RT&Co. always finds a way to deliver

HILE the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted businesses, there are those that survived. This also includes auditing firms, whose role is very vital as they watch over economies and businesses to ensure that financial information of their clients are fairly presented.

Reyes Tacandong and Co. (RT&Co.) has demonstrated such resilience during these trying times, not letting a pandemic affect their commitments to their clients. They know businesses are counting on them and they are committed not to disappoint.

"Our people in RT&Co. had demonstrated that despite the lockdowns and limitations of working from home, they found exceptional ways to deliver on our commitments. During this time, leadership should be decisive – our success during this crisis relied on RT&Co.'s leaders' strong will and clear directions, thus ensuring uninterrupted services to our clients," said Protacio T. Tacandong, RT&Co. chief operating officer.

"The pandemic has changed the way we live and work. It forced businesses to implement innovative solutions, technologies, and processes to deliver products and services beyond the physical boundaries of the office. Employees transitioned to working wherever they are," he said.

"The past two years saw professionals proving that work could be done virtually anywhere with new collaborative technologies. Most offices adopted the hybrid work concept which provides flexibility to work with teammates on-site or do heads-down work from a remote location," said Tacandong.

Tacandong said digitization is key data analytics and process automation are imperatives for businesses to thrive in the new normal. RT&Co. believes that upskilling is essential as technology will be the future of the workplace to retain their employees.

"In RT&Co., we immediately implemented our business continuity program where technology played a big part. A critical component of the program was our risk management framework. Our technologies ensured that our people could continue working virtually, yet together, that we were connected with our international network members, and that we remained in touch with our clients, all these in real-time and within a risk-managed environment," said Tacandong.

"In general, the availability of digital platforms facilitated the execution of the auditors' and accountants' work. It is important to note also that these professionals remained vigilant and uncompromising in following the standards of the profession as they went about their work during the pandemic," he added.

RT&Co. has its fair share of challenges as well. One of the challenges that the firm has experienced is a scramble for talented individuals to their workforce. RT&Co. are competing with other companies in recruiting these people to their ranks and retaining them.

The demand for accountants has intensified as more business process outsourcing companies come to the Philippines. In addition, foreign companies are targeting accountants for jobs abroad or offering work-from-home employment opportunities in the country but servicing foreign companies. The full work from home arrangement is desirable for some employees as this may mean saving commute time and certain costs. Thus, the costs of recruiting and retaining employees have gone up. Furthermore, the accounting profession must make up for the past two years postponement of the annual examination. This adds up in the difficulty in the recruitment of new certified public accountants.

RT&Co continue to be in close contact with schools and review centers to source talents while partners remained to be connected to its employees for a more hands-on learning experience.

With the system they have in place, RT&Co. has shown resilience throughout its ranks and is certain to prevail in the pandemic as they are committed to serve their clients who rely on them that their requirements are delivered and that reportorial reports are complied with in a timely manner.

Currently, Reyes Tacandong & Co. has 35 partners and principals and a complement of around 700 professionals with offices in Makati, Davao, Cebu, Iloilo and Clark. Their main office is located at 26/F BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati, 1226 Metro Manila. For inquiries, they can be reached through <u>info@reyestacandong.com</u> or call +632.8982.9100. RT&Co is a member firm of RSM.



The Partners of Reyes Tacandong & Co. celebrating the firm's 11th anniversary through their virtual town hall meeting last 2021.