



Versatile AAT
Written by Aldric Chau



Name: Daisy Wong
Title: Regional Controller
Company: APC Asia Pacific Cargo (HK) Ltd

Life-long learning – what’s in it for you?

With strong support from the government, life-long learning has been widely-adopted in recent decades and has evolved as a significant driver for people in the city to help them survive intensive market competition and thrive in their careers. Featured AAT star member this month Daisy Wong, regional controller of APC Asia Pacific Cargo (HK) Ltd, shares her thoughts on the implications of life-long learning for everyone’s personal and career development.

How has your career path progressed? What made you keen on continuous education?

I kicked off my career as an accounting clerk. As my career progresses, I was given a fabulous chance to join an American listed company, managing its branches in China and heading a full accounting team. By then I realised the importance of continuous knowledge input. Therefore I chose to take the AAT examinations. However this was quite a hectic period so I decided to stop for a while after completing one paper. Understanding my limits in accounting, I stepped back into the world of education and continued my studies by enrolling a part time diploma course in accounting with the Vocational Training Council. The diploma course exempted me from two AAT papers, taxation and auditing. Whilst studying for the diploma, I was also studying for five AAT papers, and then followed this up with a top-up degree in accountancy from a British University.

Why did you choose the AAT qualification as your part-time study?

After extensive research I found that AAT was the best choice because of its wide recognition among employers and its association with the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs, its parent institute, statutory body for accountants in Hong Kong. You could see a requirement for the AAT qualification in every accounting firm job advertisement. Since my plan was to develop career in Hong Kong and the Greater China region, AAT’s localised syllabus and teaching materials served my purpose perfectly.

What are your current job duties?

I now have to manage nine company branches scattered over mainland China and overseas. My core responsibilities are monitoring credit control and month-end financial reports from each of the branches, and managing their operations. I am also



helping managers in preparing company's year-end financial budgeting to help sustain financial business growth.

What is handling accounting in the freight forwarding industry like?

In logistics and freight forwarding, it is particularly important to focus on cost control and revenue management, because there's a great variety in the way receivables come in. Of course knowing how logistic operations work is another advantage.

What transferable skills did you learn when preparing for AAT examinations?

In preparing for AAT examinations, I learned the core accounting concepts, and these have supported my work throughout the years. My studies also taught me to think in a more in-depth manner. In the accounting information management section of our studies, we were taught to go beyond computer software, to learn how to manage information from accounting reports and systems. Likewise, the auditing part made every student more aware of the importance of the audit trail and internal controls.

Looking back, what do you see as the winning factors that have helped you get where you are?

To succeed in the accounting field, my simple formula is to have rich experience, genuine competence and a recognized qualification. The first two criteria take time while the last one is the magic point that sells you to an employer and helps you reach your goals. Speaking of goals, you need a clear vision of where you are heading. I am currently taking the Professional Bridging Examination, as a continuation of my AAT qualification. From a humble start as an accounting clerk to my current position in senior management, I am striving to combine my accounting talent with other management capabilities as I move forward – and that's what life-long learning is all about to me.

Career pathway of Daisy

Accounting clerk – ASG (HK) Ltd	1981-1986
Assistant Accounting Manager –UPS SCS China Ltd (formerly Fritz China Services Ltd)	1998-2005
Undertook and passed Accredited Technician Examination (ATE) (exempt from two papers)	1999/ 2005 -2007
Attained professional diploma in accounting from Vocational Training Council	2005-2006
Financial Controller of a local based freight forwarding company	2005-2007
Attained top-up degree in accountancy from a British University (University of Bolton)	2006-2007
Regional Controller – APC Asia Pacific Cargo (HK) Ltd	Feb 2008 - current