

Employer in the spotlight

Written by Aldric Chau



Name: Adrian Lee

Title: Head of Finance and Accounts

Company: Hong Yip Service Company Ltd

Hong Yip Service Company Ltd, subsidiary of a listed company, offers a comprehensive range of services in property management based on the solid support from the accounting team. Mr. Adrian Lee talks about how his colleagues with an AAT qualification contribute to the business success.

Tell us about your company and the nature of its business.

As a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited (“SHKP”), Hong Yip strives to provide the best quality property management services to customers. Hong Yip and its fellow subsidiaries provide comprehensive services including civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, water pumping maintenance, cleaning services, security and IT systems, property agencies and landscaping, etc. With all these service lines, it is our objective to provide a one-stop property solution to our customers.

What is your position in your company? What are your main roles and duties in the company?

As the Head of Finance and Accounts, I have to oversee the financial operations of the group across various subsidiary companies and pay attention to compliance issues. Furthermore, I am involved in strategic business planning and provide advice from the financial perspective to the management, such as some business development projects, etc.

What are the positions, roles and duties of your colleagues with AAT qualification in the company?

Our accounting department is sub-divided into 2 teams, namely the building accounting team which is responsible for the accounting work of the properties under our management, and the corporate accounting team which manages the subsidiary companies. The positions in our accounting department include managers, accountants, assistant accountants, accounting supervisors, accounting officers and accounts clerks. Colleagues with the AAT qualification usually fall into the group of senior accounting officers and accounting officers. Some of our accounts clerks are currently studying for the AAT qualification.



What are your thoughts of the job performance of your staff who have an AAT qualification?

They can normally pick up knowledge needed for the job and details of our internal operation procedures quickly. I believe it is the mix of the technical knowledge that they have gained while preparing for the AAT exam, together with internal training they are attending, that has propelled their great leap forward. Since we are an ISO company, we must follow compliance rules and new joiners must learn these. The staffs with AAT qualification handled this very well.

What do you consider to be the role of an AAT in a company?

AATs give strong support to the supervisory staff or management. Their assistance allows management to have much more time to engage in business development and strategic planning tasks. From management's perspective, we highly value this strong team of accounting colleagues. Getting the right person at the right position improves our overall productivity and thus maximises cost effectiveness. This is the key to any business' success.

What are your views on the AAT exam syllabus? What kinds of people should take these exams?

The AAT syllabus is comprehensive and it receives wide recognition from the accounting profession. During our recruitment exercises, we see AAT qualification as equivalent to a higher diploma qualification. I believe this is a very good choice for people who have genuine interest in accountancy, as well as those who are not yet ready to study to become a CPA but who would like to obtain a professional qualification. In addition, the AAT qualification enhances an employee's marketability. The recognized qualification gives employers greater confidence a candidate's skill sets and competency.

Do you think having a professional qualification is important in the accountancy profession?

It is important for all levels of accounting personnel. In a highly multi-disciplinary business like us, a professional qualification gives colleagues exposure to varied business areas. For instance, with their knowledge of law, auditing, taxation, communication, and so on, our colleagues with the AAT qualification can handle different issues more effectively, given their broadened business horizon and acumen.