

## Continuous Improvement

By Janrich L. Vasquez, CMA, CPA, CIA, ASA



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**M**anagement accounting has always been my passion. It was even my favorite subject in college. For me, it's the most concrete and practical accounting subject. My favorite management accounting concept is Continuous Improvement, and it has been my mantra in my professional career.

After graduating from University of the Philippines Diliman, I took and passed the Philippines CPA Licensure exam in 2006. Then I joined Procter & Gamble (P&G) as a plant finance analyst. It was in that role that I really honed my management accounting skills. I was also part of the team that managed our cost savings program.

After two years, I was assigned to our Asia headquarters in Singapore as a senior analyst. It was a very interesting stint for me. Aside from the significantly larger scope, it was challenging to deal with a very diverse set of colleagues from different backgrounds. In this role, I was also heavily involved in Continuous Improvement initiatives and product supply finance.

At this point I realized that I really wanted to focus on management accounting. I recognized how valuable the finance professional can be in terms of influencing management in making the right decisions. I felt that having a CMA® designation would definitely help me in my chosen career path. I also thought it could be my way of continuously improving toward my goal of a full-fledged finance manager. So I studied for the CMA exam while working full-time, passed the tests, and earned my CMA in 2010.

In 2011, my wife and I decided to leave our budding careers in the Philippines and move to New Zealand (N.Z.). Here I realized how valuable the CMA designation is. Most of the employers want finance/accounting applicants who hold a New Zealand CA,

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CPA Australia, or management accountant designation. It usually takes newcomers to the country a couple of months before they land a good job without taking a step backward. But it took me less than a month to find a job that suited my level of experience. My CMA designation was pivotal because of my lack of local N.Z. experience. The CMA is recognized across the globe and brings great equity and credibility.

In early 2011, I started as a management accountant in Goodman Fielder, the largest listed food company in the Australasian region. A couple of months later, I was promoted to senior business analyst.

Everything I've achieved so far wouldn't have been possible without the help of my family, especially my wife Gillianne and my mom Carol. They also happen to be CPAs like me. I would also like to recognize the support from my mentors, friends, and colleagues.

I have always believed that “there's no best, only better.” This has motivated me to continuously seek ways to improve myself and the world around me. **SF**