

*'CIMA has been able to continuously develop people and increase its relevance in the global context.'*

**SAMALKA ATHURALIYA ACMA, CGMA**  
Senior Associate, CT CLSA Capital, CIMA's 100,000th member

# Helping talent to flourish



**Irene Teng, CIMA Regional Director – Asia Pacific, interviews our 100,000<sup>th</sup> member, Samalka Athuraliya ACMA, CGMA, Senior Associate, CT CLSA Capital.**

**In summer 2015, Samalka Athuraliya became CIMA's 100,000<sup>th</sup> member. Irene Teng finds out why CIMA is so important to her.**

**Irene:** I'm so pleased to speak with you. When we talk about the 100,000th member, we're looking at the new generation of members – you inspire me a lot. How has the CGMA designation and CIMA qualification helped you in powering up your career?

**Samalka:** By finishing CIMA in less than two years, I had a professional qualification,

which is also equivalent to a degree. Soon after, I entered the corporate world and I haven't looked back since. I was in equity research for over four years before joining an investment banking firm, CT CLSA Capital about two months back.

At the age of 25, I have gained almost five years of work experience. I am progressing swiftly in my career, and this was primarily possible because of the CGMA designation and the CIMA qualification. I'm proud of being a CGMA and I think it really helped boost my career to greater heights.

**Irene:** And what are the benefits of how the CIMA qualification can help our members across the world?

**Samalka:** The global recognition of the CIMA qualification is important in my view, because it allows us to market ourselves not only within our country but also across borders. CIMA has been able to continuously develop people and increase its relevance in the global context. It's a qualification that is going to keep adding value to your CV and I am confident that it is still going to be relevant 20 years from now. This is proven by the online learning resource centre set up by CIMA that gives its members the opportunity to continue developing their skills. I think continued development in technical skills is vital in this day and age, given the level of competition and the speed of change in the business world.

As an employee, you need to ensure that your technical skills are effective and relevant and by having a qualification that is internationally recognised and up to date, I think you automatically are able to add greater value to your company.

**Irene:** So being a CGMA yourself and with our proposal for the joint venture evolution with the AICPA do you think this will drive recognition of CGMA and the profession further in our Asia Pacific region?

**Samalka:** By having the CIMA qualification and CGMA designation, you are aligned with the globally accepted practices and standards, which is a strong asset for any corporate employing you. Not only does CIMA provide you with the skill

set and expertise you need to grow within a company, but also instils in you, strong ethical values and personal skills, which have become more and more important for corporates today. For these reasons, I am sure that the recognition for the qualification as well as the designation should continue to grow in this part of the world as more companies employ CIMA members to run their businesses.

**Irene:** What would your message be to undergraduates?

**Samalka:** CIMA is a qualification that will continue to help you progress in your career, so I encourage you to start and complete the programme. However, I am a strong believer that one should not focus entirely

*'It's great to see how the CGMA designation really adds value in practice.'*

**IRENE TENG**  
CIMA Regional Director – Asia Pacific

on academics, as the exposure you get working among experienced business-leaders is equally valuable for your career progression. In my opinion, one's employability and worth to employers continues to increase as you gain more experience in the corporate world, thus giving you a strong competitive edge over peers. And the CIMA qualification you gain alongside practical experience would give you that edge to succeed in the corporate world.