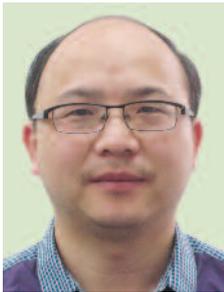


## From Local to Global

By Qinfeng Li, CMA



**Qinfeng Li, CMA, is a financial controller at Tadashi International China LTD. He is an IMA Member-at-Large. You can reach Qinfeng at [yongyuanleguan2004@163.com](mailto:yongyuanleguan2004@163.com).**

**A**fter graduating from Shijiazhuang University in 1997 with a degree in accounting, I worked for a state-owned company for seven years. Then, in 2004, I moved to Shanghai City to enroll in an international MBA program at Tongji University.

In 2010 I joined an Australian company as the acting CFO in China. When the global CFO asked me what professional certifications I held, I told him I held a certification called the APTQ-3rd. Even though it's the highest regarded accounting certification/association in China—similar to the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CICPA) certification, but harder to get and more popular in state-owned companies and government departments—he said that he had never heard of it. He encouraged me to get a global professional certification, such as the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant).

Like other people preparing for the CMA exams, I sought help in studying from a local training institution. Unfortunately, the institution wasn't close to my home, and traveling there and back took too much time. So I decided to study by myself using the materials the training institution supplied.

I failed the first part of the revised CMA exam the first time I took it. After going over my results, I realized that I needed more practice. I didn't give up, carefully scheduling my spare time to study effectively. As I'm always occupied by work, I

would often read books while commuting on the subway. The next time I took the exam, I passed both parts. You can imagine how excited I was to be a formal member of IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) and to receive its credential. My family was also very proud of my achievement.

By studying for the CMA, I also learned how to be a better financial leader. I received a number of benefits from the knowledge and tools I was exposed to by studying for the exam. I always emphasize and encourage our team members to adhere to codes of ethics. And now, as a CMA and an IMA member, I read *Strategic Finance* each month and keep up to date with what's happening in accounting around the world. It seems as though, as people around the world increasingly work together, the world becomes more united.

The CMA had its 40th anniversary in 2012, and it has been 40 years of excellence. I feel fortunate to hold the credential. There's an old Chinese saying about the older you get, the more experienced you are and the better judgment you have: "A man won't be puzzled when he turns 40." But this world isn't what it used to be. It changes quickly, and people need to seek out new knowledge constantly in order to excel. In my opinion, the CMA is the signal of excellence.

I'm grateful for the people who have helped me in every stage to prepare for the global certification. **SF**