



Report on CPA Company Visit

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On 29th April, we had a great visit to the Aoba CPA Limited. The director Mr Wong and Mr Yip shared information about the company ranging from the daily work and the business environment to some special information in the field and the way of becoming a member of CPA. Besides, We found out how people work in an accounting company which targets Japanese clients. They also answered many questions and gave us a lot of insights about recruitment and suggestions for a job interview.

The daily duties of an accounting firm are mainly reviewing customers' transaction records, account figures, registration information, and ensuring that there are no errors in the entries. They are also required to write audit reports and provide audit opinions. Since the entire work involves a large number of accounts, invoices, and documents, and a time-consuming process, accountants often go directly to the

client's office to conduct verification work so that clients can provide relevant documents during the verification period.

After Mr Wong's and Mr Yip's presentation, we have gained better insights into the ways of becoming CPA. To become a CPA, we need to be at least 21 years old and 3-5 years of practical experience is needed. We can gain them through the programmes which are related to accounting. Moreover, candidates can take conversion programmes to change their fields. Most importantly, we should carry a professional character.

After all, we had the chance to raise some sensitive questions about the working hours of the accountants and their general salaries. Mr Wong stated generally that each account firm has their own peak period. During this period, the accounts need to work more hours than the normal period because usually the end of financial periods of diverse companies are quite close. It results in the presence of a peak period. Mr Wong also suggested that the amount of salaries is determined by the accounts' qualifications. However, there are a lot of accounting programmes which cannot be finished within their university journeys, therefore, if the accountants want to be promoted, they need to study for the examinations while they are working in the field. These workloads are incredibly overwhelming. Mr Wong also suggested that preparing for the Accountant Licensing Examination takes a few years to pass. He also teaches us how to serve some "special" customers with expertise and patience. The sharing gave us a surprise and let us know the other side of the field.

For Mr Yip's sharing, he mainly focused on sharing the past experience when he was working at Deloitte, one of the "Big 4". He mentioned he sacrificed his resting time which caused him to barely sleep and gained numerous accounting related knowledge in return. Due to the knowledge that he gained, he could pass the CPA exam with relatively less preparation. Moreover, he also suggested people who want to be a CPA to work in "big 4" for a few years, which will help them to gain more experience and how the big company deals with some common issues. Besides, he also shared about his friend's experience to be promoted as partner of Deloitte.

At last, we had a tour to observe tare divided according to their working environment. We recognised employees in their departments. A Japanese style office allows an open area without walls to interval.

In this activity, our biggest takeaway is first-handed information about accounting from an actual accountant which is inconsistent with the stereotypes commonly agreed by the public, "accountants have to work over time all the time". In reality, they are not that busy in the non-peak season. Moreover, the extremely long working hours of an accountant during the peak season shocked me the most. According to Mr Yip's experience in Deloitte, he mentioned he had not returned home for a few days during peak season.



In a nutshell, this activity can increase our understanding towards CPA and clear the common misconception of CPA.

