



# new year, new career

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## WELCOME TO 2007! Has the year begun as you expected?

**H**ave you started something new or have you settled back into the same old routine after surviving a hectic holiday season? Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Are you sticking to them?

Like many other people, I tend to look at each new year as a chance to wipe the slate clean and make an improvement on the previous year. Whether it be starting a new hobby or revisiting an old one, commencing that home maintenance project you have been putting off, giving up bad habits, committing to a healthier diet, starting (and sticking to) an exercise program, getting in contact with an old friend, reconnecting with your family and loved ones in a new way or even starting your own family. There is always something we can do to make our life a more fulfilling and enjoyable experience. The same goes for your job. Whether you start working towards that promotion you have your sights on, ask for that pay rise you were promised, get to know your colleagues better, expand your responsibilities, increase your knowledge, or even change jobs to find something completely new. There are endless ways to make your work life more challenging and rewarding.

It is always a good idea to take stock of where you are currently sitting in your career path and there is no better time to do this than

at the beginning of a new year. Is this where you were hoping to be in 2007? Have you achieved all of your work goals up until this time? If you have, congratulations! If you haven't then now is the time to start turning things around.

If you have planned any new career goals what action have you started taking in order to reach these goals? There is no point just dreaming about having that perfect job where you wake up each work morning bursting with enthusiasm. If your career is not giving you what you need, then work out what you can do to improve your current position and the workplace you are in. If it is a change you are looking for then start researching your options.

Use this new year to kick-start the next phase in your career. Perhaps you would like to create a more balanced lifestyle and spend more time with your family. Or maybe you would like to climb the career ladder further, taking on more responsibilities and earning more money. Take some time to write down what your ideal work situation will be in 2007 and what steps you need to take to get there (but please be realistic – sipping cocktails on a deserted island all day does not count as work!) So, get out there, take action and start getting what you want! I hope you all have a wonderful year and that you let 2007 be the year where you start living your dreams!

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