

Case competition**Company visit to The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) – Towngas Showcase and Tai Po Gas Production Plant**

As part of the learning activities of the Accounting and Business Management Case Competition 2012-2013, during the summer holiday members of the finalist teams visited Towngas, the company selected for last year's case study. This was an eye-opening opportunity for the students to step out of their classroom to learn about the real-life business environment and gain knowledge which cannot be taught at school.



Anna Luk, Head of Corporate Management Accounting, and Winnie Chan, Head of Corporate Financial Accounting, introduced the different finance departments at Towngas and explained their respective roles and functions. Students also learnt how technology has helped in the accounting process, enabling today's accountants to focus on giving professional advice rather than performing mechanical tasks.



The four members of the champion team (tertiary institute group) who were offered an internship opportunity by Towngas talked about their valuable work experience over the previous one and a half months. The fact that they had all thoroughly enjoyed their time at the company was reflected in this laughter-filled feedback session.



Students enjoyed a tour around the Towngas Showcase in North Point. This enabled them to find out more about the company's history, technology and products, and to learn about its state-of-the-art technology and diversified products.



The group also visited the Towngas Tai Po Gas Production Plant, which is not open to the public. Towngas engineer Geoffrey Mak explained the natural gas and landfill gas production process. Touring the plant, students were amazed by the production facilities and scale of automation of the production process.

Thoughts from student participants:Tertiary Institution Group**Champion Team****Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Kwun Tong)**

"The internship in Towngas is truly a valuable exposure to the business world. We are working in four different departments, namely management accounting, financial accounting, corporate financial management and credit control. We had great satisfaction in applying what we have learnt from school to work and from the accomplishment of tasks. A deeper interest in accounting was aroused after the competition and internship. Working in Towngas is fun, memorable and fruitful."

**2nd Runner-up Team****HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Community College**

"The competition and company visit let us have a chance to understand a real-life business operation which is more complicated than we perceived from studies. The experience also helped us in enhancing communication and presentation skills. We now understand that working as a team is a key to success and division of work is critical for allocating different tasks to members with varying strengths. We would advise students to have clear direction before they start off their career. We will definitely encourage students to join this competition to enrich knowledge."



Secondary School Group**Champion Team**
Holy Family Canossian College

"We appreciated the competition and company visit much. To manage this project, we believe that team work is the key element. Also, our presentation skills were extensively improved as we had to present in front of judges and students whom we were not familiar with. Only by external competitions we would have this chance to face the public.

After this competition, we have a better understanding of our interest and choice of future studies more. Students should try more new things to enrich knowledge. By tasting more, you will know what suits you the best. We hope that more students will join this competition and take the challenge to grow."

**1st Runner-up Team**
Raimondi College

"After today's site visit, we realized that Towngas is an innovative and energetic company as we once had an impression that a public utility might be comparatively conservative. It totally changed our mind and we were surprised by their contribution to the society.

Having won a prize in this competition, we would like to thank our teachers for their effort and time, especially in guiding us to interpret the annual report which we had never encountered in our studies. This competition did not just deepen our accounting knowledge, but also let us learn things outside the textbooks. We will strongly recommend students to join, especially secondary school students who have rare chance to be connected with real-life business."

