

It's a Wonderful Journey

By Medhat A. Ghani Abdullah, CMA



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“It’s a wonderful journey” is how I’d like to start my story about the CMA. No matter how hard it was to achieve the Certified Management Accountant (CMA®) designation, the outcome has been great. I have learned many lessons on my journey in addition to increasing my knowledge and education: I have learned how to manage my time in the best way, to think positively, and to use my new skills in practice.

I graduated from the faculty of commerce at Cairo University in 2003 with a B.S. degree in accounting. Since that time I have been hungry for additional knowledge, education, and experience. I searched for a professional certificate in accounting, and I found the CMA. That designation has surpassed my expectations.

My story began in 2006 when I went to buy study material for my first CMA exam part from a local training center in Egypt. The vendor told me that I would never pass the exam just by the means of self-study. That sparked a flame in me. I decided to pass all the parts via self-study only. I have always believed that success is a reflection of efforts, devotion, and self-determination.

I set my goals and all my efforts on completing the exam. I had joined the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA®) in 2007, which gave me marvelous advantages, such as keeping me updated about everything new in the world of finance, leadership, and managerial accounting, and I wanted to get involved in some local IMA activities, but I needed to concentrate on

passing the CMA exam first.

I was motivated to get the Certified Management Accountant designation as a result of working with Ahmed Othman and Haytham Ramadan, who often encouraged me to achieve my goal.

Now I am a chief accountant at M.A. Kharafi & Sons in the “Swimming Pools Sector” of the company where I started as an accountant. The biggest contribution to my career from studying for and passing the CMA exam is two promotions that I got in a very short time period. I am also grateful for the continuous appreciation of the owner, Marzouk Alkharafi, and our deputy general director, Ossama Abdulkhalek. They have been extremely supportive of my efforts.

The knowledge I gained while studying for the CMA was great. It helped me to understand a lot more about the accounting field and to improve the way we work here through applying its concepts and techniques, especially in cost management, performance measurement, decision analysis, budget preparation, financial statement analysis, and internal control.

The CMA is like a magic wand—it gave me a wider vision and better understanding of managerial accounting. Therefore, the credential added value to me, and I became an added value to my company.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my family, my friends, and my colleagues, especially Ahmed Othman, our finance manager, for their constant support and encouragement every step of the way. **SF**