

Employer in the spotlight

Written by Foster Yim



Name: Jacqueline Leung

Title: Director

Company: Yan Tin Chemical Co. Ltd

Ms. Jacqueline Leung, director of a raw chemicals supplier, talks about her expectations of accounting staff and how AATs fulfil her expectations with their professionalism.

Tell us about your company and its core business.

Yan Tin Chemical Co. Ltd was established in 1984. The company's core business is to supply raw chemical materials for printed circuit board manufacturers. The company has a wide portfolio of clients from different countries, including South East Asia, the United States and Europe. Besides its Hong Kong head office, the company has factories in Nansha and Shanghai, with over 550 employees worldwide. Thirty-six members of the corporate team are from the accounts department and they handle different accounts as well as corporate finance issues.

What are your main roles in the company?

I am in charge of the company's entire operations in Hong Kong. I deal with clients and daily management, and I solicit different financial facilities with the banks and other related authorities. From 2000 to 2004, our turnover tripled; you can imagine the impact this had on our company's finance and accounting.

What are your views on the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification?

The HKIAAT is a well known and respected body standing for quality and excellence among the profession and the public. I know of the HKIAAT from newspapers and from my two staff members who have attained the AAT qualification. Their comments about the qualification are very positive. They have never disappointed me in any of the tasks given to them. By obtaining the AAT qualification, they have proved that they are not only up to the standard of professional accounting personnel, but also hardworking employees who strive for continuous improvement.

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

Currently, there are two AATs working in Yan Tin Chemical Co. Ltd. One is a new recruit who just obtained her AAT qualification in 2009; the other is Ms. Kawai Kwan, who has been working with us for eight years. Both are responsible for different client accounts, in which they have to record all transactions accurately and promptly and submit reports and analysis to management regularly.



How do they perform at work? Does the AAT qualification make a difference here?

As a result of their training for the AAT qualification, both of them demonstrate an excellent command of accounting techniques. Based on the reports they produce, I am convinced that they must have acquired their technical knowhow from a systematic examination syllabus, and this enables them to present financial information in a precise and concise way.

Thanks to the AAT training of analytical skills and business acumen, Kawai always pays extra attention to details which is beneficial to the company. For example, there was an occasion where Kawai was suspicious of the amount for the electricity bill at our workers' hostel in the Nansha factory. She noticed that the electricity charge was unusually high during the Lunar New Year period, when the workers were supposed to be away. Through her tactful investigation, it was discovered that many workers had a tendency in wasting electricity all year long. Kawai's inquisitive attitude has helped the company maintain cost effectiveness in its operations, and that is why she is highly commended.

Kawai always performs to a high standard. I can see that she became more confident in handling duties assigned to her after obtaining the AAT qualification; this, together with her growing experience in our company, marks an excellent progression for her. Also, she acts as a good coordinator between the staff in Hong Kong and those in the mainland.

What qualities do you look for when hiring accounting staff?

I look for candidates who are equipped with professional skills and who are ready to start work immediately. For staff in general, I would expect a good employee to be serious about his/her job and eager for progression both for his/her self-improvement and career. I find these qualities in AATs, especially Kawai. Therefore, I am more inclined to hire AATs whenever vacancies come up in the accounting department.

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

The answer is definitely yes. Putting an emphasis on a professional qualification, I do not mean the title per se, rather the knowledge and skills gained in choosing the right qualification, and the determination for self-progression.

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

Accounting is a profession with ample opportunities. Accounting personnel can work gradually towards their advancement. If one possesses the important attributes such as prudence and patience, success will not be far away.