working in Hong Kong.

Tell us about your company's core business.

Established in 1995, G.M.I. is a company listed in Taiwan, engaging in the distribution of electronic parts and appliances. Telecom services and system integration are also part of our core services. With our headquarters in Taiwan and branches over Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Shanghai, we aim to provide one-stop solutions developed by our in-house research and development team.

What is your main role in the company?

As a finance director, I oversee the finance, accounting and human resources operations in the southern China area.

What are your comments on AAT members' on-the-job performance?

Evita, our operation manager, studied part-time to attain AAT qualification when she joined the company. She is doing extraordinarily well and is a good role model for other colleagues. When she was still with the accounting team, her performance was constantly beyond our expectations. She could deliver what I expected without too much explanation because she knew her job well. Evita is also a good team player, leading others in meeting project deadlines smoothly. During year-end auditing, we rely greatly on her to communicate with the auditor. I believe her education background in the Mainland, together with her studies for the AAT examinations, have had a role to play here.

How would you compare opportunities open to local colleagues and those from the Mainland?

We now have a few colleagues from the Mainland working in different departments. I would say they are all provided a fair chance for development. When it comes to accounting, it is not just their job knowledge, but very often the team collaboration skills, communication skills, and so on that help them stand out.



What do you think are Evita's competitive advantages?

Since we have branches all over the Greater China region, Evita's mother tongue sets her free of any language barrier when she works with colleagues from branches in the Mainland and Taiwan. She also tends to understand the style of work and operation procedures in the Mainland better. As far as professional knowledge is concerned, there are some minor differences in spreadsheet presentation and other details among systems in the three places. With the solid accounting foundation obtained from AAT Examination, she can understand the accounting details in Hong Kong quickly and master the jobs confidently. Evita's special background makes it easier for her to handle all these things.

Do you think it is important for your staff members to aim for a professional qualification?

It is indeed very important. If staff plan to work towards a professional qualification, such as AAT and want to strive for greater achievements, I would strongly encourage it. A professional qualification gives colleagues exposure to varied business areas. For instance, with the knowledge of law, auditing, taxation, communication, and so on, our colleagues with the AAT qualification, like Evita, can handle different issues more effectively, given her broadened business horizon and acumen.

What are the challenges faced by Hong Kong colleagues as Mainland accounting personnel are coming in across the border? What should they do to stay competitive?

In the past I felt accounting staff in Hong Kong had an edge because of their English proficiency. This is no longer true, given the rising language standard of their Mainland counterparts. Therefore, local colleagues should aim to acquire a good general accounting knowledge as well as specialised knowledge in areas such as taxation, law, accounting standards, company law or even labour law in the Mainland, so as to stay competitive. Taking the AAT examination, which is designed based on current market and business needs, is an effective way to explore these different facets of accounting. Attaining the qualification not only mean their ability is recognized, but also makes them more confident.

What kind of advice would you give AAT students?

Make the most of your preparation for the eight examination papers. After passing the examinations, be sure to apply the knowledge to your work because practicality is what the whole programme is geared towards. Furthermore, you have to be able to apply your knowledge readily under different situations. This will definitely add weight to the recognized and respected qualification.