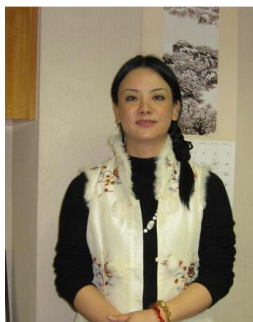




Employer in the spotlight

Written by Foster Yim



Name: Joyce Lui
Title: Accounting Manager
Company: Yulan International Co. Ltd

Passion for your job and profession, striving for excellence

Accounting Manager of Yulan International Co. Ltd, Ms. Joyce Lui, is a veteran AAT. She shares her views on the AAT qualification and AAT graduates.

Tell us about your company and its core business.

Yulan International Company Limited is a wallpaper trading company. We have a factory in China with over 400 employees. The office in Hong Kong functions as a back office; there are six colleagues, including myself. Half of the team is in charge of shipping support, handling different documents and dealing with clearance requirements. Besides handling a full set of accounts, the accounting team also co-operates closely with the shipping team on issues related to letter of credits and bill of lading.

What are your main roles in the company?

As the accounting manager, I lead the accounting team. I check the accounting reports submitted by my subordinates on a monthly basis. I prepare an analysis and report to the company's top management, and this serves as the bedrock for any future strategies. I also take up other managerial roles in the company, like negotiating business terms with clients. From time to time, I have to represent the company when dealing with banks and clients.

Have you heard of the HKIAAT? What are your views on the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification?

I took the AAT examination when the HKIAAT was still known as the Hong Kong Association of Accounting Technicians. Back in the good old days when I was studying accounting, AAT was already a top-of-the-range qualification. The examination was already well regarded as leading to a highly reputable qualification. I believe it will continue to be so because of its ever-improving standing. When I compare the present syllabuses with the previous ones, I am delighted to see the changes made to the AAT examination in meeting the ever-changing market environment and business needs. This continuous strive for excellence makes the AAT qualification and its graduates the backbone of every successful business.



How many HKIAAT graduates are currently working in your organization? What are their roles?

Counting me, there are two AAT graduates working in the company. Ms. Candy Lo, our accounting assistant, is an AAT and she is mainly responsible for preparing the full set of accounts as well as the daily payments in and out.

How do you rank her performance? Does the AAT qualification make a difference to her work?

Reports produced by Candy are always professionally presented with lots of valuable information. I believe these are the deliverables of the AAT qualification. As I experienced, the AAT professional qualification equips one with the basic accounting know-how. Having Candy to take care of the full set of accounts, I have peace of mind and can divert my energy into other areas which are important to the company's growth, such as soliciting new business and other managerial functions.

When you hire accounting staff, what are you looking for?

I believe that the most important attributes are patience and diligence. A candidate with a professional qualification and experience would definitely have an advantage. A desire for continuous improvement, job-wise and qualification-wise, is also important.

How would you encourage students who would like to study and work in the accounting field?

First, one has to see whether the student has the potential to be accounting personnel, i.e. whether they are sensitive to figures and details. Second, they should obtain a widely-recognized qualification such as the AAT qualification and work passionately. Third, they should strive for continuous improvement, both in the workplace and in personal development. No pain, no gain! That's the simplest and hardest way to be successful.