Beyond balancing the books

The job of the chief financial officer has changed more than that of any other corporate executive. LYNETTE KHOO reports

When corporate finance is the key driver of growth and profitability, the CFO should be a key player in driving business strategy. This is especially true in today’s fast-paced, volatile business environment, where both traditional and emerging risks present significant challenges to the CFO. The role of the CFO has evolved from being primarily a financial accountant to a strategic business partner, responsible for driving long-term business growth and enhancing shareholder value.

CFOs today are expected to take up more responsibilities like risk management, corporate governance and disclosure, investor relations, strategic planning, merger & acquisition etc. Their role has expanded beyond traditional financial reporting to include strategic decision-making, risk management, and corporate social responsibility.

The CFO must be a strategic thinker, business analyst, and problem-solver, capable of driving innovation and implementing new strategies to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing business landscape.

Diverse education and training will definitely equip CFOs with the necessary knowledge and skills to better meet such expectations.'

- Keegan Chan, CFO of IHI Global Marine

Most CFOs agree that the professional development of CFOs will be enhanced with the help of specialized training and networking opportunities. Many CFOs are looking for ways to enhance their knowledge and skills to keep up with the rapidly changing business environment.

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