

Personal Data

Given name **AKIRA**
Family name **SAWAI**
Address Heilbronner Str. 22
10779 Berlin
Mobil +49 (0)17661248851
Email akira.sawai@t-online.de
Date of Birth 17.12.1973
Nationality German (originally Japanese), EU citizen



PERSONAL PROFILE

US Certified Public Accountant (CPA, WA 54616) and MBA graduate with over 15 years of international experience in finance, controlling, and audit across Germany, Luxembourg, the UK, and Japan. Proven record in driving financial strategy, performance management, and ensuring compliance with HGB standards, while supporting IFRS group reporting and applying strong knowledge of international accounting frameworks (IFRS, US GAAP).

Professional background includes strategic and analytical finance roles at KPMG (Financial Advisory), Mizuho Bank (Credit & Risk Analysis), and industrial corporations, combining technical expertise with cross-functional collaboration and process improvement.

Adept at budgeting, investment planning, and performance reporting, with advanced proficiency in ERP systems (including SAP) and Excel (incl. VBA). Strong analytical mindset paired with the ability to advise senior stakeholders and align finance with organizational goals.

Fluent in English and working proficiency in German. Holds additional training in Project Management (University of Oxford) and Accounting & Finance (LSE).

EDUCATION

Oct 2017 – Aug 2020

London School of Economics (University of London international distance course)

Bachelor of Science, Accounting and Finance B.Sc.(Hons) degree obtained in Aug 2020

Oct 2011 – Sep 2013

University of Oxford, England (Undergraduate Advanced Diploma);

Technische Universität Darmstadt (TU Darmstadt), Germany (guest semester)

- Undergraduate Advanced Diploma, Information Technology and Computer Science courses (Data and Systems Analysis, Java programming and mathematical foundation of computer science)
- Technical and academic German (university entry level for foreigners) exams (reading, writing, speaking)

Sept 2002 - Dec 2003

Leiden University, the Netherlands

- Master of business administration (MBA) in International Management (taught courses in English)
- Project in consumer electronics, introduction of new concept products in the European market (Sept- Dec 2003 at Toshiba, thesis in English)

Apr 1993 - Mar 1999

University of Tokyo, Japan

- BA in science/philosophy (A graded), science studies in academic department, with chemistry, geology and mathematics knowledge

CAREER HISTORY

Audit

Sep 2023 – Sep 2024

Schneider Geiwitz Wirtschaftsprüfung Steuerberatung

Audit associate of financial statements

Ulm, Germany

Nov 2024 – Apr 2025

MSW GmbH

Audit Consultant for listed and private companies

Berlin, Germany

Audit of financial statements. Listed and middle-sized companies in Germany. IFRS and HGB audit.

- Participation in annual financial statement audits in accordance with IFRS and HGB, including:
 - Execution of audit procedures on balance sheet and income statement accounts considering materiality (e.g., receivables, payables, cash and cash equivalents, fixed assets, financial investments, equity)
 - Conducting inventory audits through observation, sampling, and documentation
 - Performing and evaluating balance confirmations (banks, lawyers, tax advisors, customers, and suppliers)
 - Reviewing appendices, management reports, and IFRS notes – checking figures, content, format, and consistency using checklists
- Audit Planning Phase:
 - Calculation of materiality thresholds
 - Risk assessment of individual balance sheet positions
 - Identification of audit focus areas
 - Project planning in line with deadlines
- Execution of analytical audit procedures for risk and trend analysis in financial reporting
- Documentation and assessment of risks in accordance with ISA (DE)
- Preparation and quality assurance of audit documentation and reports
- Special audits and business valuations based on cash flows, discounted values, and market multiples
- Correspondence with internal and external colleagues, clients, and subject matter experts

- Excel-based data analysis and automation using macros to enhance audit and documentation efficiency
- Participation in continuous professional development, particularly regarding IDW audit standards and current audit regulations

After obtaining my US CPA license, I performed audit procedures for listed, mid-sized, and small companies in Germany under HGB and IFRS. These engagements included substantive testing, analytical procedures, and structured documentation. Automation using Excel macros and document management through DATEV were key parts of the workflow.

Investment Advisory

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

KPMG Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

Advisor, Investment reporting
Luxembourg

Investment funds reporting to regulators. Funds statements analysis. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, Cash Flow for clients (asset managers, banks, insurance companies) with funds domiciled in Luxembourg

- Fund reporting to alternative investment funds regulations (AIFMD), various funds (Equity, Bonds, Debts, Real Estates, Alternative, Fund of Funds), UCITS related documentation (NAV, AuM, transactions, positions and risk values) and dissemination, Priip KID documentation supports
- Fund Balance Sheet, financial statements (debt, asset and valuation) analysis
- Excel automation, macro and VBA programming for documentation and dissemination
- Intranet documentation and scheduling updates, preparation of invoicing
- Investment, funds, portfolio, legal scheme study of regulators' (ESMA, CSSF) policies in Europe and Luxembourg

Investment funds reporting tasks with financial analysis. KPMG mandatory standards input and skills building trainings with tests and assessments all successfully completed. Financial statements analysis and reports creation with programming VBA, functional knowledge applied. Good understanding obtained in investment funds from various financial institutions (asset management, banks, insurance companies).

Banking (Analyst)

Oct 2020 – May 2022

(Parental cover limited time contract)

Mizuho Bank Ltd. (Düsseldorf branch, Germany)

Financial and credit Rating Analyst (rating, middle office)
Düsseldorf, Germany

Financial Statements analysis. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, Cash Flow statements analysis of **all** industries. Bank group asset 2 trillion USD, Düsseldorf branch customers 300 established corporates

- Independent preparation of credit ratings for internationally operating corporate

clients

- Evaluation of annual financial statements, consideration of market and industry developments, peer comparisons, stress tests
- Continuous risk monitoring and early risk identification
- Ensuring all relevant data quality
- Close cooperation with the respective corporate finance departments as well as credit departments in Europe and at the Head Office in Japan
- Preparation and presentation of internal reports in Japanese and English language
- Digital archiving design, planning and execution
- Contribution to projects related to rating issues and further development of internal guidelines
- Focal point for the risk controlling department as well as internal and external auditors

Daily tasks are accounting and financial reporting analysis, frequent communication with front office and headquarters, approvals processing and digital archiving, audit preparation and coordination. Financial statements analyzed are from all industries, including manufacturing, communication, IT, retail, wholesale, apparel, logistics, consulting, services and financial institutions.

Accounting, Controlling, Internal Control Systems (ICS), SOX / J-SOX

Jul 2017 – Oct 2020

Icom (Europe) GmbH

Accounting and Finance
Frankfurt, Germany

Accounting and financial controlling, bookkeeping, monthly and annual reporting
Consumer and professional wireless communication products, group annual turnover € 200 million

- Monthly and annual accounting reporting, daily bookkeeping
- Annual audit preparation and cooperation with auditors
- Annual tax (VAT and corporate tax) claim preparation with tax consultants
- Financial analysis, profit and loss calculation
- Accounts payable and receivable management and revaluation
- Fixed assets management, depreciation and coordination
- Fixed and variable costs calculation and reporting
- Inventory reporting and stock revaluation
- Accrual and cost transfer reporting
- Calculation of currency conversion rates effects
- Calculation and reporting with ERP system and Excel tables

Accounting, financial reporting, tax related coordination, data analysis and calculation with ERP system and Excel. Budgeting, fixed and variable costing, inventory and prices reporting and management.

Sep 2016 – Jun 2017

Hay Holding GmbH (Bad Sobernheim, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany) – project basis

Accounting – Focus: Internal Audit, J-SOX, Post-Merger Integration

Industry: International Automotive Supplier, group revenue approx. EUR 2 billion/year (Musashi Group, listed in prime market, HQ in Japan)

- Implementation of a new internal control system as part of a post-merger integration project following a corporate acquisition
- On-site documentation and testing in the areas of compliance, governance, accounting, processes, and IT – in cooperation with internal departments and international staff
- Reporting to the headquarters and preparation of required documentation for external J-SOX audits
- Collaboration with external advisors (Big Four) and legal counsel in building, structuring, and finalizing ICS documentation to ensure J-SOX compliance
- Coordination and regular communication with group companies (HQ in Japan and subsidiaries in North and South America and East Asia) for global J-SOX integration – via video and phone conferences as well as on-site meetings

Successfully prepared and implemented an internal control system (ICS) for group-wide integration under J-SOX during the post-merger integration of European subsidiaries.

Single year contract Aug 2015 – Jul 2016

Tamron Europe GmbH

Accounting

Cologne, Germany

Business accounting and financial controlling, sales, profit calculation, reporting and analysis, budget planning and preparation

Consumer photographic products and industrial optical solutions, annual turnover €300 million

- Preparation of monthly and annual accounting reports and tax audits supports
- Financial analysis and the profit and loss calculation
- Reporting to headquarters
- Fixed and current assets reporting, revaluation and depreciation calculations
- Inventory and stock revaluation
- Accrual calculation
- Per product sales and purchase prices management and profit analysis
- Calculation of currency conversion rates
- Accounting bookings check and overview reporting
- Calculation and reporting with ERP system and Excel tables

Accounting reports preparation with sales and marketing departments. Data analysis and calculation with ERP system and Excel. Profit analysis, budgeting preparation, fixed and variable costs, inventory and prices coordination.

Single year contract Sep 2014 - Aug 2015

Mitsubishi Engineering Plastics GmbH

European operation

Düsseldorf, Germany

Business controlling in general administration, sales and results (profit management by product category) reporting and analysis, budget planning and creation, European operation Engineering Plastics for industries, automotive, construction, electronics and household applications, turnover €200 million per year

- Controlling and profit management of each product category (Engineering plastics for varieties of Industries (Automotive, Construction, Electronics, Household etc.)
- Intensive SAP (R/3 and Business Warehouse) applications and data management in sales results, profit analysis and reporting, budgeting, audit preparation
- Business partner operations and productions analysis, contract handling
- Logistics and SCM analysis, cost calculations and profitability study
- Annual budget preparation, analysis, gross margin calculation and data management (Excel spreadsheets and pivots as the data form)
- Daily communication with accounting group, data preparation for financial reporting
- Transfer pricing and financial audit supports and preparation
- Daily contacts with sales & marketing staff, attending sales conferences, updating business situation and reporting (monthly, ad hoc) to the headquarters in Japan

Daily communication with Accounting, Sales and Marketing department and the Company President. Continuing improvements in reporting forms with data analysis and SAP, advanced Excel knowledge. Efficient controlling, product category profit analysis, budgeting preparation and improvements with SAP skills. Business partner productions and operations analysis and contract handling. Logistics and Supply Chain Analysis.

Feb 2007 - Mar 2012

Panasonic Marketing Europe GmbH

Planning group, European operation

Wiesbaden, Germany (European marketing headquarters)

Marketing and Business Development, European operation

Business development of consumer (visual and audio), systems products and eco- and energy solutions; total turnover €3.8 billion per annum

- Marketing and controlling of product development coordination in systems and consumer products (displays, optical products, electronic appliances, energy controllers)
- Organisation of international activities for corporate business planning and marketing strategies setting
- Improvements in sales and marketing reporting system in IT tools development projects
- New solutions development for intelligent consumer electronic appliances control with R&D team and external IT partners
- European technology updates, reporting of economy and business trends
- Market research (exhibitions, contact with consultants, governmental organisations, research institutes)
- Establishment and maintenance of business partnerships

Initiated the group in establishing business partnerships with major corporations (electronics, IT,

engineering, automotive, construction, consumer, retail and finance sectors), public organisations, consultants and research institutes. Worked closely with international staff, coordinated European marketing, corporate activities and strategic IT projects.

Feb 2006 - Nov 2006

Mitsui & Co. (Mitsui Bussan) Benelux N.V./S.A.

Assistant Manager (Credit Control, Compliance (SOX) project, Planner)
Brussels, Belgium

Sales and marketing of materials in Europe (mainly in Plastics, PVC, additives market; turnover €150 million per annum)

- Market research, customer contacts, new materials proposals, identification of business opportunities and customer development for industries in European countries including Automotive, Electronics and Machinery sectors
- Communication with sales staff across Europe, price negotiation planning, supply chain management and fulfilment of logistics requirements
- Credit control management, analysis of customers' financial data, maintenance of monthly and annual forecast in SAP System
- Development and management of SOX compliance project
- Organisation of international marketing meetings
- M&A simulations

Obtained up-to-date insights in a range of engineering and industrial sectors (i.e. electronics, IT, automotive, construction and chemical businesses in Europe).

Sept 2003 - Jan 2006

Toshiba Information Systems (U.K.) Ltd.

Planning Manager, European operation
Surrey, England (European head office of Toshiba consumer electronics)

Sales & Marketing Organiser (title: Planning Manager), European operation
Consumer products (TV, DVD players, digital equipment), Turnover 40 million Euro per fiscal year

- Production planning, controlling and follow-up of OEM vendors and product quality assurance
- Management of sales/demands data, creation of monthly/ fiscal year forecasts and budget settings with SAP business warehouse system
- Daily communication with customers (sales distributors) in (north, east, south) Europe for price setting, orders, supply chain and logistics control, documentation of insurance and stocks, follow up of payment accounts
- Analysis and reporting of market data (e.g. competitors' benchmark, pricing trends, economic environments and regulations updates) for each European country
- Organisation of international meetings and presentations for the customers

We achieved a 200% increase in sales volume and profit.

Apr 1999 - Aug 2002

Toshiba Corporation

Sales & Marketing Officer
Tokyo, Japan (worldwide Headquarters)

Electronic components marketing (LCD panels, TV tubes, Batteries, mobile phone components), annual turnover USD 2 billion

- Frequent communication with sales managers from Europe, America and Asia for demand and supply plan with production sites; tracing shipments, documents and payments
- Budget and forecasting, data input to SAP and Access database, reporting to senior managers and board members
- Organising international meetings with customers and sales team staff

Involved with the start-up project of the Joint Venture between Panasonic and Toshiba, LCD panel and modules production and marketing company.

LANGUAGE, IT skills etc

- Certified Public Accountant (US) CPA exam completed, license obtained (Washington State, license number 54616)
- Geprüfter Finanzbuchhalter (Dr. Endriss Steuer-Fachschule)
- English (IELTS 7.5, user of English for 25 years) business level
- German (German university entry level exam for foreigners C1)
- Japanese (Native)
- Effective Project Management certificate, University of Oxford
- Programming knowledge (VBA, UML modeling, XML, SQL, R (statistics))
- Windows applications (Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint), SAP BW (business warehouse) and Tableau knowledge and skills
- EU driving licence
- German citizenship and unlimited work permit

References are available on request.