

MUHAMMAD SOHAIL ANWAR FCCA

Financial Controller | Finance Manager | FP&A

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Work rights: Requires an Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV). Ready to relocate to New Zealand.

PROFILE

FCCA-qualified finance leader with 20 years' experience across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Pakistan, in construction, F&B and hospitality, trading, government-contracted services and banking. As Financial Controller, has run the full finance function: month-end and year-end close, budgeting and forecasting, management reporting, treasury, tax and Big 4 audits. Has led ERP implementation and internal-control improvements, and works closely with operations to turn financial information into commercial decisions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Cash risk removed:** Set up bank collection counters inside company premises at 4 locations, so cash went straight into the company's bank account. This removed cash-in-transit risk and reduced insurance and staff costs.
- **IPO financial plan:** Converted the 5-year business plan of a 17-outlet F&B chain into a full financial plan (P&L, balance sheet, cash flow) to support business valuation for a potential IPO, working with KPMG.
- **ERP implementation:** Led the implementation of Microsoft Dynamics NAV (Navision) across a multi-entity F&B, HoReCa and trading group, improving reporting accuracy and month-end control.
- **Fraud detection:** Detected a material cash misappropriation, escalated it to management and strengthened cash controls to prevent recurrence.
- **Product profitability:** Worked alongside operations to analyse product and channel profitability across HoReCa trading lines, which focused the sales strategy on higher-margin products and improved margins.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Finance Manager (Consultant)

May 2024 – Present

PCAT – Finance, accounting & controlling solutions for SMEs, Dubai, UAE

- Build financial models and performance dashboards that analyse cost structures and ROI and support investment decisions for SME clients.
- Lead budgeting, forecasting and FP&A engagements, giving owners and C-suite clear, decision-ready insight.
- Deliver accounting, VAT and UAE Corporate Tax compliance, business valuation, fraud investigation and audit support.
- Direct ERP implementation and process-improvement projects that improve financial data accuracy and reporting.

Financial Controller

Dec 2016 – May 2024

Etimad Private Limited (EPL), Pakistan

Visa-processing company subcontracted to the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs; more than 7 million visas processed. Group included VEGA Modern Travel Solutions and Travel Fitness.

- **Led the finance function:** accounting, AP, payroll, collections, treasury, and month-end and year-end close, delivering P&L, balance sheet and cash-flow reporting to senior leadership.
- Prepared annual budgets with department heads, building ownership and enforcing CAPEX/OPEX discipline.
- Managed branch finance operations remotely across 5 provinces and outreach centres.
- Provided finance support for the rollout of the Umrah biometric project across Pakistan, including 24 additional outreach offices: budgets, set-up costs, cash management and controls.
- Led tax planning and VAT and corporate-tax filings, and managed external audits with EY and PwC under IFRS.
- Partnered with leadership on procurement optimisation, finance policies and strategic decisions.

Financial Controller

Aug 2015 – Oct 2016

Elevation Burger (The Food Concepts), Saudi Arabia & Bahrain

Fast-food chain with 17 outlets.

- Built the 5-year budgeted financials and model that supported business valuation for a potential IPO.
- Improved profitability through menu engineering, budgeting, cost control and procurement. Set par stock levels to reduce inventory holding and spoilage.
- Led the finance side of new-outlet expansion in KSA and Bahrain, from fit-out to opening.
- Presented monthly KPI and performance reviews to directors, and managed franchisor relations and regulatory filings.

Finance Manager

Jul 2012 – Oct 2014

French Bakery & La Marquise International (Bu Haleeba Group), Dubai, UAE

- Led financial planning, budgeting and analysis across the group's trading, hospitality and HoReCa divisions, with monthly management reporting.
- Implemented Microsoft Dynamics NAV (Navision) and used product-profitability analysis to direct focus to higher-margin lines.
- **Managed multi-entity finance operations:** AP, AR, payroll and fixed assets.

Senior Accountant / Chief Accountant

Aug 2008 – Jun 2012

Bu Haleeba Contracting (Bu Haleeba Group), Dubai, UAE

- Converted Bills of Materials (BOMs) into project and annual budgets with cash-flow forecasts, and controlled project costs with project managers.
- **Set up a fixed-asset control process:** documented authorisation, custody and location tracking for every acquisition, transfer and disposal.
- Issued and managed advance-payment and performance guarantees, and ensured timely work-completion certification and revenue recognition.
- **Supervised the full accounting cycle:** AR and AP (three-way match), payroll (WPS), bank reconciliations, accruals and month-end close.

Earlier Career

2004 – 2008

Pakistan

- **Officer II, Islamic Banking:** Meezan Bank (2006–2008). Credit analysis of financial statements, Ijarah and Diminishing Musharaka financing, AML/KYC compliance.
- **Audit Trainee:** Moores Rowland International (2004–2005). Audit planning, risk assessment, ISA/IFRS compliance, sales and income tax.

QUALIFICATIONS

- **FCCA:** Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK); ACCA Practical Experience Supervisor
- **CPA:** Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan (ICPAP), 2013
- **ACA (ICAEW, UK):** currently studying
- **CIA (Institute of Internal Auditors):** 3 exams passed
- **Bachelor of Commerce:** University of Karachi

SYSTEMS & SKILLS

- **ERP & accounting:** Microsoft Dynamics NAV / Business Central, Oracle, Odoo, Zoho Books, Xero
- **Analytics:** Advanced Excel and financial modelling, Power BI dashboards
- **Technical:** IFRS, VAT & corporate tax, internal controls, audit, fraud investigation, business valuation

ADDITIONAL

- **Languages:** English (fluent), Urdu (native), Hindi (intermediate)
- **References:** Available on request