

Good morning, Sister Agnes, Sister Veronica, honourable guests, parents, teachers & dear students.

I'm honoured to be here on this momentous occasion. Having this opportunity, I would like to share with you my journey for accounting profession.

My father passed away when I was two and since then, my elder brothers and sisters had supported my living. In order not to give them further financial burdens, I gave up my further study at university and found a job as an auditor. I felt very lucky because I could earn for living and at the same time, develop my professional career in a famous international audit firm.

I was a science student, so I was given a two weeks training on principles of accounts the scope of which is similar to the DSE syllabus. Having passed the firm's examination, I took another six weeks of training on auditing skills and techniques. The whole training course was really intensive. I had to be much more attentive and hard studying than ever before.

I remembered the encouragement our tutor gave us. He said, "This firm is a Shaolin Temple (少林寺). Treasure your work here and never think to get out from the dog door. One day you should leave by passing through the Corridor of Wooden Dummy (木人巷)."

Upon completion of the training, I was assigned to a new audit department which received jobs without sufficient fees or proper corporate management. The department manpower was tight and therefore I would not receive senior's guidance on job and had to face the challenges at work by myself.

My department manager taught me the key mission of my audit work. That is "The true and fair view underlay in our audit opinion." The users of audited financial statements are not only the shareholders, but also the tax authority,

bankers, potential investors and even employees. Therefore, to achieve the given mission, the substantive audit work alone with familiar knowledge in accounting rules, tax regulations & company law is insufficient. I had to also learn well about my client's business operation, its industry performance, the business environment and the current legislation applicable to the company's business e.g. the Banking Ordinance, the Solicitors' Accounts Rules, the Listing Rules.

My working scope also covered management fraud investigations. Of course, at the same time, I had to study hard and to prepare for the professional body's qualification examinations.

My hard effort was rewarded. With six years' auditing experience & numerous overtime work including overnight work, I have learnt much about the business of different sectors, like retail banking, legal service, security service, realty estate investment, luxury goods retailing, hotel operation, fast food chain operation, and so on.

I was then invited to join a local audit firm where all the partners and most managers were ex-KPMG staff. I thought this invitation was the permit for my exit via the firm's Corridor of Wooden Dummy. In this local firm, I increased my solid experience in handling tax affairs and staff training.

Two years later, I was offered a second invitation to join a commercial group of companies. I had turned down their first invitation because I was asked to irresponsibly tender immediate resignation with a compensation for my three months' short notice payment. This second invitation was made to me right after the birth of my first child. I mark this as my turning point for career development in the commercial sector.

This group of companies carries various businesses which are jewelry manufacturing, exporting & retailing, books & magazine publications, cartoon film production, property investment & etc. Throughout the past twenty eight years, I have been playing a managing role in the group on the works of finance, taxation, company secretary, internal control, company restructuring and industry code compliance.

To fulfill my duties, I have to not only keep up with the development in professional expertise, but also enrich my knowledge in other areas like environmental protection practices, intellectual property law, customs law, code of industry conduct and any other rules & legislation relevant to the group's business.

With the recent development of laws and regulations especially those derived from international treaties, the work I face become more challenging.

Some people asked me, "How can you overcome these intensive works without being tired?" I would say it is my passion towards my job. Of course, stick to positive work attitudes is paramount. I would like to share some with you:

1. Be diligent

There is no short cut, no free lunch.

2. Live your life with integrity

Stand firm for the right things even losing your job.

3. Be empathetic

There will be less conflicts but more cooperation among your working

teams/partners.

4. Love your teams of subordinates as your family

You can never complete a single job/project without their care and support.

5. Chase perfection

You may never get it but you will catch excellence.

6. Always learn from failure

Failure is not fatal but failure to change might be.

Lastly, give your hand whenever you can because you will be rewarded with others' appreciation and joys.

Stick to positive work attitudes may not be difficult, but **being passionate about something is always a challenging quest.** Here is my sharing of personal experience:

When you work hard at job, you become good at it.

When you become good at doing your job, you will enjoy it more.

When you enjoy doing your job, there is a very good chance you will become passionate or more passionate about it.

So you will work even harder to excel and be the best at it.

Good results will then come to you.

In a similar way, **the key for passion about studying is hard working at studies.**

Our dear students, sooner or later you may forget my story, but I hope you will remember the following line I quote for you:

“Succeeding in life is as simple as being a good student.

All you have to do is pay attention, work hard and give it a best shot.”

Today’s Prize Presentation Ceremony is just a beginning. There are many more opportunities coming on your way to prove your excellence. I would like to cite the words by George W. Bush, the former president of the United States:

“To those of you who received honours, awards and distinctions,

I say well done.

And to the C students, I say,

you too, can be president of the United States.”

In the end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our School Supervisor, Principal, Vice Principals, Assistant Principal and all the teachers and parents for your dedication of work, efforts, love and support towards the education development for our students in the past year. Whatever our students have achieved so far would never have been possible without your constant endeavour. Thank you very much!

God bless you all!