

Speech for Inauguration Ceremony

Of the Accountancy Society,

The City University of Hong Kong

On 18th February 2005

Good evening Mr. Tim Lui, Mr. Philip Tsai, Dr. Charles Chen,
Mr. Fergus Wong, Mr. Edmund Chan, Mr. Albert Chan,
Honorable Guests and fellow Student members,

I am very honor to join this remarkable event and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected executive committee members. They have made their wise choice to get hold of this opportunity to learn more about the accounting profession. It is also my honor to be here today to share with you some aspects of your future career as a professional accountant.

Fellow students, I am sure that most of you here will choose the accounting profession as your future career.

However, the path of getting to be an accountant is not an easy one. There are many challenges, big and small, throughout the way before you reach your destination of being a successful accountant.

Your first challenge comes from your professional examination. You have to face several examinations before you become a qualified accountant. You may think that you have already passed many examinations before you enter the university so it is easy for you to pass the future ones. However, the fact may surprise you that only 3 out of 10 candidates taking the examination can pass.

You must be prepared to accept examination failure and pressure is enormously. Some people may have to take not only once but twice or even many times in order to pass the examination. Don't forget you have to work while taking the professional examination. You can imagine how stressful it can be.

When you have achieved the qualification, it doesn't mean that your challenges will stop here. For those who have chosen to work in the professional firms, you will find that you have to deal with various clients. Some of them are very demanding and they expect an excellent job in a very tight schedule. Some of them would be too busy to provide you with all the relevant information to finish your job properly. Therefore, you have to work long hours in order to complete your task.

Apart from long working hours, another aspect of your future career would be the communication with your clients. As you know, from small to listed companies they do need the service of accountants. Therefore, please be prepared to meet people from all walks of life. Good communication skill is your key to success.

In compliance with the trend of globalization, presently,

the pressure for an accountant doesn't only come locally but also from the other parts of the world, especially our motherland. There are a lot of accountants working in China. Unlike Hong Kong, the system in China is not yet well developed and you have to be flexible enough to face changes and learn new things as the system in China changes rapidly and significantly during the period of development. In one word, be flexible to accept changes.

To sum up, you have to learn to deal with stress, and able to deal with failure in examination. You also have to possess flexibility and good communication skills and you must work hard and be prepared for the long working hours.

Finally, may I wish all of you a happy university life and a successful future career in the accounting profession. Thank you very much.