



**ANNUAL REPORT** 2015  
**ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS**



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## MESSAGE FROM AFA PRESIDENT

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The CY 2015 Annual Report of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) is most assuredly a chronicle of a truly significant year for the Federation. The events and accomplishments presented are clear testaments to the active participation of the member bodies in the accomplishment of the various projects approved by the AFA Council during the Strategic Planning Session at the beginning of my term, all geared towards the advancement of the accountancy profession, and in support of ASEAN integration and the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Accountancy Services.

AFA's principal objective is to build the capabilities of its member-bodies, to enable them to better provide services that will redound to the benefit of its member – accountants – particularly in the area of continuing professional development – thereby making them globally and regionally competitive. Towards this end, three Task Forces were created to focus on three priority areas: (1) Closing the gaps between and among member bodies; (2) Articulating value proposition to AFA member bodies and stakeholders through brand and thought leadership; and (3) Recognition of AFA as IFAC Acknowledged Accountancy Grouping (AAG). I wish to commend the Task Force Heads and their members, who all worked assiduously on their respective mandates, leaving no stone unturned in the realisation of their specific goals.

Another high point in AFA during the past year was the AFA Council's acceptance of The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) and The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) as associate member bodies. Their interest in forging ties with the ten AFA Primary Members and four AFA Associate Members, in pursuit of the continuing development of the field of accountancy in Asia, is a boon to our profession, and an inspiration to all AFA members to resolutely champion accountancy's highest ideals.

I am happy to note, based on my personal observation, that the elements of an effective non-profit organisation are being manifested by the AFA in the following areas: (1) Leadership (i.e. clear vision and priorities, cohesive leadership team with a dedicated working Office Bearers, a new Executive Director and strict succession rules); (2) Decision Making and Structure (i.e. the AFA Council regular members' clear roles and responsibilities in making decisions); (3) People (i.e. the individual talent of dedicated official representatives who are focused on performance measures); (4) Work Processes (i.e. effective and efficient support processes and systems through the Task Forces); and, (5) Culture (i.e. high performance' values and behaviour, and the capacity to change and adapt).

As AFA moves onward into another year, I am confident that the sustainability of all these achievements will be assured, knowing the dedication and commitment of the hard-working official representatives of the member bodies, Executive Director Aucky Pratama and President Sonexay Silaphet, to whom I am delighted to pass on the torch of the AFA's leadership, and in whose capable hands the helm of the AFA will surely continue to chart a trailblazing and dynamic journey of accomplishments and progress.

It has been a true honour and a cherished privilege for me to have served AFA in this capacity. I remain, as always, in the service of the AFA, and I look forward to even greater triumphs for AFA in the years ahead.

Mabuhay! Long live AFA!

**Dean Estelita C. Aguirre**

President  
2014-2015

## MESSAGE FROM AFA DEPUTY PRESIDENT

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Once again we have arrived to the time of the year to reflect on what we have done and achieved in the last 12 months. From its founding in 1977, AFA has provide leadership in the development of the accountancy profession both regionally and globally.

In 2015, AFA continued to focus on its mandate to close the gap between member bodies and supporting member bodies to become a member of IFAC, articulate value propositions to the member bodies and relevant stakeholders (through among others, branding and thought leadership), and achieve global recognition as well as to serve the public interest and contribute to the development of strong international economies by strengthening our profession in the region, in support of the socio-economic enhancement of the AFA member countries and advocating for financial systems reform. The establishment of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN.

Southeast Asia is currently experiencing an economic expansion that exceeds that of most areas of the world. Growth in the region's economy cannot be sustained and expanded without the continued hard work and dedication of well-trained accountants working in all sectors of society. Professional management accountants will continue to play a key role in supporting the economic growth and development of our societies.

In my final year as the Deputy President of AFA I have witnessed how we have increased our efforts in moving forwards towards working together with regulators in the region, to drive the collaboration between member countries.

As we press on with our efforts to achieve sustainable growth, AFA is resolutely committed to ensure that our activities reflect the developing and strengthening of the accountancy profession, promoting robust corporate governance and corporate reporting in the region and ensuring that management accountants continue to serve in the public interest and foster widespread economic development.

With the support of the AFA members and our stakeholders, I look forward to continue my work with the Federation as the President of AFA in 2016.

Thank you.

**Sonexay Silaphet**  
Deputy President  
2014-2015



## MESSAGE FROM AFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The ASEAN Economic Community 2015 as a culmination of the ASEAN member countries cooperation and integration has finally arrived. Accountants as one of the backbones of the region's thriving economy should and must contribute more to the process. AFA as the umbrella body for the Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs) of the ASEAN member countries continues to play an important role in particularly developing the ASEAN accountancy profession, to support the achievements of the ASEAN economical objectives.

It is with great honour and utmost respect to be given the opportunity to contribute to the Federation's endeavours for the betterment of the accountancy profession in the region. Throughout my past involvements with the Federation as part of the AFA Secretariat, I have been involved in many of AFA's initiatives, particularly through the efforts of the AFA Task Forces, in making our contributions to the economy development of the ASEAN region. It is something that we are looking forward to further explore in the coming future.

Strong interest in the region, particularly on the vastly developing accountancy profession was further illustrated by the addition of The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) as the newest associate members of AFA. We welcome both MICPA and JICPA to the AFA family and are looking forward to their contribution to the ASEAN accountants.

I would take this opportunity to also express our sincerest appreciation to Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants – IAI) for their continuous support to AFA, particularly in supporting the Federation's Secretariat in Jakarta. IAI's commitment and dedication in supporting AFA's day-to-day operation is a key component of our recent successes in further driving the Federation's efforts in achieving its objectives.

2015 has been a great year, let us hope that 2016 will be even better.

Terima kasih.

**Aucky Pratama**  
Executive Director



**The Asean Federation of Accountants (AFA)** was organised in March, 1977. It was established to serve as the umbrella organisation for the national professional accounting organisation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries. AFA originally had only five members, these were the national accountancy bodies of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Currently, AFA membership comprises of all ten ASEAN member countries. The AFA membership consists of the Primary Members and Associate Members.

**AFA Primary Members** are the national professional accounting organisation representing countries within the territorial jurisdiction of ASEAN and must be the recognised national accounting body of that country created under a specific statute or regulation of that particular country, or in the absence of it, the recognised national organisation of accounting professional in the said country.

**AFA Associate Members** are the internationally recognised bodies of accounting professionals of any ASEAN member countries or other countries which are friendly to and supportive of the aspirations of ASEAN, even though they may be outside the territorial jurisdiction of ASEAN.

### VISION

To be globally recognised as the body that represents the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region.

### MISSION

To develop and promote the accountancy profession in the region in support of the socio economic enhancement of the AFA member countries.

### OBJECTIVES

AFA was created with the following objectives:

- 1) To provide an organisation for ASEAN accountants for the further advancement of the status of the profession in the region with the view to establishing an ASEAN philosophy on the accounting profession;
- 2) To establish a medium for closer relations, regional cooperation, and assistance among ASEAN accountants;
- 3) To enhance the continuous development of the accounting profession in the region through the joint endeavours of accountants representing the ASEAN;
- 4) To identify and highlight vital problems affecting the accounting profession in the ASEAN region and to formulate proposals towards the solution of these problems;
- 5) To provide ASEAN accountants with a venue for the exchange of the significant information on the accounting profession in the ASEAN member countries;
- 6) To represent the ASEAN accountants in their collective dealings with international accounting and other organisations; and
- 7) To work in cooperation with ASEAN business regional groupings whose economic development efforts may be complemented by ASEAN accountants.

## ABOUT AFA

### AFA Officer Bearers

**President** : Dean Estelita C. Aguirre (PICPA)  
**Deputy President** : Sonexay Silaphet (LCPAA)  
**Treasurer** : Frankie Chia (ISCA)  
**Secretary General** : Atty. Josefe Sorerra-Ty (PICPA)

### AFA Primary Members

#### **BICPA (Brunei Darussalam)**

Pengiran Haji Moxin (President)  
Lee Kin Chee  
Lucy Wong Kie Nyuk  
Lim Hoon Hui

#### **KICPAA (Cambodia)**

Khoy Kimleng (President)  
Heng Seida  
Chung Chetta

#### **IAI (Indonesia)**

Prof. Sidharta Utama (Lead Representative)  
Prof. Lindawati Gani  
Dwi Setiawan Susanto  
Elly Zarni Husin

#### **LCPAA (Lao PDR)**

Dr. Phirany Phissamay (President)  
Nanthalath Thirakul

#### **MIA (Malaysia)**

Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi (President)  
Ho Foong Moi  
Dr. Nurmazilah Mahzan

#### **MAC (Myanmar)**

U Kyaw Tin (Lead Representative)  
Daw Naing Thet Oo  
U Maw Than  
U Win Thin

#### **PICPA (Philippines)**

Dominador Barrion (President)

#### **ISCA (Singapore)**

Gerard Ee (President)  
Joyce Tang

#### **FAP (Thailand)**

Prasan Chuaphanich (President)  
Vilai Chattanassamee

#### **VAA (Vietnam)**

Dr. Dang Van Thanh (President)

### AFA Associate Members

#### **ACCA**

Lucia Real-Martin (Lead Representative)  
Leong Soo Yee  
Andrew Smart

#### **CAANZ**

Lee Whitney (Lead Representative)  
Adelle Evans

#### **CPA Australia**

James Dickson (Lead Representative)  
Jeff Hughes  
Priya Terumalay

#### **ICAEW**

Mark Billington (Lead Representative)  
Mark Campbell

#### **MICPA**

Foo Yoke Pin (Lead Representative)

#### **JICPA**

Kimitaka Mori (Lead Representative)

**Executive Director** : Aucky Pratama

#### **AFA Secretariat**

c/o Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (Institute of Indonesia  
Chartered Accountants – IAI)

**Staff** : Monika Nabillya (IAI)

# REPORT OF THE COUNCIL



# AFA COUNCIL MEETINGS

## 117<sup>th</sup> AFA COUNCIL MEETING

### Nexus Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Hosted at the Connexion-Nexus Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, MIA successfully hosted the 117<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting on 31 January 2015. The Council meeting was a heavy-duty gathering, with ten Primary Members, four Associate Members and the World Bank representatives among the attendees. In this meeting, AFA welcomed a number of new faces; Mr. Lee Whitney as the new representative of CAANZ, Prof. Lindawati Gani as the new Council member of IAI and Ms. Joyce Tang as a representative of ISCA.



The appearance of World Bank representatives, Mr. Chris Fabling and Mr. Roberto Tarralo further illustrated the continuous cooperation between AFA and the World Bank, particularly in following up the collaborative AFA and World Bank Report on the Current Status of the Accounting and Auditing Profession in ASEAN Countries that was launched in September 2014. As part of the World Bank's support in the development of the accountancy profession in the Southeast Asia region, the report is served as a diagnostic illustration on the latest condition of the accounting and auditing profession in the region.

Served as the first Council meeting for the year, the 117<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting continued to look at the execution of the three AFA priorities as conducted by the AFA Task Forces. Active participation and support from the Council and meeting participants successfully established a sense of optimism for AFA to move forward and achieve its organisational objectives.



Back to back with the 117<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting, MIA and AFA held a join seminar with the theme ASEAN Economy Community 2015: Accounting Profession Beyond Borders on 30 January 2015. The objective of the seminar is to provide insights on how the accountancy profession can play its role towards the success of AEC 2015. This one-day seminar was attended by all of the AFA members and a number of prominent Malaysian stakeholders. Deputy Finance Minister II of Malaysia, Datuk Chua Tee Yong delivered a keynote speech at the end of the seminar.

### 118<sup>th</sup> AFA COUNCIL MEETING

Sofitel Plaza Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam



As the umbrella organisation for the accountancy bodies in the ASEAN region AFA held its latest Council meeting on 9 May 2015 in Hanoi, Vietnam. As the host of the 118<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting, the Vietnam Association of Accountants and Auditors (VAA) welcomed the ten Primary Members and the four Associate Members of AFA in Sofitel Plaza Hotel, Hanoi, along with representative of the World Bank.

In this meeting, AFA continued with discussion on the efforts to build the capacity and capabilities of AFA member bodies as part of the preparation in welcoming the AEC 2015. Apart from capacity building, AFA also saw

the importance of participating in the development of the global accounting standards, in particular accounting for micro entities. In this regard, AFA established the AFA Accounting Standards Group (AASG). The AASG will be chaired by Mr. Gerard Ee of ISCA, with representative of IAI as the Deputy Chair.

In the 118<sup>th</sup> Meeting, AFA Council also welcomed the new ACCA Regional Head, Mr. Andrew Smart. Among the attendees was the representative of the World Bank, Mr. Christopher Fabling, who shared useful information to the AFA members on a number of global and regional initiatives. Mr. Fabling appearance was also as part of World Bank support to AFA in developing the accountancy and auditing profession in the ASEAN region. IAI as the care of the AFA Secretariat since 2011 took this opportunity to distribute the AFA Annual Report 2014.

In conjunction with this meeting, VAA successfully held the national congress and seminar on 8 May 2015. The series of events were held as the part of the celebration of the 20 years of Vietnam Accounting Reformation. More than 100 accountants gathered in the Ho Chi Minh Museum to participate in this event. VAA also invited a number of prominent speakers from government institution and international accounting organisations, such as ACCA and ICAEW to support the theme of this event. The President of AFA, Ms. Estelita C. Aguirre, and representatives of BICPA and CPA Australia, accompanied by AFA Secretariat were in attendance.

# AFA COUNCIL MEETINGS

## 119<sup>th</sup> AFA COUNCIL MEETING

Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon, Myanmar



The Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC) successfully hosted the 119<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting on 9 August 2015. The Novotel Yangon Max, Yangon, Myanmar became the meeting point of the ten Primary Members and four Associate Members of AFA.

This meeting also welcomed the President of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), President of

The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) and the Executive Director of The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), as AFA is expanding its network of cooperation to national and regional Professional Accountancy Organisations outside of the Southeast Asia region.

The presence of Mr. Arjuna Herath, President of SAFA, marked an important milestone in the relationship between the two regional umbrella organisations. AFA is looking forward to future cooperation with not only SAFA but also its members, in building a knowledge sharing media for accountants in the two regions. A positive intent was shown by both organisations in looking forward to the possibility of re-establishing the Memorandum of Understanding between AFA and SAFA, as a formal document to culminate the relationship between the two.

Among the Council's focuses in this meeting was the update of the ASEAN Accountancy Roadmap project which is currently performed by the AARC and ACCA for the ASEAN. AFA continued to express its strong commitment in supporting the ASEAN in preparing for the implementation of the ASEAN MRA on Accountancy Services.

The meeting also marked by the significant kick-off meeting of the AFA Accounting Standards Group (AASG). Chaired by Mr. Gerard Ee of ISCA, the AASG will look into various accounting standards issues that are relevant in the region. The Council also appointed Ms. Rosita Uli Sinaga of IAI as the Vice Chair of AASG. Members of AASG among others are KICPAA, BICPA, MIA, PICPA, and FAP. Among the things considered in this first meeting were the development of the ASEAN micro accounting model and the accounting for Islamic finance/transactions.



Yangon also witnessed an important milestone for the Federation, as the AFA Council has approved the appointment of Mr. Aucky Pratama Setya Dharma as the AFA Executive Director. This appointment was acknowledged by all AFA members as another step for AFA in becoming a stronger grouping, to continue to deliver AFA's mission to develop and promote the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region.

In this moment, AFA together with MAC and the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) also jointly held the AFA – MAC/MICPA SME Forum 2015 on 8 August 2015 in Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Myanmar. This successful event was fully supported by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as one of AFA Associate Member. This forum was held as part of the AFA Task Force 2 working program, to facilitate the AFA member bodies in dealing with SMEs in the region.

### 120<sup>th</sup> AFA COUNCIL MEETING

New World Makati Hotel, Manila, Philippines



The AFA Council representatives gathered at the New World Makati Hotel, Manila on 5 December 2015 to hold the 120<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting. Hosted by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) the meeting was successfully held, chaired by Dean Estelita C. Aguirre, the last under her Presidential term that will end at the year end.

The meeting wrapped up a number of initiatives that AFA has conducted under President Aguirre in 2014 and 2015. AFA Council also reiterated their commitment in supporting the betterment of the accountancy profession in the region, one of which is through supporting the successful implementation of the ASEAN MRA on Accountancy Services. Many of the initiatives were conducted through the AFA Task Forces that were established with the objective of working towards the AFA priorities in developing the capacity of the ASEAN PAOs and the profession in the general.

Aside from the usual attendees, the AFA Council meeting in Manila was also attended by representative of the World Bank, Mr. Christopher Robert Fabling, and representatives from The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA), President Kimitaka Mori, Kazutoshi Ishii, and Tomoe Watashiba. It was truly a monumental moment for JICPA and MICPA who was admitted as the new Associate Members of AFA. All AFA members were delighted and look forward to working together with both JICPA and MICPA in improving the accountancy profession in the region.

As President Aguirre's term came to an end, the current Deputy President, Sonexay Silaphet of the Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA) will be appointed as the President of AFA for the period of 2016-2017. The departure of Estelita was witnessed by the AFA members who acknowledge her enormous contributions to both AFA and the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region. Under her leadership, AFA has made significant progress that will further prepare the Federation in further contributing to the profession.

AFA Council members congratulated Estelita and wished her the very best on her future endeavors.

To complete the series of event, AFA held its 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference. The conference was supported by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), on 4 December 2015 at the AIM Conference Center Manila. The chosen theme for the conference was "ASEAN Integration for SMEs and SMPs: Opportunities and Challenges".

## AFA ACTIVITIES

### MIA-AFA SEMINAR 2015

#### ASEAN Economy Community 2015: Accounting Profession Beyond Borders

MIA and AFA held a joint seminar with the theme of ASEAN Economy Community 2015: Accounting Profession Beyond Borders in 30 January 2015. The objective of the seminar was to provide some insights on how the accountancy profession can play its role towards the success of AEC 2015. This one-day seminar was attended by all AFA members and a number of prominent Malaysian stakeholders.



The seminar was opened by a speech from MIA President, Datuk Johan Idris and continued by a number of panel discussions. AFA President, Estelita C. Aguirre participated in the discussion on ASEAN Accountants – Building A Stronger Profession Together. In this session, Estelita together with former AFA Deputy President, Nik Mohd Hasyudeen Yusoff, MIA President, Datuk Johan Idris and CEO Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad, Johan Mahmood Merican shared the same vision for accountancy profession to be competitive and innovative in welcoming AEC 2015.



At the end of the seminar, AFA President delivered her closing speech, expressing her sentiment to support the accountancy profession to learn to continuously adapt to the changing needs of the business. The MIA – AFA joint seminar was officially closed by a keynote speech from the Deputy Finance Minister II of Malaysia, Datuk Chua Tee Yong. During his speech, he mentioned that AEC will be a great opportunity for the ASEAN accounting community to

shine the spotlight on the planned integration and liberalisation as a route to vast opportunities for the profession. AEC is an ambitious and innovative plan that aspires to transform the economies of the ten ASEAN member countries into one single economy.

### AFA-MAC/MICPA SME FORUM 2015

#### Preparing the Way for AEC 2015 and Business Growth



In conjunction with the 119<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting, AFA together with the Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC) and the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) jointly held the AFA – MAC/MICPA SME Forum 2015 on 8 August 2015 in Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. This successful event was fully supported by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as one of the AFA Associate Members. AFA acknowledge ACCAs full and continuous support to the Federation in particularly developing the accountancy profession in the region.



This forum was held as part of the AFA Task Force 2 working program, to facilitate the AFA member bodies in dealing with SMEs. With the relevant theme, “Preparing the Way for AEC 2015 and Business Growth: Are SMEs ready for AEC 2015, how can banks and SMEs work together and how can IFRS benefit SMEs?”, AFA wished to assist the SMEs in Myanmar in preparing for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 and growth.

Officially opened with a remark from AFA President, Ms. Estelita C. Aguirre, around 300 participants ranging from accountants, entrepreneurs and the AFA members were in attendance and actively involved in the discussions. Estelita elaborated on the opportunities arise through the launch of the AEC 2015 for accountancy professions. She believes that professional accountants can play a better role in enhancing the capacity of SMEs to be ready for growth under a borderless ASEAN.



To support the theme of the forum, a number of prominent speakers sat as panelists of the sessions among others were Mr. Richard Martin, Head of Corporate Reporting ACCA, Mr. Thomas Foerch, Head of Project GIZ, Ms. Rosanna Choi Chair, ACCA Global Forum for SMEs, Lucia Real-Martin, Director, Emerging Markets, ACCA, Mr. U Maw Than, Board Member, Central Bank of Myanmar and many more.

# AFA ACTIVITIES

## 19<sup>th</sup> AFA CONFERENCE

### ASEAN Integration: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs and SMPs



AFA successfully held its 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference in Manila, Philippines on 4 December 2015, hosted together by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). The conference was held at the AIM Conference Center Manila, and was attended by 350 participants, discussing issues that are related to the conference theme, “ASEAN Integration: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs and SMPs”.

This prestigious event was officially opened by the President of AFA, Ms. Estelita C. Aguirre, the President of PICPA, Mr. Dominador A. Barrion and the Chairman of BOA, Hon. Joel Tan-Torres. After delivering their warm welcome to the participants, the three of them encouraged accountants to fully participate on the launched of ASEAN Economy Community (AEC) 2015. They believe that the accountancy profession has the capacity to lead the contribution to the public sector, in supporting the national and regional economy.

Among the speakers involved in the conference was the Senior Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank, Mr. Guntur Sugiyarto, who delivered the conference keynote speech. In his keynote address Guntur reported from the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur last November 2015 that the AEC 2015 has reached the 92,7 % progress to completion, and the remaining 7% is a part of skills mobility preparation. This will produce the biggest challenges in the implementation of the AEC 2015, especially in implementation of the free flow of skilled workers. Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in Accountancy Service will take an important role in facilitating the movement of qualified accountants to meet the demand and supply of foreign workers. The benefit of this action is to create a flexible and efficient labor market that would attract investments and skill workers.

In response to the main theme of the conference, AFA Executive Director, Mr. Aucky Pratama delivered his presentation about AFA and its activities on SMEs and SMPs. On the following session, the Director Emerging Market of ACCA, Ms. Lucia Real Martin presented her views on ‘Maximising Opportunities of Accountants from the ASEAN Integration’. Prominent speakers around the ASEAN region such as the newly appointed President of MIA, President of ISCA and Partner of SGV Philippines were also among the attendees.

Clock ticking to AEC 2015, the audiences heard from experts about ASEAN Integration: Boon or Bane for SMEs and SMPs and Quality Assurance Review on the Panel Discussion 1 and 2 led by Vice President for Operation PICPA and Head of International Capacity Building, ICAEW, respectively.



This event was proudly supported by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as the respective strategic gold partners, CPA Australia as the silver sponsor, and CAANZ, SGV & Co. Philippines, Land Bank, Diccion Law Firm and BDO Audit Firms as the bronze sponsors. Last but not least, the conference was also supported by a number of donors; SM Investments Corporation, Achieve Without Borders, Inc., The Hsin Enterprise Phil. Corp., Villaruz, Villaruz & Co., Fernando Gallardo&Co., Gallardo Songco and Associates, Hillmarcs Construction Corp., Asian Institute of Taxation, and E-Files Software Support, Inc. AFA and PICPA is proud to work together with these partners and organisations in delivering values to accountants in the ASEAN region.

## PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ADB & MPI BALI FORUM ON SKILL MOBILITY IN ASEAN

Sofitel Bali Nusa Dua Beach Resort, Bali, Indonesia



The ASEAN Development Bank (ADB) and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) hosted the Bali Forum on Skill Mobility in ASEAN, titled Progressing towards the ASEAN Economic Community and Charting a Post 2015 Vision at the National Level on 28-29 September 2015.

Under the invitation of the ADB and the MPI, the ASEAN Federation of Accountants as the umbrella organisation for the ASEAN Professional Accountancy Organisations, represented by President Aguirre and Executive Director Pratama, participated at the forum. The Bali forum was also attended by more than 50 representatives of stakeholders with common interest in workforce mobility in the ASEAN region.

The forum focused on the ADB and MPI's joint initiative in their issue paper on Achieving Skill Mobility in the ASEAN Economic Community – Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Implications. This paper is supported by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

A number of prominent speakers presented their views on the matter, most from economic perspective, particularly on inherent and potential barriers on movement of workers and initiatives that countries and collectively ASEAN must consider in enhancing the possibility of successfully achieving the regional cross-border movement.



AFA President participated in the discussion on trends in the mobility of highly skilled workers, particularly on the current and future demand and supply on the eight sectors under the ASEAN MRAs and MRA Frameworks. The discussion was based on preliminary findings from two original studies: (i) MPI research systematically examining crossborder talent flows within ASEAN and (ii) ADB's forward looking quantitative analysis examining the future supply and demand of workers in the eight target occupations in ASEAN. The discussion also looked at the current supply and demand for jobs in different sectors for which MRAs has been signed.

AFA President reiterated the important role of AFA and the national Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs) in supporting and working together with government as the policy maker. As identified by most participants, professional body and private sector should play a bigger role in participating in the discussion and together with the policy maker make significant steps in realising the successful implementation of the MRAs, and in the longer term, mobility of skilled workforce.

### IFAC REGIONAL CONNECTION SESSION

#### Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

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AFA, represented by Executive Director Pratama, was invited by IFAC to participate at the IFAC Regional Connection Session in Singapore, on 10 November 2015. This session was aimed to identify key matters for consideration as part of the review of the working relationship between IFAC and the regional bodies by:

- 1) Sharing organisational priorities, challenges, and opportunities in areas of mutual interest;
- 2) Exploring common themes; and
- 3) Identifying organisational strengths and considering how to catalyse these strengths to achieve maximum impact with limited resources.



The session was facilitated by IFAC's representatives, Mr. James Dickson, Ms. Kelly Anerud, Ms. Caroline Kigen and Ms. Alta Prinsloo, with IFAC President, Ms. Olivia Kirtley and IFAC Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Fayezul Choudhury joining the session at the later stage.

Some of the IFAC's Regional Organisations and Acknowledged Accountancy Groupings who were in attendance among others are the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA), Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens (FEE), Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA), South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), Gulf Cooperation Council Accounting and Auditing Organisation (GCCAAO) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC).

### AAT UK SINGAPORE ROUNDTABLE SESSION

#### Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

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Back-to-back with the IFAC Regional Connection Session, AFA also participated at the AAT UK Singapore Roundtable Session, hosted by the Association of Accounting Technicians United Kingdom (AAT UK). The purpose of this roundtable was to review the research outcomes for accounting technicians – conducted through initial phone interview, consider the role of accounting technicians in advancing the growth and professionalism of the accountancy profession and explore ways to raise their profiles.

This session was one of many that are planned for the future, to further discuss the role of accounting technicians in the bigger accountancy profession picture.

## PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### SINGAPORE ACCOUNTANCY CONVENTION 2015

#### Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

Back-to-back with the many IFAC activities in Singapore, the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) organised the inaugural Singapore Accountancy Convention 2015 on 12 November 2015. The event was attended by around 200 foreign delegates from 77 different countries, adding up to a total of almost 750 participants.

Gerard Ee (President, ISCA), Lim Soo Hoon (Permanent Secretary (Finance) (Performance), Ministry of Finance), Olivia Kirtley (President, IFAC) and Kenneth Yap (Chief Executive, ACRA) were among the distinguished speakers who shared their views on how accountants can leverage their training, qualifications, experience and exposure to be a key drivers of economic growth.



A number of panel sessions were introduced, each looking at particular issues that are very much relevant to the role of accountants and its impact to the economy of the region. One of the panel looked at the global study on revealing the state of the global accountancy profession, with Fayezul Choudhury (CEO, IFAC) provided his view on the value and relevance of accountants in the society and Samia Msadek (Director, Governance Global Practice Group, World Bank) shared hers on how the profession underpins economic and social development.

The event was a great opportunity for accountants in the region to network with representatives of IFAC, global PAOs and among themselves.



### IFAC SMP COMMITTEE MEETING

#### Hilton Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The IFAC SMP Committee hosted its meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 16-17 November 2015. Under the invitation of the Committee, AFA, represented by Deputy President Silaphet and Executive Director Pratama, participated as observers of the meeting. More than 25 members and technical advisers of the committee and 10 observers attended the meeting that was chaired by the Chair of the IFAC SMP Committee, Mr. Giancarlo Attolini.

## PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

As AFA has recently put more focus on SMEs and SMPs issues, particularly as part of AFA Task Force 2 initiatives, interaction with particularly the IFAC SMP Committee is important in obtaining the latest up-to-date information on the development of the accountancy for the SMPs at the global level.

### MIA – IFAC REGIONAL SMP FORUM 2015

#### Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IFAC together with the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) and supported by AFA hosted the MIA – IFAC Regional SMP Forum in Kuala Lumpur on 18 November 2015. The forum discussed topics that focussed on how to address the challenges and unique opportunities facing SMPs and SMEs. More than 150 participants representing more than 10 countries attended the forum, ranged from the public practitioners, national and regional PAOs, standard setters and representatives of the Malaysian private sector and regulator.

Among the distinguished speakers participated in the forum were Olivia Kirtley (President, IFAC), Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi (President, MIA), Giancarlo Attolini (Chair, IFAC SMP Committee), Paul Thompson (Director, Global Accountancy Profession Support IFAC) and Sonexay Silaphet (Deputy President, AFA).



Deputy President Silaphet was one of the panellists on the session on transforming the SMP landscape. This session looked at the rising costs and increasing regulations in the audit profession, coupled with the professional brain drain from developing countries to industrialised or oil-rich markets that have caused audit quality in the region to deteriorate. In Malaysia, MIA has put in place several initiatives to address the audit quality issues and underlying factors that pressure practitioners to lower fees. In addition, MIA aims to tap on various government assistance schemes to upgrade SMPs' business, manpower and technology capacity, raise productivity and expand into new services.

This event is in line with AFA's initiative to focus on SMEs and SMPs issues, as the Federation is looking at the potential to be a leader in the ASEAN region in the development of the accountancy profession with a strong focus on the SMEs and SMPs.

# AFA TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

The **AFA Task Forces** were established under the leadership of President Estelita Aguirre to focus on the three priorities that the AFA Council has agreed on during the 115<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting (Yogyakarta, 13 June 2014). Three AFA Task Forces were established based on the three established priorities, as follows:

### AFA Task Force 1

To close the gap between member bodies and to support member bodies to become members of IFAC.

### AFA Task Force 2

To articulate value proposition to AFA member bodies and stakeholders (through branding and thought leadership).

### AFA Task Force 3

For AFA to obtain formal recognition as an IFAC Acknowledged Accountancy Grouping (AAG).

Throughout 2014-2015 the AFA Task Forces has conducted a number of initiatives and activities in-line each of the Task Forces' focus and the Federation's general objectives for the year.

## AFA TASK FORCE 1

### To Close the Gap between Member Bodies and to Support Member Bodies to Become Members of IFAC

Lead: Atty Josefe Sorreera-Ty (PICPA)	Members : LCPAA MAC ISCA CPA Australia ICAEW
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The objective of AFA Task Force 1 is to identify activities that will help the capacities and capabilities of AFA member bodies in order to close the gaps among them. In doing so, AFA is supporting the member bodies that are yet to be recognised by IFAC to be a member of IFAC.

AFA Task Force 1 has acknowledged a number of requests from AFA member bodies to address their respective queries and needs with regard to the development of the accountancy profession in their respective countries. The Task Force will continue to work together with AFA members; primaries and associates, to identify (and consolidate) resources and solutions in assisting the AFA member bodies and their needs.

The Task Force together with PICPA in particular has successfully held a seminar with Quality Assurance Review as one of the topic of discussions of the 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference, held in Manila back-to-back with the 120<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting. This was one of the Task Forces initiatives in further developing member bodies' and ASEAN accountants' capacity and knowledge on the profession's best practice.

Throughout the year the Task Force has also continued to encourage the sharing of member knowledge and resources, between the AFA member bodies. This was mainly facilitated by the AFA Secretariat through the AFA website and exchange of emails.



## AFA TASK FORCE 2

**To Articulate Value Proposition to AFA Member Bodies and Stakeholders  
(Through Branding and Thought Leadership)**

Lead: <b>Prof. Sidharta Utama (IAI)</b>	Members : <b>ACCA</b> <b>CAANZ</b>
 IKATAN AKUNTAN INDONESIA	

The main tasks of AFA Task Force 2 are to; 1) provide advocacy to members, 2) lead, promote and facilitate bilateral/multilateral co-operation/agreement among members, 3) promote and facilitate member bodies' capacity development; 4) facilitate members in dealing with SMEs, and 5) provide access to cooperate with international and regional organisations, to support all the above value propositions.

As one of the Task Force's achievements for the year the participation of three ASEAN member countries (supported by the respective AFA member bodies as the relevant Professional Accountancy Organisations) as pilot countries in the assessment of the country benchmark for the purpose of implementation of the ASEAN MRA on Accountancy Services was most definitely important for the process. This illustrates the Federation's continuous support to particularly ASEAN in the preparation of the implementation of the MRA.



AFA Task Force 2 has successfully established AFA's program to be the thought leader of SMEs and SMPs issues in the ASEAN region, among others by the plan to introduce the AFA research grant on SMEs and SMPs issues in the coming future.

In articulating value proposition AFA with the support of particularly AFA Task Force 2 has also provide advocacy to AFA member bodies, promoting global best practice in the profession, as advertised by IFAC. Cooperation with other regional bodies such as the South Asia Federation of Accountants (SAFA) has also been re-established, in the effort to further develop the role of AFA regionally and globally.

# AFA TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

## AFA TASK FORCE 3

### For AFA to Obtain Formal Recognition as an IFAC Acknowledged Accountancy Grouping (AAG)

Lead: <b>Ho Foong Moi (MIA)</b>	Members : <b>BICPA</b> <b>IAI</b> <b>FAP</b> <b>CPA Australia</b>
 <b>MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS</b> <small>ACCOUNTANTS. MANAGERS. OF FINANCE</small>	

The focus of AFA Task force 3 is to assist AFA in achieving its vision to be globally recognised as the body that represents the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region, specifically by obtaining the global recognition as an IFAC Acknowledged Accountancy Grouping (AAG). AFA acknowledged the role of IFAC as the global body for the profession and shared IFAC’s objective in developing the profession globally, and specifically regionally in Southeast Asia.

Throughout 2015 the Task Force paid close attention to IFAC’s strategic review process to ensure that an effective working relationship between the two organisations can be established. One key effort that was commenced in 2015 and will be continued in 2016 was to analyse and revisit the Federation’s foundation (constitutions and by-laws, vision, mission, and objectives) to ensure alignment with those of IFAC’s. The Task Force has also supported efforts to establish closer working relationship with IFAC, one of which was through AFA’s attendance at the IFAC SMP Committee Meeting and AFA’s support to the MIA-IFAC SMP Regional Forum held in Kuala Lumpur in November.



## INTRODUCTION TO NEW AFA ASSOCIATE MEMBER

At the 120<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting, the AFA Council has agreed to pass a resolution to approve the application for AFA Associate Membership of the The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) to be an AFA Associate Members. We are delighted to welcome MICPA and JICPA and look forward to working together with both bodies in developing the accountancy profession in the Southeast Asia region.

### The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)



#### Profile

President : Dato' Abdul Rauf Rashid

Members : 3,200

Website : [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my)

Email : [micpa@micpa.com.my](mailto:micpa@micpa.com.my)

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) was incorporated in 1958 and is the only local body in Malaysia which conducts a professional accountancy examination recognised under the Accountants Act 1967. MICPA's vision is to be the premier business qualification in Malaysia, comparable to the best in the world.

MICPA's objective is to advance the theory and practice of accountancy in all its aspects, recruit, educate and train a body of CPAs who are equipped with the technical knowledge and competencies needed to provide value add services of the highest quality. The CPA designation is widely recognised as a premier brand of professional business qualification.

In 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ), marking an important milestone for both bodies in working together to promote the interest of students, members and the accountancy profes-

sion. The MoU provides for mutual advanced entry for candidates into both bodies' professional examinations. Graduates of the joint MICPA-CAANZ Programme will obtain 2 professional qualifications – CPA (Malaysia) and CA (ANZ). Programme graduates will also have access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) which provides support from a network of 10 premier professional accounting bodies across 11 countries..



# INTRODUCTION TO NEW AFA ASSOCIATE MEMBER

## The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA)



### Profile

President : Kimitaka Mori

Members : 34,000

Website : [www.hp.jicpa.or.jp](http://www.hp.jicpa.or.jp)

Email : [international@sec.jicpa.or.jp](mailto:international@sec.jicpa.or.jp)

The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) is a statutory professional body empowered by CPA Act to register and oversee all CPAs and audit firms in Japan. JICPA's mission is to serve the public interest by strengthening the accountancy profession through maintaining the quality of services provided by members and upholding the professional ethics, values, and standards.

The JICPA started as a voluntary organisation in 1949 and later became a corporation under the CPA Act in 1966. Since then, the JICPA has enjoyed over sixty years of professional excellence. JICPA is one of the founder members of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA), and has a long history of international activities and cooperation with various organisations.

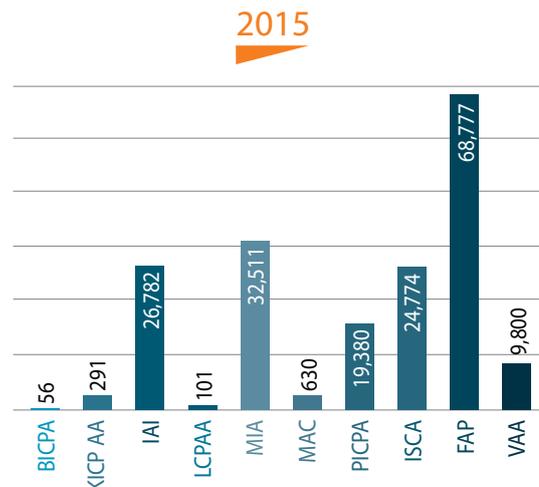
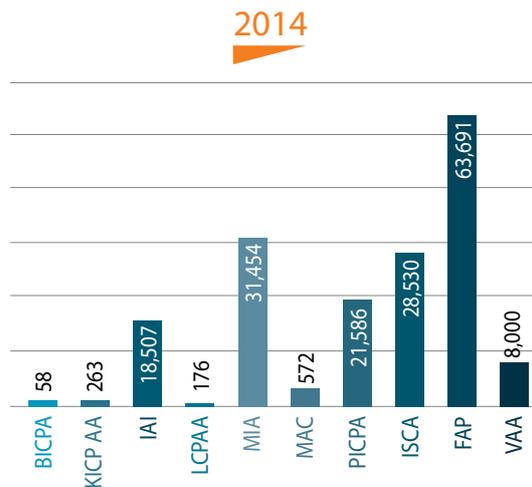
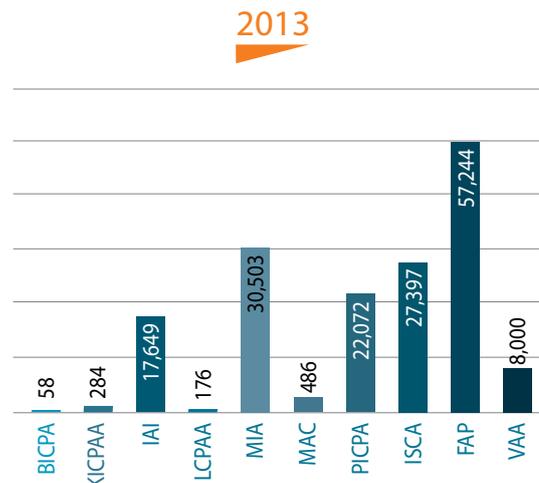
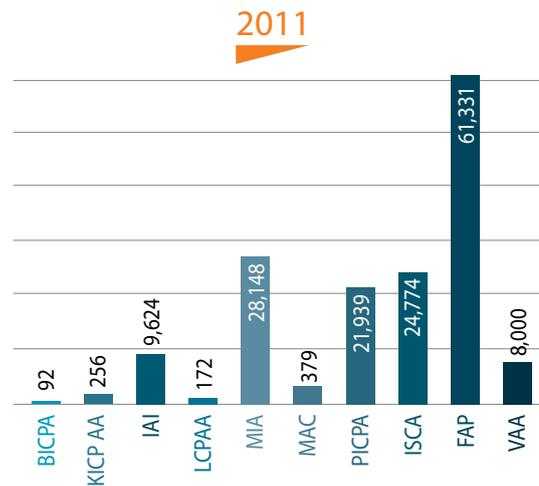
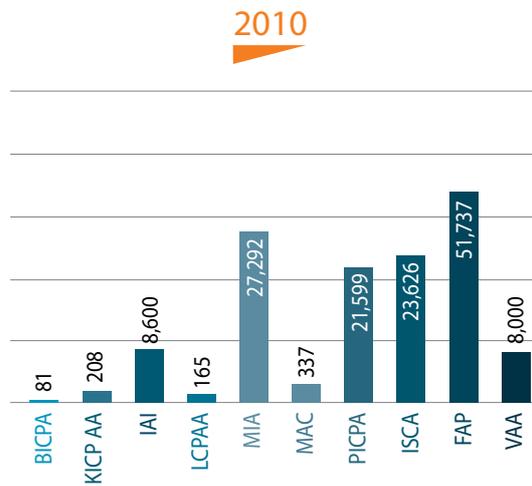
The JICPA has always been committed to remain transparent and independent as a self-regulatory organisation for the accountancy profession. In serving the public interest and strengthening the accountancy profession, the JICPA has also been committed to maintaining the quality of services provided by members.

Currently, JICPA has more than 34,000 members in total with 16 regional chapters spreading across Japan.



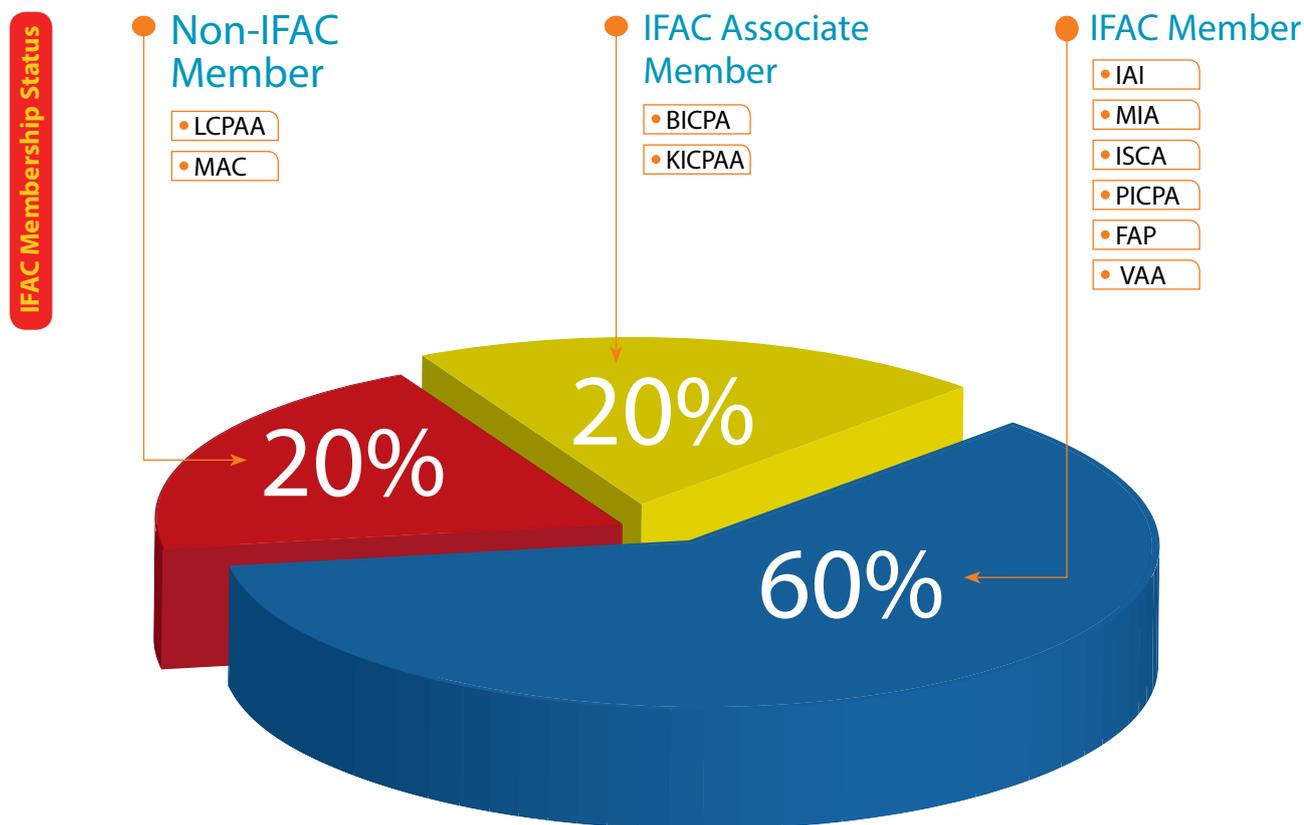
# ASEAN ACCOUNTANTS IN NUMBERS

## PAOs Membership



\* Figure as per 31 December 2015

## ASEAN ACCOUNTANTS IN NUMBERS



**IFRS Adoption**

No	PAO	IFRS	IFRS for SME
1	Brunei	Local GAAP	Local GAAP
2	Cambodia	Full Adoption	Full Adoption
3	Indonesia	Local GAAP converged to IFRS	Local GAAP
4	Lao PDR	Local GAAP	Local GAAP
5	Malaysia	Full Adoption	Refer to local GAAP for private entities
6	Myanmar	Full Adoption	Full Adoption
7	Philippine	Full Adoption	Full Adoption
8	Singapore	Local GAAP converged to IFRS	Local GAAP
9	Thailand	Local GAAP converged to IFRS	Local GAAP converged to IFRS
10	Vietnam	Local GAAP	Local GAAP

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



### BICPA



■ Total members: 56



The Brunei Darussalam Institute of  
Certified Public Accountants  
(BICPA)

#### BICPA Academy

BICPA continues to operate the Accountancy Academy holding full time and part time CAT courses and part time for ACCA courses. Six CPD courses were held during the year attended by a combination of the private and public sector.

#### Collaboration with the Authority

2015 saw closer and better collaboration between BICPA and the Ministry of Finance (MOF). BICPA's members were in discussions with the MOF in effort to improve the Ease of Doing Business Index in Brunei. Feedback and comments were taken onboard and notable improvements were made.

BICPA's members were actively involved with in the Brunei Darussalam Accounting Standard Committee (BDASC) and Public Accountants Oversight Committee (PAOC) that contributed towards the development of the accounting standards and accounting profession in Brunei Darussalam. Members were also nominated to the Working Committees that have been set up by the BDASC. These Working Committees covered areas relating to the Accounting Standard for the Banking Sector, Insurance and Takaful Sector, Non Public-Interest Entities and Implementation of Accounting Standards for non-PIEs. A number of meetings were held and BICPA members played important roles in assisting the Authority to the establishment of Accounting Standards for non-PIEs.

In addition, BICPA has been appointed to the Monitoring Committee on Accountancy Services for Brunei Darussalam. The Committee focuses on the development of the accountancy sector in Brunei and within the ASEAN region.

Following the announcement of the Record Keeping (Business) Order, 2015, BICPA was consulted on the outreach program and plans are in process to better disseminate the information to the business owners.

The implementation of IFRS for the financial institutions took effect for accounts beginning 1 January 2014, and BICPA was engaged in a number of dialogues with the Authority. Issues were discussed actions are taken to iron out any conflict of requirement. BICPA played and will continue to play a significant role in leading the financial industry towards IFRS compliance.

BICPA is instrumental in the implementation of the Apprentice Scheme for Accounts Assistant that was set up by the Authority towards the end of 2015. BICPA contributed by providing basic training in book keeping to the unemployed youths, monitor their progress, making report and recommendations to the Authority and generally liaise between the employer and the Authority.

### Developments in Standards and Regulations Affecting the Accountancy Profession

In 2015 a number of changes on standards and regulations relevant to the accountancy profession have been introduced in Brunei Darussalam. They are as follows:

- The regulated financial industry i.e. banking and insurance/takaful are required to prepare and report their financial statements under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) effective this year. The accountancy profession had been involved with the players in this industry to ensure compliance of such requirements.
- There were amendments made to the Companies Act which will be effective from 1 January 2015:
  - a. Companies have to disclose nominee shareholding;
  - b. Companies that are dormant and those with revenue of less than B\$1million are exempted from audit in that year; and
  - c. Companies are to maintain their records for 7 years.
- Amendments to the Income Tax Act were introduced in March 2015 but taking effect in retrospective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. As a measure to encourage the development of the local SME companies with gross sales or turnover that does not exceed \$1m are exempted from corporate tax or charged with 0% corporate tax. The Corporate Income Tax rate for Year of Assessment 2015 has also been reduced from 20% to 18.5%.
- As a form of incentive to aid with the expansion of the local companies the Initial and Annual Allowance for industrial building has been increased from 20% (IA) to 40% and 4% (AA) to 20%. Also, the capital allowance for Plant and Machinery in manufacturing sector has been increased from 100% to 150%. Terms and condition apply.
- The Record Keeping (Business) Order 2015 was passed on 23 June 2015 which requires any business to keep and maintain records which include books of accounts and these records are to be retain for a period of at least 5 years. The passing of this Order is expected to have positive impact to the accountancy profession as businesses are expected to engage accountants to comply with this requirement. This also hoped to counter the effect of the exemption of audits and tax for companies with gross revenue of less than B\$1million which became effective for accounts beginning January 2014.

### Continuing Professional Education Courses

BICPA conducted a number of CPD courses in 2015. They are as follows:

- For the first quarter of the year 2015, BICPA organised the following courses, attended by members and non-members of BICPA:
  - a. Transforming From Previous GAAP to IFRS (Applying IFRS 1) First Time Adoption; and
  - b. Corporate Governance.
- In the first semester of 2015 BICPA also conducted a seminar on “Read, Analyse and Interpret Financial Statements”.
- In March 2015 BICPA also organised a short introduction on the Implementation of Corporate Governance Framework for the general public.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### Other Events

- In March 2015 - half day event on “Corporate Governance”.
- In November 2015 - half day event on “Data Management for Accountants”
- In November 2015 - half day event on “The Importance of Ethical Practice for Accountants” for the full time CAT students.
- In December BICPA had an informal meeting with a representative of ACCA, Emerging Market – Asia, and reached consensus on different matters that impact the Institute and the Academy.



(Photo Caption) Half Day Event in November 2015 on Data Management for Accountants attended by representatives from the Private Sector



Half Day Event in November 2015 on The Importance of Ethical Practice for Accountants only for the full time CAT students.



Half Day Event on Corporate Governance attended by representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Financial Institutions and the Private Sector

### KICPAA



■ Total members: 291



#### Quality Assurance (QA)

Recently, KICPAA has submitted its proposal letter to both the PUM Netherland Technical Consultancy for technical assistance and the World Bank for providing funds to fund for technical assistance on Quality Assurance (QA). KICPAA wished to conduct QA activities in the short future, to improve the audit (and auditor) quality in Cambodia. A number of training workshops have been programmed, addressed to KICPAA's members once funding has been secured. KICPAA acknowledged the importance of raising the awareness of accountants in Cambodia on this key issue.

#### Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



In 2015, nine CPD workshops have been successfully conducted by KICPAA. The pathway for the development of competence to both KICPAA's members and the Cambodian accountants in general is of importance for KICPAA.

KICPAA has increased the efforts to conduct more CPS programs to provide not just opportunities for the accountants to meet their credit requirement, but also to improve the competency and capacity of the accountants in the country.

Nine CPD workshops held in 2015 are as follows:

1. Cambodian Corporate Income Tax—Tax on Profit and Deferred Income Tax
2. Opportunities and Challenges of the MRA Implementation on Accountancy in ASEAN
3. IFRS Update
4. Basic Internal Audit
5. Audit of Real Estate Projects and Its Relevant Accounting Standards and Tax Implication
6. Revenues from Contracts with Customers
7. Corporate Fraud and Forensic Accounting
8. Financial Instrument
9. Business Evaluation

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## National Conference

The National Accounting Council (NAC) as the regulatory authority, together with KICPAA and the national accountancy body in Cambodia, has successfully held a joint National Conference on MRA on Accountancy in ASEAN. Many stakeholders from private firms, universities, and students were invited to the conference, most providing positive feedbacks and a number of concerns with regard to the implementation of the MRA in the region. More important, a survey was conducted as part of this conference with the result supporting and acknowledging the importance for Cambodia to continue in supporting the implementation of the MRA.

## Annual General Meeting



The 12<sup>th</sup> AGM held in June marked an annual gathering among KICPAA's members, aimed at strengthening the cooperation and solidarity of accountants in Cambodia for a better accountancy profession in the country. The AGM was officially opened by Chairman of the professional regulatory authority and government commissioner to KICPAA, H.E Ngy Tayi.

This meeting was intended to wrap up all activities that KICPAA had been doing for its members as well as to present its annual audited financial report for the year to the members. 2015 recorded an increase in CPD activities performed by the organisation, with addition of renovation activities that KICPAA has been involved in.

## Internal Capacity Building

To further enrich KICPAA's human resources development, the organisation has recruited one full time IT staff to work on the development of website platform, technological maintenance and other related tasks. KICPAA acknowledged the importance of using IT as a supporting media in promoting the organisation's activities and latest update on the profession – national, regional, and international. KICPAA also provide significant investment in the development of their human resource by providing sponsorship to the KICPAA staff, further enhancing their capacity in supporting the operation of the organisation.

## Professional Qualification Program

In keeping up with the ever increasing demand for national CPAs in Cambodia, KICPAA strengthened its commitment to launch the Cambodia Professional Qualification Programme in a few years time. KICPAA believes that the launching of this program would help the national economy to grow faster and to be sustainable in the future. Taking this into consideration, KICPAA has made the decision to establish eight papers inclusive of two local variances.

Recently KICPAA focused on internal review of the detailed syllabi, development of action plan and timeframe of activities to support the achievement of the program. In the future, KICPAA is also exploring possibilities to acquire assistance from other professional bodies with relevant experience in conducting a review of the syllabi.

### Other Events

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#### AFA Meetings

In 2015, KICPAA President and delegates participated in all four AFA Council meetings held throughout the year. KICPAA strives to share the up-to-date information received during the meetings to its members and accountants in Cambodia in general.

#### Coordinating Committee on Services Meetings

KICPAA has worked closely with and technically assisted the National Accounting Council (NAC) with the composition of Cambodia's Monitoring Committee (MC) – in the implementation of the ASEAN MRA on Accountancy Services. In addition, KICPAA assist the government on technical aspects, especially areas relevant to the accountancy profession, to support the implementation process. Moving forward, KICPAA will continue to support NAC in this discussion.

#### Anti-Corruption Unit's Workshop

Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia held a national training workshop on Anti-Corruption Programs for Business in Cambodia. This workshop guided and introduced regulations and law enforcement of anti-corruption to all stakeholders, and marked with a publication of Guidebook on Anti-Corruption Program for Business in Cambodia.

#### IFAC Council Meeting

KICPAA delegate attended the IFAC Council meeting in Singapore in November 2015 to share and learn from other countries' on the latest development of the profession.

#### Mutual Evaluation Meetings

Late 2015, the National Bank of Cambodia set up a number of meetings on the discussion with all related entities both private and public sectors to review the Mutual Evaluation (ME) process in Anti-Money Laundering Programs. This initiative was funded by the World Bank.

The expected outcome was to raise concerns (if any) and awareness of the Mutual Evaluation process, to bring what information required by the assessors for technical compliance purposes, and to demonstrate effective implementation of the Anti-Money Law measures. KICPAA would play an important role in developing regulations to ensure the enforcement of Anti-Money Laundering in Cambodia.

### Updated Events

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#### New Law on Accounting and Auditing

The new law on Accounting and Auditing has been approved by the National Assembly of Cambodia, and waiting to be approved by the senate and the final endorsement of the King very soon.

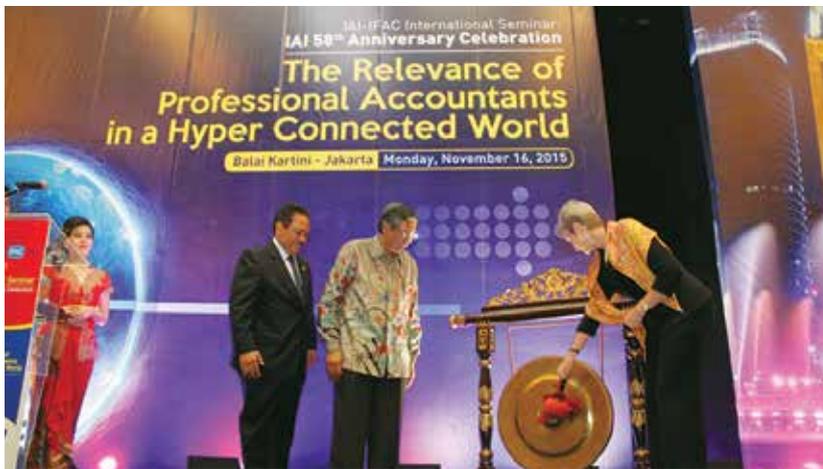
#### KICPAA's Involvement in Financial Investigation Unit for Anti-Money Laundering (AML)

KICPAA is to develop policies and sanctions for its members as a form of precautions against violation of the AML.



### IFAC President Visit to Jakarta

#### IAI – IFAC International Seminar



The Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants (IAI) successfully held a series of events to welcome the first time visit of the International Federation of Accountants' President, Ms. Olivia Kirtley, to Jakarta. The series of events commenced with the IAI – IFAC joint international seminar on 16 December 2015, held in Balai Kartini, Jakarta, with the chosen theme *"The Relevance of Professional Accountants in a Hyper Connected World"*. The series of events was also held as part of celebration of the Institute's 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

IAI President, Prof. Mardiasmo (Vice Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia) officially opened the seminar with a strong reference to the important role of the accountancy profession in leveraging the national economy. "Professional accountants could be the leader of change, nationally, regionally, and most definitely globally" according to Mardiasmo.

Strong Indonesian heritage was of shown at the opening ceremony, through the presentation of the Reog Ponorogo dance, to welcome Olivia and rest of the foreign delegates. Olivia delivered a keynote speech in front of more than 1,000 accountants, most are members of the Institute. In her remark Olivia mentioned that one of the important aspects that affect global growth is the implementation of good governance in various sectors. She encouraged leaders to include strong governance into the DNA of every organisation. She believed that the Indonesian economy will bounce back in 2016, and a strong governance culture will play an important role in contributing to that. The accountancy profession will play an important role because this profession has long been an active advocate for good governance in various sectors.

The seminar successfully grabbed the audiences' attention when the Director of Governance Global Practice of World Bank, Ms. Samia Msadek and the Board Member of IAESB IFAC as well as the IAI National Council member, Prof. Sidharta Utama shared their views on the multi paradigm horizons for the accountancy profession.

There were also a number of prominent speakers participated in this prestigious seminar, among others were the President of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) and the President Director of the Indonesian Stock Exchange.



In her visit to Jakarta Olivia also held a strategic meeting with members of the Supreme Audit Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (*Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan Republik Indonesia – BPK RI*) on 16 December 2015 at the the BPK Building. This visit was aimed to discuss public sector accounting and auditing standards and the importance of their implementation in supporting the improvement of public sector governance.

The final event of the series of events for IFAC President in Jakarta was the Risk and Governance Summit (RGS) 2015 held by the Indonesia Financial Services Authority (*Otoritas Jasa Keuangan - OJK*) on 17 November 2015 at the National Museum of Indonesia, Jakarta. The forum was opened by the Chairman of the OJK Board of Commissioners, Mr. Muliaman Hadad. Olivia delivered her keynote speech in front of more than 350 participants from various background, including members of the Board of Commissioner, Board of Director, Chief Executive, Audit Committee of OJK and 150 invited participants.

### IAI Meet-and-Greet with Indonesian Accounting Students



In conjunction with the IAI – IFAC International Seminar IAI held a meet-and-greet session with the Indonesian accounting students, an event with the theme of *“Inspiring Life of Accountants after Graduation”* on 16 November 2015. More than 500 accounting student were invited, representing 83 universities from around Indonesia, to meet with the IFAC President and IAI Council members.

Olivia joined an interactive discussion led by Prof. Lindawati Gani, as the IAI Council member and Technical Advisor of the IFAC’s International Accounting Education Standards Board. She encouraged young Indonesian accountants to learn from their seniors’ personal and professional experience and enlighten them on the important role of the accountancy profession, particularly in the disruptive moment of business. Ms. Samia Msadek and Prof. Sidharta Utama also joined the following session.

The meet-and-greet session also presented the Minister of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Ignasius Jonan as a successful national professional accountant figure. The two hour session was both inspiring and fruitful for the students, especially in obtaining an understanding of the strategic role of accountants in today’s business world.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### New Regulations in Indonesia Affecting the Accountancy Profession

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#### The Minister of Finance Decree Number 191/PMK.010/2015 on Asset Revaluation

The Minister of Finance of the Republic Indonesia has issued the Minister of Finance Decree Number 191/PMK.010/2015 on Asset Revaluation, dated 20 October 2015. The decree was launched to provide dispensation for corporate taxpayers who will proceed with the company asset revaluation on the year 2015 and 2016. During 2015 and 2016, taxpayers rewarded a privilege to have 3% taxation rates after the asset revaluation and pay their tax before 31 December 2015.

To support implementation of this decree, IAI held a socialisation session as part of the IAI – IFAC International Seminar to celebrate the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IAI. With the theme “Asset Revaluation: The Implication on Tax, Accounting, and Performance Management”, IAI invited the Chairman of the Indonesia Financial Accounting Standards Board (*Dewan Standar Akuntansi Keuangan – DSAK IAI*), Mr. Djohan Pinnarwan and the Director of Taxation Regulation II DJP as well as the Chairman IAI KAPj, Prof. John Hutagaol to discuss this issue. This interactive discussion was led by IAI National Council member, Ms. Rosita Uli Sinaga.

#### The Minister of Finance Decree Number 169/PMK.010/2015 on Debt Equity Ratio

On 9 September 2015, the Minister of Finance of the Republic Indonesia has issued the Minister of Finance Decree Number 169/PMK.010/2015 on Stipulation of Ratio between Debt and Equity for Companies for Purpose of Income Tax Calculation. Under this decree, the maximum debt-to-equity ratio for corporate taxpayers (established or carrying out activities in Indonesia) is one-to-four, i.e., one for equity and four for debt.

The ratio is solely for the purpose of calculating the income tax of the corporate taxpayers, rather than for other purposes such as the ratio required by the Indonesia Capital Investment Coordinating Board for foreign capital companies. This limitation starts to apply for the 2016 tax year. As comparison, the 1984 Decree determined the maximum ratio of one-to-three.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signings

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#### OJK and IAI Sign a MoU to Strengthen the Development of the Indonesia Financial Accounting Standards



The signing of the MoU between IAI and OJK was an important milestone to the development on the financial services sector in Indonesia. Ms. Endang Kussulanjari Tri Subari, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Audit, Risk Management, and Quality Control of OJK and Prof. Lindawati Gani, member of the IAI Council represented their respective organisations in signing the MoU.

Held in 8 June 2015 at the OJK Institute in Jakarta, in conjunction with the hosting of the OJK & IAI IFRS Workshop together with the IFRS Foundation, this historical moment was witnessed by Prof. Dr. Ilya Avianti, SE.,M.Si., Ak., CPA, as the member of the OJK Board of Commissioner, and more than 75 representatives of the Indonesia stakeholders and workshop participants.

The MoU signing is a form of collaboration between the organisations to focus on among others the development of financial accounting standards and accountancy profession that will support the financial services sector in Indonesia. Moreover, both organisations also agree to work together in hosting education and training programs, to improve quality of accounting knowledge and competency of the financial services sector stakeholders.

### IAI, IAPI and IAMI Sign a MoU to Establish Stronger Cooperation Among the Indonesian Professional Accountancy Organisations



The historical MoU signing between IAI, the Institute of Indonesia Certified Public Accountants (*Institut Akuntan Publik Indonesia – IAPI*) and the Institute of Indonesia Management Accountants (*Institut Akuntan Manajemen Indonesia – IAMI*) was held on 26 August 2015 at the Mulia Hotel, Jakarta. The MoU was signed by IAI Council member, Mr. Maliki Heru Santosa, Chairman of IAPI, Mr. Tarko Sunaryo, and Chairman of IAMI, Mr. Afdal Bahaudin.

The MoU reaffirmed the commitment between IAI, IAPI, and IAMI to join hand in the development of the competency and capability of Indonesian accountants. The three institutions have agreed to work together in hosting education and training programs, to improve the quality and skills of the members of the respective organisations. The MoU commits IAI, IAPI and IAMI to also develop the Code of Ethics and Standard Profession for the Indonesian accountants.

Furthermore, the three profession organisations agreed to prepare Indonesian accountants to be ready to compete in the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, as well as on the global scale. IAI Council member, Maliki commemorated this moment as the uniting moment of the accountancy profession organisations in Indonesia, especially to overcome the uncertainty in the dynamic economy situation. He welcomed the positive impact of this MoU in boosting the role of accountancy profession in the development of the national economy.

### MoU between IAI, PT Bursa Efek Indonesia, PT Kliring Penjaminan Efek Indonesia, and PT Kustodian Sentral Efek Indonesia



On 16 November 2015, IAI, PT Bursa Efek Indonesia (PT BEI), PT Kliring Penjaminan Efek Indonesia (PT KPEI) dan PT Kustodian Sentral Efek Indonesia (PT KSEI) has signed an MoU to support the Indonesia financial accounting standards development in Indonesia.

The President of IAI, Prof. Mardiasmo, President Director of Indonesia Stock Exchange, Mr. Tito Sulistio, Director of PT KPEI, Mr. Syafruddin, and Director of PT KSEI, Ms. Friderica Widyasari Dewi represented their respective organisations in signing the MoU. The signing was held as part of the IAI – IFAC International Seminar, witnessed by more than 1,000 Indonesian accountants.

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The four parties welcomed the good working relationship in the development of particularly the Indonesia financial accounting standard and the role of accountancy profession in supporting the financial industry. To boost the role of capital markets in facilitating small and medium enterprises (SMEs), start-up companies, companies engaged in the information technology, creative industries, sport and mining, it is necessary to establish accounting guidelines for these unique industries to support their preparation of a good financial report.

### MoU between IAI and the Society of Actuaries of Indonesia



IAI and the Society of Actuaries of Indonesia (*Persatuan Aktuaris Indonesia – IAI*) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 September 2015. The MoU was signed by Ms. Rosita Uli Sinaga, representing IAI, and Mr. Rianto Djojosingito as the Chairman of PAI. Mr. Djohan Pinnarwan, Chairman of DSAK IAI and a number of the PAI board members witnessed the ceremony which took place at Grha Akuntan, Jakarta.

This MoU will facilitate the mutual sharing of best practices and expertise in discussing accounting issues that are relevant to the actuary profession as well as the industry. Both parties wished for this MoU to be the bond that will connect the accountancy profession and actuary profession in together discussing the actuary standard and practice.

### IAI – ICAEW Working Together to Strengthen the Profession



IAI and ICAEW have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to confirm their commitment in developing and promoting the accountancy profession in Indonesia. Both parties agreed to share views on the accountancy profession both nationally and internationally. The scope of cooperation includes the register student on the University Student Scheme (USS). The USS program is available for students who are enrolled upon professional accountancy education degree program administered by IAI and universities and registered as member of IAI. The timeline of the MoU will be three years, during the course, it will provide IAI – ICAEW members with more platforms to increase communication and networking opportunities.

### OJK and IAI Series of Events: IFRS Training for Trainers (Workshop) and IFRS Seminar on IAS 41 Agriculture

OJK together with IAI successfully held an IFRS Training for Trainers Workshop and IFRS Seminar on IAS 41 *Agriculture* as a full week event held between 8-12 June 2015 in Jakarta. It was part of the OJK's contribution to the development of the accountancy profession in Indonesia and a form of the OJK's recycle of the public funds that it has gathered from the financial service stakeholders in Indonesia.

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In her opening speech, member of the OJK Board of Commissioner, Prof. Dr. Ilya Avianti, SE., M.Si., Ak., CPA welcomed IASB Board Member, Mr. Darrel Scott and the Director of IFRS Education Initiative, IASB, Mr. Mike Wells, as speakers for the Training for Trainers Workshop. This illustrated the good cooperation between the Institute, OJK, and the IFRS Foundation in the development of the Indonesia financial accounting standards. The participants of the IFRS workshop held on 8 and 10 June 2015 were academicians from around Indonesia.

The IFRS Seminar of IAS 41 was held in 9 June 2015, focusing on the opportunities and challenges from the implementation of IAS 41 in Indonesia. It was held to among others prepare the Indonesia agribusiness industry in facing the adoption of IAS 41-based Indonesian standard. Among the prominent speakers participated in the seminar were the Chairman of DSAK IAI, Mr. Djohan Pinnarwan, IAS 41 expert from Malaysia who is also the past Chairman of MASB, Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi, Partner of Pricewaterhouse Coopers Malaysia, Mr. Azizan Zakaria, the CEO of Indonesia Stock Exchange and representatives from agribusiness industries in Indonesia. More than 100 participants, mostly stakeholders of the agribusiness industry in Indonesia attended the seminar, and actively participated in the discussion.

The series of events was closed by the IFRS Training for Trainers for regulators on 11 and 12 June 2015, held at the OJK Institute Jakarta with more than 50 participants were in attendance.

### Transfer Pricing Expo 2015 held by the IAI Taxation Compartment



The IAI Taxation Compartment (IAI KAPj) together with Bureau Van Dijk successfully held the Transfer Pricing Expo 2015 on 15 September 2015 in Grand Hyatt Hotel, Jakarta. Transfer pricing is one of the most important issue in international tax and to encounter this issue, IAI KAPj held the Transfer Pricing Expo 2015 to provide the big picture on tax regulations and the Directorate General of Taxes' policy on the transfer pricing implementation in Indonesia.

The seminar was officially opened by Mr. Maliki Heru Sentosa, representing the IAI Council. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. PM. John L. Hutagaol, Director of Taxes Regulation II Directorate General Tax Indonesia on behalf of Director of General of Taxes Indonesia, Mr. Sigit Priadi Pramudito. With the theme "*Transfer Pricing in the Era of Transparency*", this event was attended by more than 150 participants ranging from accountants, auditors, academicians, tax practitioners, tax consultants and tax regulators. To support the topics, IAI KAPj invited a number of prominent speakers among others Ms. Lisa A. Cea – Tax Treaty Officer of Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Philippines, Mr. Carlo L. Navarro, Partner, Deloitte Tax Solution, Directorate General Tax Indonesia and many more.

### National Accountancy Symposium XVIII Medan

On 16-18 September 2015, the National Accountancy Symposium (SNA) XVIII was successfully held in the city of Medan, North Sumatra. SNA is one of the biggest event for accounting academicians in Indonesia. The Faculty of Economy of the

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

University of North Sumatra was the venue of choice, housing more than 800 participants, ranging from practitioners, professionals, and mostly academics from around Indonesia.



This prestigious event was opened with the keynote speech delivered by the Minister of Research and Technology and Higher Education, Prof. Mohamad Nasir, Ph.D., Ak., CA, who also served as the member of IAI Advisory Board. In his speech, Prof. Nasir emphasised the importance to improve the quality of the graduates. In order to welcome the AEC 2015, accountancy profession should be developed with the needs of the industry as a benchmark.

One of the important agendas of the symposium was research presentations from participants from all over Indonesia, who has successfully put their researches forward and be presented during this event. From around 576 papers submitted this year, a total of 199 papers were selected to be presented during the event, and 3 were selected as the best papers. Issues such as good governance, tax issue, management accounting, auditing and Sharia accounting were among the topics of choice.

### IAI Affiliated Campus

IAI Affiliated Campus program was established in 2013 with the aim to develop continuing cooperation between IAI and the universities as the official provider of accounting education. As the professional accountancy profession organisation in Indonesia, IAI continues to lead the development of accountancy profession as well as to enhance the quality of education and employment of professional accountants. In 2015 there were 13 universities that has joined the IAI Affiliated Campus, through this program IAI ensure the university to always update on the accounting profession and accounting standards.

### Chartered Accountants (CA) Indonesia



As the recognised professional accounting organisation in Indonesia, IAI was given the responsibility to maintain and develop the professionalism of accountants in Indonesia. IAI together with relevant stakeholders, play an important role in improving the quality of accounting education graduates. IAI also responsible to increase the recognition of professional certified accountants in business and industry, as well as to maintain the professionalism and integrity of its members.

Since the first CA Indonesia examination in June 2014, IAI proudly introduced 22 participants who has successfully passed seven subjects examined as part of the designation. The participants of CA Indonesia examination came from independent applicants and attendees of the professional accounting education program (PPAK). The graduation ceremony of CA Indonesia was held in conjunction with the celebration of the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute. The President of IAI, Prof. Mardiasmo as well as members of IAI National Council, Prof. Sidharta Utama and Prof. Lindawati Gani joined the ceremony to congratulate and pass the symbolic CA pins to the graduates.

## LCPAA



■ Total members: 101



### A Change of Name

With the publication of the new accounting law the Lao Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA) has changed its name to the Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA) with immediate effect.

LCPAA will continue with the organisation's mission and in establishing plan on the professional CPD courses and further develop supporting materials for the LFRS for SMEs, for the use of the Lao CPAs and those with interest in working in the field of accounting and finance. LCPAA will also continue to develop the new CPA syllabus for the younger generation or those who wish to continue to enhance their professional skill and becoming a CPA. This is in line with the organisation's effort to become a member of IFAC.

### MoF and LCPAA Seminar on Finance Related Legislations

LCPAA together with the Ministry of Finance of the Lao PDR has held a seminar to disseminate a number of finance-related laws, addressed to accountants in the country. The seminar was held on 19 January 2015 at the Lane Xang Hotel, Vientiane. More than 80 participants attended the seminar, representing accounting and audit firms in Cambodia and accountants practicing in business. Senior technical staff from the Tax and Accounting Departments of the MoF presented some highlighted points of the amended tax, value-added tax, accounting and independent audit laws.



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### Other Activities

- LCPAA and ACCA as a follow up to the previously signed Memorandum of Understanding (signed on 15 October 2014), continuing its discussion and exchanging information on courses and test center for professional and non-professional taking ACCA program. A follow up MoU is estimated for 2016.
- At the same time LCPAA is working with the support from FAP (Federation of Accounting Professions of Thailand) in assisting with the IFRS and ISA training of trainers courses.
- The office of Minister of Finance had appointed Mr. Sonexay Silaphet as the Vice President of LCPAA and also approving LCPAA temporary amended by-laws.
- LCPAA organised its year end 2015 membership meeting following the name change in 30 November 2015. Members participating in the meeting including members of the Board and Director of Accounting from Ministry of Finance. Items in discussion were – year-end financial report of the Chamber, discussing plan for upcoming events for the year of 2016, including discussion of hosting the AFA Council meeting in 2017.



### Other News and Events

- IFRS for SME seminars by VDB Loi to members of MoF;
- LCPAA attended four AFA Council meetings in 2015;
- LCPAA moved to new location in early June 2015, the new address is:

**349/2 Khumphenmeung Road  
Thongsangnang District, Vientiane Capital  
Lao P.D.R.**

MIA



■ Total members: 32,293



### Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA): Growing from Strength to Strength

Occupying a unique space in the accountancy ecosystem, the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) currently plays dual roles as a regulator and a professional accountancy organisation for the Malaysian market.

Its overarching agenda is geared to achieving certain strategic goals. One, developing the accountancy profession to support sustainable economic growth and nation-building against a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) landscape. Two, implementing and enforcing regulations, standards and ethics to enhance governance, strengthen the profession, support business, and protect the public interest.

### Strategy and Operations

As of mid-2015, MIA's leadership is helmed by Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi, MIA President and Datuk Zaiton Mohd Hassan, MIA Vice-President, whose appointments took effect on 27 July 2015. They are supported by the MIA council comprising stakeholders and leaders in the profession as well as the MIA management team.

The duo bring diversified skills and professional credentials to the table. The highly-respected Dato' Faiz is currently the Executive Chairman of PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PwC) Malaysia with over 30 years of experience in the audit and business advisory services of financial institutions both in the UK and Malaysia. He is also the past Chairman of the Malaysian Accounting Standard Board as well as the Asian Oceania Standard Setters Group.

With a notable background in banking and ratings, Datuk Zaiton was first appointed as an MIA Council member on 16 July 2013. She is the Managing Director of Capital Intelligence Advisors Sdn Bhd, and Chairman of the Private Pension Administrator Malaysia, Chairman of a public-listed company, Dolphin International Berhad, and Director of Sime Darby Berhad, BIMB Holdings Berhad and Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad. Leveraging her diversified experience in business, Datuk Zaiton will serve on the IFAC PAIB Committee from 2016.

### 2015: Optimising Change, Leveraging Disruption

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Today's business world is evolving at breakneck speed; innovation, technology, and regulatory and standards reform have been identified as some of the biggest disruptors transforming the accountancy profession and services segment. One of MIA's top priorities is to equip members and the profession, across our key stakeholder segments, with the relevant knowledge and best practices to benefit from disruption.

Our main stakeholder segments are public practitioners, professional accountants in business, academics and educators, and accountants in the public sector; MIA employs several different platforms and tools to engage our stakeholders and keep them abreast of pivotal developments.

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During the 2014/2015 period, MIA focused on certain major themes. These include:

- Championing integrated reporting and higher-quality financial reporting to meet investor needs, provide assurance and comfort, and inspire market confidence.
- Advising Professional Accountants in Business (PAIBs) of changes to audit standards and accounting standards, with the view that PAIBs can advise preparers and Those Charged with Governance (TCWG) on how to discharge their legal responsibilities.
- Advocating good corporate governance by advising Boards and TCWG of their financial oversight and accountability.
- Advocating world-class financial management by preparing public sector accountants and TCWG as well as the upcoming implementation of accrual accounting to replace cash-based accounting in the public sector.
- Preparing members for crossborder opportunities arising from regionalisation efforts, specifically the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) initiative.
- Enhancing the sustainability of small and medium practices (SMPs) despite disruptions in the business landscape, e.g. the adoption of the new Malaysian Private Entity Reporting Standards (MPERs) and increased local and crossborder competition.
- Enhancing accountancy education and embracing talent diversity measures to broaden and deepen talent pools. This aims to achieve Malaysia's goal of producing 60,000 accountants by 2020 to meet projected needs.

Ultimately, these initiatives will enable MIA to achieve its broader long-term goals to enhance investor and market confidence, support local and regional business, improve the profession's performance and public perception, develop talent pipelines and pools, and ensure the profession's relevance and sustainability.

To further its objectives, MIA organised the following key initiatives:

### Embedding Iron and Wisdom



Iron here refers to the need for resilience among accountants as they strive to embrace and leverage on disruption, while wisdom denotes the new competencies that must be acquired to sustain competitiveness.

Market liberalisation and integration pose tremendous risks and opportunities for the status quo, and accountants must come to grips with two of the most significant disruptors: the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), to which Malaysia is a signatory. The Malaysian government is advocating both the AEC and the TPPA to open up market access and sustain economic growth and development.

To create greater awareness and prepare accountants for these cross border opportunities and challenges, the recent MIA International Accountants Conference 2015 with the theme of *Today's Synergy, Tomorrow's Reality*, focused intensively

on AEC and TPPA issues. The highlight of the conference was a dialogue with former Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, widely respected as one of the architects of ASEAN integration and an expert on international trade negotiations, who shared her insights into AEC and TPPA.

### Strengthening Audit, Championing Governance



Convergence and compliance with new accounting and auditing standards are imperative if Malaysia is to benchmark itself by global standards and defend the competitiveness of its capital markets. MIA invested much effort in briefing auditors, preparers and Those Charged with Governance (TCWG) on the impact of a game-changing development - the new auditor's report. The message was delivered through two platforms: the **CG Breakfast Series with Directors: Future of Auditor Reporting** organised by MIA, MICPA and Bursa Malaysia (the Malaysian Stock Exchange), and **AuditWorld 2015**, jointly organised with MICPA. Furthermore, the MIA and MICPA have formed a joint working group to support the implementation of enhancements to auditor reporting in Malaysia.

The new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards are set to enhance the informative value of the auditors' report by providing further insights into the audit of the financial statements of an entity.

In April and July 2015, MIA had adopted the new and revised auditor reporting standards as Malaysian approved standards, which will be effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016. The entire process of new auditor reporting has been structured for better governance and greater transparency.

### Supporting Robust Capital Markets



Quality financial reporting and assurance are key factors which boost market confidence and attract robust investment. Collaborating with stakeholders in the Malaysian reporting ecosystem, MIA works to champion high quality financial reporting through prestigious reporting awards schemes which are aligned with global standards and best practices: the **National Annual Corporate Reporting Awards (NACRA) 2015** and the **National Award for Management Accounting (NAfMA)** awards.

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NACRA 2015 is an annual event organised by the MIA, MICPA and Bursa Malaysia Berhad.

In 2015, the theme was **Towards Accountability and Excellence**. NACRA also introduced a new category for the **Inclusiveness & Diversity Reporting Awards**, a joint effort with Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad, to encourage organisations to value talent diversity as a major factor in improving organisational performance.

Meanwhile, NAFMA which is jointly organised with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) rewards individuals who have successfully championed best practices in management accounting for the benefit of their organisation and environment. MIA encourages management accountants to adhere to the CIMA-AICPA Global Management Accounting Principles.

Another initiative being driven by MIA to enhance Malaysian capital markets is the voluntary adoption of Integrated Reporting <IR> to meet heightened expectations for quality corporate reporting. MIA recently organised two key events to drive awareness and adoption: an **Engagement session with Public Listed Companies on using <IR> to Unlock Trust and Create Value** and an **Investors Roundtable on <IR>: Why is it Relevant to Investors?** Thought leaders from the International Integrated Reporting Council, global investors such as BlackRock and regional MNCs were present to share their insights.

MIA is advocating <IR> as a timely and relevant game-changer to corporate reporting. Beyond financial reporting, <IR> tells how an organisation creates value using multiple capitals – financial, manufacturing, intellectual, human, social and natural. Hence, <IR> will facilitate better information and decision-making, in turn affecting organisational performance and investment. Advocacy is being done via MIA's Integrated Reporting Steering Committee (IRSC).

### Driving Excellence in Public Sector Finance

MIA is a staunch advocate of transparency and excellence in public sector financial management. Hence, we strongly support the Government's initiative to implement accrual accounting to replace cash-based accounting in the public sector. The Malaysian federal government was expected to trial the implementation of accrual accounting sometime in 2015 with state governments following suit in 2016, but full implementation is expected to take longer given the many technical and operational challenges.



The **MIA Government Accrual Accounting 2015 Conference** featured thought leaders such as Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) International Chairman Dr. Ian Ball who shared lessons on best practices in government accrual accounting. Among the takeaway messages: accrual accounting allows governments to accurately measure their resource use and financial position, such as net worth. Accounting for more than cash flows – including the Government’s assets and liabilities in total, including off-balance sheet items as well as pension obligations for public servants – will provide a more accurate picture of the Government’s fiscal position.

In turn, access to qualitative and quantitative information of higher quality should enable better financial decision-making and management decisions by the executive. Linked to this is the urgent need to build capacity for accounting talent in the public sector in order to reap the full benefits of transitioning to accrual accounting. To do this, MIA and MICPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) with CIPFA on 30 March 2015 to offer a direct route to CIPFA membership for MIA members.

CIPFA is unique as the only Professional Accounting Organisation (PAO) which focuses entirely on the public sector. Its objective is to work with other PAOs in order that CIPFA’s resources can be utilised in other countries, strengthening other PAOs’ ability to service members in government, and to support governments in their efforts to strengthen public financial management.

Under the MoU, MIA members have the exclusive privilege to gain CIPFA membership which will increase the MIA member’s professional status and gain access to additional services and support specifically for MIA members working in the public sector. Furthermore, by leveraging CIPFA strengths, this MoU supports the Government in transitioning to accrual accounting while advancing high-quality public financial management in Malaysia.

### Sustaining Small and Medium Practices (SMPs)



Similar to other countries in the region, public practice in Malaysia is dominated by small accounting firms in the form of sole proprietorships, in addition to the strong presence of the Big 4, and an emerging medium-sized accounting firms’ segment.

As at 30 June 2015, on a national basis, 79% of accounting firms (audit firms and non-audit firms) were sole proprietorships. The remaining were multi-partner firms, with only 6% of firms consisting of 3+ partner firms. The predominance of small firms is likely to continue in the near future.

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These firms generally face challenges in terms of staff attraction and retention, technology adoption, limited access to funding and business opportunities in overseas markets.

In addition, the price-competitive environment in the audit profession in Malaysia, coupled with the relatively low salaries paid to audit professionals, has a significant impact on audit quality. If the underlying issues are not addressed, it can set off a vicious cycle of talent leakage and low audit quality that could damage the reputation of the Malaysian audit profession as a whole.

To assist SMPs in addressing challenges and as part of the Institute's continuous efforts towards building SMP capacity, the Institute set up a Small and Medium Practices (SMP) Department effective 1 May 2015.

Signalling the importance of SMPs to Malaysia, MIA worked with IFAC, supported by the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) to organise the MIA-IFAC Regional SMP Forum in Kuala Lumpur. The MIA-IFAC Regional SMP forum gathered national and regional accounting players under a common platform to discuss matters relating to small and medium-sized practices (SMPs). IFAC President Olivia Kirtley delivered a special keynote address where she urged SMPs to leverage disruption and explore strategies for sustainability. Kirtley joined MIA President Dato' Faiz to engage with aspiring young female accountants, supporting MIA's efforts to enlarging the talent pool through talent diversity.

Acknowledging Malaysia's position as a regional hub for accountancy, the IFAC SMP Committee meeting was held on 16-17 December 2015. MIA and AFA representatives were invited as observers.

### Emphasising Talent Diversity



The presence of more qualified accountants is correlated with healthy economic growth, according to international research. Hence, the MIA is identifying capable talent from all segments who can be upskilled in order to achieve the national goal of producing 60,000 qualified accountants by 2020, in order to meet economic demand arising from ongoing transformation strategies at national level. Key efforts including working

with national talent agency TalentCorp Malaysia on plans to bring highly qualified mothers back to work. Member firms are also encouraged to hire graduates from other disciplines and apprentice them as trainee accountants enroute to sitting for professional qualifications.

Training is equally important to augment young talent pools and make them employable – the MIA and TalentCorp collaborated on a six-month Structured Internship Programme (SIP). Under the SIP, final-year accounting students intern with eligible MIA member firms, especially SMPs, which simultaneously provides valuable work experience while assuaging talent shortages for junior staff at the SMPs. To extend the talent pipeline, MIA goes down to the grassroots to stimulate

interest in accounting among talent as young as secondary school students. One effective initiative with education sector stakeholders is the annual MIA-Sunway TES Accounting Quiz (AQ), supported by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and ACCA as the strategic partner. Attesting to its tremendous reach, AQ 2015 attracted some 500 teams comprising 2,000 students from over 150 schools around the country.

MIA also makes efforts to expose youngsters to leaders and icons of accountancy who have led inspiring careers. Recently, over 300 students from higher learning institutions had the opportunity to listen to Sir David Tweedie, who shared his experience and contributions in global accountancy convergence in “Reflections on a Journey of an IFRS Standards Setter”, jointly organised by the Asian Institute of Finance (AIF) and MIA. Sir David Tweedie is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) and former Chairman of the International Accounting Standards Board.



### Enhancing Accountancy Education

Accountancy educators play a pivotal role in ensuring that Malaysia adheres to the highest global standards of accountancy education, and that accountancy education is effective in creating a highly ethical and work-ready talent pool. To help them stay current, MIA organises the annual **National Accounting Educators Convention. NAEC 2015** covered a wide range of current topics which educators could then integrate into their lessons, namely economic transformation impacts, Big Data, Integrated Reporting, Goods and Services Tax (GST), International Financial Reporting Standards/Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/MFRS) and Malaysia Public Sector Accounting Standards (MPSAS).

### International Engagement



MIA is held in high esteem by international accounting bodies such as IFAC, and we are frequently benchmarked as a model PAO for other developing nations to emulate. As such, we are delighted to play host to other PAOs and international visitors who wish to share our best practices and lessons learnt. Such visits also enable Malaysia to build relationships and networks to facilitate cross-border business and talent mobility. In 2015, MIA hosted study groups comprising high-ranking delegates from Myanmar, Vietnam, Nepal and India.

### Regionalisation and Cross-border Opportunities

Reflecting Malaysia's current position as Chair of ASEAN, MIA as the agency tasked with development of accountancy services is committed to creating awareness of the AEC's prospects, particularly with regards to talent mobility issues. A key platform for branding the AEC was the Malaysian Institute of Accountants - ASEAN Federation of Accountants (MIA-AFA) Seminar 2015 with the theme **ASEAN Economic Community 2015: Accounting Profession Beyond Borders** on 30 January 2015.



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## Looking Ahead to 2016

### CSAP Reforms

The profession in Malaysia is poised to adopt reforms proposed in 2014 by the Committee to Strengthen the Accountancy Profession (CSAP). In addition to conducting intensive analysis of the CSAP and its potential impacts, MIA has been actively engaging with its stakeholders to gauge their views on the CSAP proposals and implementation process in order to reach a solution which is amenable to all. While the granular details of MIA's post-CSAP strategy remain confidential, in general MIA will adopt a 3R strategy – Rebuild, Rebrand and Recruit – in order to develop and strengthen the accountancy profession.

Rebuilding efforts will pivot around CSAP as a platform for change. Although the CSAP is not an MIA initiative, MIA welcomes CSAP as a window for beneficial reform. Hence, with the cooperation of our stakeholders, MIA would like to take the opportunity to leverage CSAP to implement positive changes to the accountancy landscape. Rebranding refers to CSAP's objective of separating MIA's regulatory and professional roles to optimise effectiveness in the regulatory and PAO space. Recruit refers to Malaysia's target of producing 60,000 accountants by 2020 to meet economic demands and support nation-building. As a PAO, MIA will be able to dedicate its resources to building a sustainable talent pipeline and rebrand the profession as an attractive career option.

### Back to Basics



Regardless of future developments, MIA believes that it is critical for accountants to analyse their *raison d'être* and embrace their principles in order to be of genuine service to their stakeholders and partners. Accountants are encouraged to revisit history to understand the origins and purpose of the profession, in providing comfort, assurance and prudent advisory to their clients. By advocating honesty and transparency in their main deliverables of quality financial reporting and providing assurance, accountants can rebuild the trust that has been tarnished by global financial scandals and crisis.

To embed ethical behaviour, MIA has initiated a dedicated ethics event, although we make efforts to integrate ethics content into all our initiatives. 2015's ***Walking the Ethical Tightrope***, which was a joint effort between MIA and Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), centered on the ethical dilemmas faced by professional accountants in all sectors. Issues addressed were bridging the power distance, enforcing whistleblowing, and defining grey areas. The event included a simulation called Living Ethics, where participants navigated a practical ethical dilemma.

Indeed, the importance of ethics can never be emphasised enough. As a profession, it is our responsibility to pivot to ethics and integrity. Stripping aside technical excellence and financial skills, this is where accountants can add genuine value as a profession. By championing ethics and integrity, MIA believes that it can be at the forefront of helping to restore the profession's erstwhile reputation and credibility as indispensable business partners.

### MAC



■ Total members: 630



In Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC), there are two types of registration: Registration as Certified Public Accountant - CPA and Registration as Practicing Accountant - PA. Only CPA can be registered as PA. Total member of Registered Certified Public Accountant - CPA is 630. Registered Certified Public Accountants - CPAs are also members of MICPA. Therefore, the number of total member is 630.

#### New Myanmar Accountancy Council Law - 2015

- Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted new Myanmar Accountancy Council Law which repeals the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law-1994 on 5 June 2015. The new law makes the following provisions which are not in the previous law:
  - a. Duties and powers of Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants - (MICPA) as National Accountancy Body.
  - b. Permission for opening the private-owned accounting training schools for Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Diploma in Accountancy (DA) training courses.
  - c. Recognition of Citizens who hold Foreign Accounting Certificates as CPAs.
  - d. Permission for Practice of Accounting by Foreign Professional Accountants.
  - e. Stipulations for Financial Reporting Standards.
  - f. Requirements in terms of accounting fields and application for registration.
- Under the new MAC Law, the following committees are to be formed to more effectively regulate and develop the accounting profession:
  - a. The Supervisory Committee for Apprentice Accountants and Private-owned Accounting Training Schools;
  - b. The Curriculum Committee;
  - c. The Examination Committee;
  - d. The Accounting Standards Committee;
  - e. The Audit Monitoring Committee;
  - f. The Accounting Oversight Committee;
  - g. The Practicing Certificate Scrutiny Committee;
  - h. The Diploma in Accountancy and Certified Public Accountant Certificate Scrutiny Committee;
  - i. Investigation Board;
  - j. Discipline Supervisory Committee.
- MAC was constituted, with 40 members by Notification No. 77/2015 dated 28 August 2015 of the Union Government under the new MAC Law.
- In order to carry out the functions of the MAC, the Executive Committee and the following sub-committees were formed by the resolution of the MAC meeting held on 12 September 2015:
  - a. The Supervisory Committee for Apprentice Accountants and Private-owned Accounting Training Schools;
  - b. The Curriculum Committee;
  - c. The Examination Committee;
  - d. The Accounting and Auditing Standards Committee;

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

- e. The Audit Monitoring Committee;
  - f. The Accounting Oversight Committee;
  - g. The Practicing Certificate Scrutiny Committee;
  - h. The DA and CPA Certificate Scrutiny Committee.
- MAC held its meetings seven times throughout 2015. MAC Executive Committee held its meeting six times during the year, whilst the MAC Compliance Review Committee held its meetings for 11 times during the year.

### 119<sup>th</sup> AFA Council Meeting 8-9 August 2015



MAC hosted the 119<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting on 8-9 August 2015, Yangon, Myanmar. Back-to-back with the meeting, the AFA – MAC/MICPA SME Forum 2015 was held under the auspicious of the ACCA, which was attended by representatives of ASEAN member countries and MAC/MICPA and other members. In the event, GIZ launched its Country Strategy Action Plan.

### Training Courses

- The 41<sup>st</sup> Batch of CPA Part I entrance exam was held on 8 February 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre. 2,996 candidates sat for the exam. The exam result was notified on 19 March 2015 and 884 candidates passed the exam. This training course was commenced on 11 May 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre simultaneously and the total number of attendees was 764.
- Training Course for 40<sup>th</sup> Batch of CPA Part II was commenced on 16 September 2015 at the Yangon Training Centre. The total number of attendees was 209.
- Training Course for DA Part I (2015-2016 Academic Year) was commenced on 2 February 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre. The number of attendees was 953. This Training Course exam will be held on 11-15 January 2016 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre.
- DA Part II (2015-2016 Academic Year) was commenced on 1 June 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre and the number of attendees was 150.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> Batch of CPA Part I exam was held on 22-29 June 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre and 744 candidates sat for the exam. The exam result was notified on 10 August 2015. Among them 207 candidates passed the exam and the pass-rate was 27.87%.
- The 39<sup>th</sup> Batch of CPA Part II exam was held on 3-10 August 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre. 149 candidates sat for the exam. The exam result was notified on 25 September 2015. Among them, 43 candidates passed the exam and the pass-rate was 28.86%.

- The examination of DA Part I (2014-2015 Academic Year) was held on 5-9 January 2015 simultaneously in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre. 594 candidates sat for the exam. The exam result was notified on 21 March 2015. 172 candidates passed the exam and the pass-rate was 28.96%.
- DA Part II (2014-2015 Academic Year) exam was held on 11-18 May 2015 in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Training Centre and 291 candidates sat the exam. The exam result was notified on 30 July 2015. Among them 51 candidates passed the exam and the pass-rate was 17.5%.

### Other Events

- In order to push forward recognition of Myanmar citizens who hold ACCA, CIMA, CA and CPA certificates and degrees from foreign international organisations, MAC open the possibility for the holder to take a qualifying test on three subjects; Auditing, Industrial and Commercial Laws and Taxation. A pass on these exams will result in recognition of the holders as CPAs. Pass certificates will be issued by the Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC).  
These qualifying tests shall be held by MAC twice a year, ie in January and July. Qualifying Test was held on 8-10 July 2015 for the first time. The number of candidates was 30. The exam result was notified on 10 August 2015. Three candidates passed the exam and the pass-rate was 10%. The second Qualifying Test will be held on 6-8 January 2016.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> CPA and DA Certificates Conferring and Prizes Awarding Ceremony of MAC was held on 20 December 2015 in Yangon. Pass Certificates were conferred on the candidates who passed the CPA and DA Part-II Exam and outstanding candidates were awarded prizes at that ceremony.
- The practical training period required by CPAs for registration as CPA (full-fledged) is revised from 2 years to 3 years in order to be in line with the requirements of the ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountant (ACPA) under the MRA.

### Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)

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#### Recognition of the MICPA as the National Accountancy Body

- The new MAC Law recognised MICPA as a National Accountancy Body (NAB) under Section 2 (q), in Myanmar.
- The duties and powers of the MICPA were prescribed by Section 18 ( a to j ) of the new Law. Of them, only significant duties and responsibilities of the MICPA are presented below:
  - a. cooperating with the Council in participating in the activities concerning accounting education and accounting matters that are carried out under the provisions of this Law;
  - b. submitting and providing advice to the Council on the curriculums, rules and regulations, standards and procedures that ought to be prescribed or amended in regard to accounting education and accountancy services;
  - c. cooperating to work with the International Accounting Bodies on the development of modern accounting education;
  - d. arranging to carry out the CPD programs;
  - e. recommending to the Council the work programs, guide, standards, handbook, arrangement for quality control and professional ethics to be prescribed in terms of accounting fields or types of accounting work, as appropriate;
  - f. providing advice on accounting matters at the request of the Union Ministry, Division or State Government;
  - g. setting up a fund with income, cash received, and contributions in accordance with the regulations of the Institute or the decisions of the Council;
  - i. scrutinizing and submitting to the Council the grievances and complaints of the Practicing Accountants and Professional Accountants;
  - j. reporting to the Council on the performance of the Institute.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## Seminars and Workshops on Professional Development

- Under the program of Continuing Professional Development a series of seminars and workshops and forums have been conducted, covering subjects such as International Accounting Standards (IAS), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing.

In addition to them, other subjects that MICPA members (professional accountants) ought to know about have been put on the year-round CPD agenda. They are Myanmar Companies Act, Income tax Law and Regulations, Professional Ethics, Security Exchange, Provisions of the New MAC Law, especially prohibitions regarding professional conduct of MICPA members (Practicing Accountants). These activities are regularly held on a monthly basis, for which experts – local and foreign, are invited to deliver lectures on the subjects in their respective fields. Moreover a 6-month workshop on practical application of IFRS was organised by GIZ, attended by 50 MICPA members.

- The following CPD seminars were held in the year 2015:
  - a. SAP seminar on Enterprise Resources Planning (18 January 2015)
  - b. GIZ Workshop on IFRS for SMEs
  - c. IFRS Workshop for Stock Exchange (3-5 February 2015)
  - d. Presentation of Financial Statement (MAS-1) (22 March 2015)
  - e. Union Tax Law 2015 (31 May 2015)
  - f. Dollars, Investments, Hedges & Taxes (28 June 2015)
  - g. Performance Management for Businesses (26 July 2015)
  - h. Myanmar Accountancy Council Law 2015 (30 August 2015)



- i. Rights Issue before Initial Public Offering (27 September 2015)
- J. Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on Taxation (25 October 2015)
- k. Cloud or SaaS (Software as a Service) ERP (29 November 2015)
- l. Panel Discussions on the Recent Notifications Issued by MAC (27 December 2015)

### Cooperation with International Accounting Bodies



MICPA has established cooperation with the international accounting bodies and other organisations in conducting seminars and workshops for the professional development of its members on a wide range of subjects. Those organisations include ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, Daiwa, and GIZ, which have provided technical expertise and financial support to MICPA.

With the cooperation and help of GIZ, training courses have been held jointly by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), MAC, Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and the

Myanmar Institute of CPAs (MICPA), which are designed to enable the banks, both private and public, to comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards in the Myanmar banking sector. As a result, the Banking Sector Financial Reporting Standards Implementation Committee (BFRIC) has already been formed with four representatives each from CBM, MAC, OAG and MICPA. Dr. Maw Than, Rector (Retired), Yangon Institute of Economics, Member of CBM Board of Directors and Member of MAC acted as its chairman.

### Foreign Study Tours

A group of representatives from CBM, MAC, OAG and MICPA – was sent out in May 2015 on the second study tour to Malaysia, organised by GIZ with the co-operation of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), Malaysian Institute of CPAs (MICPA), Office of the Auditor General of Malaysia, Bank Negara Malaysia, Audit Oversight Board and MayBank of Malaysia. The objective was to study their functions and their roles in developing and regulating the accounting profession, both in the corporate and in the banking sectors. Eleven members of MICPA attended workshops on Stock Exchange operations and three trainees were selected from among them and sent out to Japan on a study tour to study the practical side of the Stock Exchange operation in Japan.

### Overseas Meetings Attended by MICPA EC Members

The MICPA EC members have attended the meetings of foreign professional accountancy bodies, and shared with MICPA members the knowledge of the subjects discussed and the experiences they have gained there:

- a. AFA Council meetings that are held every three months in the members countries;
- b. ASEAN Committee on Co-ordination Services Meeting;
- c. CAPA meeting in Seoul, South Korea;
- d. World Accounting Standard setters meeting in London, UK;
- e. IASB Meeting with World Standard-setters meeting in London, UK; and
- f. Small and Medium Practice Forum.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signed with Foreign Organisations**

In order to obtain co-operation and technical assistance and support for the development of accounting professional by enhancing the professional expertise and competency of MICPA members, MICPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015 with GIZ, focused on efforts on the improvement of financial reporting in the banking sector.

### **Discussions Held with Local and Foreign Organisations**

MICPA held meetings with the local and foreign organisations on strengthening the capacity of the MICPA and development of professional accounting to international standards. They are; ACCA, CIMA, Daiwa, ICAEW, IMF, World Bank, JICPA, ADB Myanmar Companies Act Amendment Team and Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Security Exchange Commission, and the Internal Revenue Department (Taxation Reforms).

MICPA has made the best of efforts for the development of accounting profession according to international standards, in accordance with the provisions of the new Mac Law (2015). MAC has formed the Monitoring Committee to regulate and exercise oversight over the accounting profession and also to ensure that the commercial enterprises prepare their financial statements in accordance with the IAS and IFRS, for transparency and accountability. This is also to ensure that practicing accountants audit those accounts in compliance with ISA and report on whether those financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS.

## PICPA



■ Total members: 19,380



### Joint Annual Planning Conference and Induction of New PICPA Officers for FY 2015-2016

The Annual Planning Conference (APC) and Induction of the new sets of officers for the fiscal year 2015-2016 was held on 2-4 July 2015 in Tagaytay City. The three-day event was designed to introduce and update the new sets of officers with the goals of the institution for the fiscal year. It was during this session that the theme “Sharing Success. Beyond Borders” for the fiscal year was presented by the National President.

During the event, the PICPA Governance Scorecard that embodies the objectives and plans were thoroughly discussed and approved by the PICPA National Board of Directors, and the committee chairs, regional office and chapter presidents work on their Unit Scorecards that are aligned with the PICPA Governance Scorecard.

In her valedictory address, outgoing President Tita Ampo-Caluya reported her accomplishments. She extended her gratitude to all who have played a vital role in the implementation of her plans, starting from the Board, to the Regional & Sectoral Directors, Chapter Presidents, Committee Chairpersons, PICPA Staff and officers, and to her family. The newly sworn in President Dominador A. Barrion accepted the mantle of responsibility in a ceremonial turn-over after he took his oath. In his inaugural address, he laid out his 5-point agenda for PICPA year 2015-2016: 1) Membership Development; 2) Professional Development; 3) Corporate Social Responsibility; 4) Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency; and 5) Upholding Ethics.



Induction of new set of officers for FY 2015-2016 at DAP Conference Center Tagaytay City

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Performance Governance System (PGS) on Accountancy



Convergence of the luminaries of the Accountancy profession in support of the PGS

The 2015 PGS Roadmap for the Institutionalisation of PGS in the accountancy profession is a joint and flagship project of the Professional Regulations Commission Board of Accountancy and the Accredited Professional Organisation of the accountancy profession which is PICPA together with the four sectoral organisations of the Accountancy Profession – Government Association of Certified Public Accountants (GACPA), Association of Certified Public Accountants in Public Practice (ACPAPP), Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and National Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (NACPAE) under the guidance of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA).

The accountancy profession had already achieved and has been conferred the three stages in the Performance Governance System or PGS pathway of ISA, namely: Initiated and Compliant stages in 2008 and the Proficiency stage in 2009. It is now vying for the fourth and last stage, the Institutionalised level. The accountancy profession is the only one among the 42 professions in the Philippines vying for such conferment in the PGS Pathway that will put the profession in the Hall of Fame for Good Governance.

To reach the institutionalisation stage, the accountancy profession is required to comply with the ten Essential Elements of Good Governance which includes the presence of Breakthrough results and Success stories of the accountancy profession, the presence of fully functioning Office for the Strategic Management (OSM) and the Multi-Sectoral Governance Council (MSGC).

The challenge now for the accountancy profession is to sustain its momentum and to institutionalise the Profession's gains. The PGS Committee is currently preparing for Revalida in a Public Governance Forum with the guidance and direction of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) for the conferment of Institutionalised level in the PGS Pathway. Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organisation that advocates good corporate governance reforms.

The PGS Committee sat in a conference with the evaluators of the Institute of Solidarity in Asia (ISA) last 6 October 2015 to listen to their report on the strategic readiness of the accountancy profession to be conferred the Institutionalised Award of the PGS after years of preparation and compliance with the standards. ISA's executive director and program managers

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

presented their findings before the Committee. Discussions and agreements on various matters of the report ensued with some major issues/findings revisited to attune them with the unique nature, governance and operations of the profession.

The PGS Proponents and Leaders of the accountancy profession, looking forward to the conferment of the award during the first semester of 2016, express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the support and cooperation they get from all the officers and members of PICPA and its four sectoral organisations: ACPAPP, ACPACI, NACPAE, GACPA and the accountancy regulators, the PRCBoA and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

### 70<sup>th</sup> PICPA National Convention

The 70<sup>th</sup> PICPA Annual National Convention, hosted by PICPA – Southern Tagalog Region (STaR) was held on 25-28 November 2015 at the Puerto Princesa City Coliseum, located in the heart of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan with over 2,700 Certified Public Accountants and guests in attendance. The organising committee, chaired by Ms. Ma. Elma I. Ame and the officers of the STaR Region left no stones unturned in mapping out the plans and programs for a successful convention.



Ceremonial turnover of key by the Mayor of City of Palawan to the PICPA President



Apart from the all-time favorites Sectoral Fora and Business Regulators Fora, the technical session topics included leadership and cross-culture business etiquettes, all in line with this year's PICPA theme: "Sharing Success. Beyond Borders". Foreign and local resource persons who were invited were applauded and appreciated

by the participants. Social activities such as sports, networking, awards night, and fellowship activities added color and festivities to the conference.

### PICPA Hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference

On 4-5 December 2015, the 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference was held in Makati City, Philippines, hosted by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). The theme of the conference was ASEAN Integration: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs and SMPs. The 19<sup>th</sup> AFA President, Estelita C. Aguirre and her Conference Committee Chairs Josefe Sorreña-Ty and Corazon Pangcog invited international and regional resource persons to speak on the pressing issues and concerns affecting the small entrepreneurs and practitioners as an impact of the ASEAN integration.

Hence, the one-day conference brought together regional and global experts, professional accountancy organisations, regulators, policy makers, standard-setters, other interested parties, and more importantly accountants in the Philippines to discuss the effects of the ASEAN integration to particularly the ASEAN SMEs and SMPs. The conference also looked at the adoption and implementation of quality assurance review as a component in successfully welcoming the ASEAN integration.

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The panel discussions on “ASEAN integration: Boon or Bane for SMEs?” and on “Quality Assurance Review: Challenges, Opportunities and Benefits in Adoption and Implementation” and such other topics as “ Specific Tax Issues and Reforms, Engendered by Integration”, “Adoption of IFRS on SMEs in ASEAN, Impacts on SMEs and SMPs” and “Maximizing Opportunities of Accountants from the ASEAN Integration” were all appreciated by the conference participants.

### Philippines form Monitoring Council (MC) for MRA

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Board of Accountancy (BoA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) agreed to form the ASEAN Monitoring Council (AMC) to implement the provisions of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) services in mutually recognizing ASEAN Certified Public Accountants (ACPA) based on three major standards. These standards relate to the professional qualifications of the CPA to be reviewed by PRC; the academic qualifications to be reviewed by CHED; and their practice and experience to be reviewed by PICPA. The objectives, processes, and procedures were finalized in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the respective leaders of the institutions

### Committee Report and Updates

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Committee, together with the PRC- Board of Accountancy (BoA) CPD Council, has been doing series of meetings to fast track bringing the CPD for Philippine Accountants at par with the international level. Taking into serious consideration BoA's Directives for Priority Actions for the CPD Program, PICPA CPD Committee prioritised to act towards the following this year: First, to move the required CPD units for a 3-year period from 60 to 120 to adhere to IES 7; second, to institutionalise on-line activities for self-directed learning; and third, to fine tune the Competency Framework for the Philippine CPAs.

The QAR committee finished phase 1, 2 & 3 of the Voluntary QAR program for SMPs. The program was presented to PRBoA Chairman Joel Tan-Torres and PRBoA, CPD Chair Gerard Sanvictores in two separate occasions. Both were pleased in the program presented and they expressed their support to the said program. Chairman Tan-Torres cited that additional incentives will be given to Practitioners who will avail of this VQAR program. Phase 1 was presented in three conferences, Baguio, Cebu and Pampanga. Surprisingly, the participants accepted favorably the program and are willing to be reviewed. After presentation to the membership during the ANC, implementation will commence. We are seeing compliance to the 1<sup>st</sup> SMO to IFAC. All these because of the untiring and unselfish dedication of the committee at no cost to PICPA.

The Taxation and Legislation Committee published the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Tax Journal which will be offered at a very reasonable price. This will be offered too, to the various schools offering Accountancy programs, a good reference materials for their students. A tax forum was held last October attended by the various members and stakeholders.

The CPD Committee works hand in hand with the PRBoA CPD Council in the enhancement of the CPD requirements of the profession. They took active participation in the PICPA-hosted workshop for CPD toolkit preparation funded by World bank facilitated by CAPA. The proposed transition and gradual implementation will also be presented to the membership during the ANC. The CSR Committee also conducted a Financial Literacy seminar for the Youth, in coordination with DLSU CSR Program for its partner communities in Manila.

The Integrity Initiative Advocacy, Faculty/ Students Development, Accountancy Research Committees developed and designed training modules which will be offered and scheduled in the ensuing months. A seminar on Good Governance will be offered to MGS at cost in January.

The Committee on Membership accounted for all the Members in Good Standing in each Chapter and Region as of June, 2015 and they are challenging all Chapters and Regions to increase the membership based on the respective scorecard which the Chapter Presidents agreed during the PICPA Annual Planning Conference held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) last 2-4 July 2015. In this connection, the Board passed the following resolutions otherwise known as the "Senior Citizens Program", in order to welcome back to the folds CPA Senior Citizens through the payment of only P3,000 to become a Sustaining Life Member (SLM). Also an optional program for newly passed CPAs, to pay P10,000 SLM fee payable in 6 monthly instalments.

### Six-Point Strategy for the Accountancy Profession

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The Board of Accountancy (BoA) Chair Joel Tan Torres announce that BoA has formulated a six-point strategy for the accountancy profession. The strategic plan as linked to the Expanding Horizons initiatives are presented below:

#### Institute Quality and Governance Measures

**Projects:** Performance Governance System Institutionalifation, Enhancement of the Continuing Professional Development and Accreditation, implementation of ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement, updated Code of Ethics, Partnership with Integrity Initiative, Award for Most Outstanding Expanding Horizon Organisation, ACCA Partnership, Governance reform and oversight over the APO and sectoral organisations, Preparation of Manuals, Inspection of schools, adoption of the CAPA Maturity Model, WB Public Expenditure of Financial Accountability Tool, UNCTAD ISAR Accounting Development Tool, ACPA Assessment Tool, Introduction of the Doctoral Program in Accountancy, Setting up an e-library

#### Effectively Regulate the Profession

**Projects:** QAR implementation, Pro-active campaign against erring CPAs, Coordination with other regulators, Streamlining of administrative investigation process, Posting of list of CPAs in public practice, promoting Cyber Security over accountancy platforms, Prescribing Schedule of fines and penalties, Prescribing Quality Accreditation Checklist, Ocular inspection of principal place of business, and the Certificate of FS preparation, Periodic reporting of accredited CPAs

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Enhance Image and Reputation of the Accounting Professional

**Projects:** Project ACCT, News Ledger magazine, Highest Standards Technical Journal, Debit Credit column in Business Mirror, Champion CPAs coffee table book, Testimonial for the Pioneers of the Profession, Project ABC atbp, Talakayan School Competition, Accountancy Museum, Building for Accountancy

### Enhance Stakeholders' Involvement and Cooperation

**Projects:** Holding of Accountancy Stake-holders Forum, dialogue with Affiliated Accountancy Certification Bodies, tie up with Developmental Partners, involvement in the Council of Accreditation Regulators, Academic Industry linkages, CPA for CPA (Revenue audit of BOC) Project, Providing feedback on K to 12, TESDA and Cooperative accountancy matters, Assistance in implementing the Tax Academy Law, Meetings with Accountancy Regulators of other countries, Pursue membership in UNCTAD ISAR, IFIAR and AARG

### Institute Structural Changes

**Projects:** Review of Accountancy Law, amend Audit Threshold rules, formation of the Technical and Secretariat Office, WB Review of the Standards and Codes Initiative study, Revision of Accountancy Curriculum and Board Examination Syllabi, BoA, improvement in the procedures for CPA oath taking and Accountancy Week celebration, Stress Management Project for the CPA examinees, institute changes in administration of CPA Board Examination and the new CPA oath taking

### Provide Communication and Assistance Mechanisms

**Projects:** Website, Facebook, Twitter, Sectoral and Career Tracking Surveys, Internship Program, Volunteer Program, Information Technology Project, Notification system.



## ISCA



■ Total members: 29,839



### A Look at 2015: ISCA is On Track for the Future

Singapore is at the half-way mark of its journey to be a leading global accountancy hub for Asia Pacific in 2020. As the national accountancy body, the Institute's goal is to enhance the profession and support our members in various ways.

### International Partnerships to Enhance Members' Career Mobility and Promote Accountancy Profession

#### Singapore Accountants' Employability Enhanced as ISCA joins Chartered Accountants Worldwide



Chartered Accountants Worldwide board members with ISCA CEO Lee Fook Chiew (3rd from left). Chartered Accountants Worldwide board members as follows (left to right): Terence Nombembe, Michael Izza, Pat Costello, Lee White and Anton Colella.

ISCA became the first Chartered Accountancy body to gain Associate membership in Chartered Accountants Worldwide, joining founding members Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ), Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI), Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS), and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). Not only does this enhance the global prospects for Singapore accountants, it is also testament to ISCA's commitment to developing the accountancy profession in Singapore.

#### ISCA, SAC and CAI Sign Expression of Intent to Explore Routes to Reciprocal Membership

In January, the Singapore Accountancy Commission (SAC), Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), and Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI) signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) which signalled the intent to foster closer ties among the three organisations. The EOI paves the way for the three organisations to explore reciprocity for members of ISCA and CAI. A reciprocity agreement sets out the framework for members of one body to become members of the other, subject to members meeting the conditions of the agreement.

#### ISCA-CIMA Pathway MoA

In March, ISCA and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) agreed to establish the ISCA-CIMA Pathway for Singapore accounting professionals. This partnership enables ISCA members with three years of post-qualification working experience to hop on a fast track to the globally-recognised *Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA)* designation. Not only does this enhance the employability of ISCA members, it helps equip Singapore accountants with the management accounting knowledge they need to flourish in an increasingly challenging and complex business environment.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### ISCA and ACCA Collaborate to Develop Talent Pipeline for the Accountancy Sector



ISCA President Gerard Ee and ACCA CE Helen Brand sealing the partnership agreement aimed at widening the accountancy talent pool.

In May, ISCA and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) entered into a collaboration to encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue a career in accounting. The ISCA-ACCA collaboration is based on the Fundamentals Level of the ACCA Qualification; ISCA will be contributing its inputs to the Singapore law and tax variant papers, and working with ACCA on joint initiatives to boost student support and employability.



Concluding the EOI to explore routes to reciprocal membership were (from left) SAC CE Uantchern Loh, SAICA Executive Director in Nation Building Chantyl Mulder, and ISCA CEO Lee Fook Chiew.

### ISCA, SAC and SAICA Sign Expression of Intent to Explore Routes to Reciprocal Membership

In June, ISCA, SAC, and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) entered into an Expression of Intent (EOI) to explore a reciprocity agreement among the three organisations, paving the way for enhanced collaboration and increased international recognition for members, and laying the foundation for them to explore greater opportunities worldwide.

### ICAEW and ISCA sign MoU to Strengthen Their Collaboration

ISCA and ICAEW also expanded on their successful partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November, the second between the two organisations, to deepen their collaboration in research and technical updates. The two bodies will combine their respective strengths to conduct research and technical explorations that will support the accountancy sector in Singapore and the ASEAN region. The joint effort will provide insights and help solve many of the pressing issues faced by accountancy firms, companies and regulators locally and regionally.

### Widening Pathways for Accountancy Talent Pipeline

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#### ISCA Establishes More Pathways to Widen Accountancy Talent Pipeline

ISCA has created new membership pathways to strengthen the talent pipeline. The move supports the government's SkillsFuture initiative, and addresses the shortage of skilled talent in accountancy and finance. A new Affiliate membership class, which enables non-graduates to become ISCA members thus receiving professional support and recognition, will commence in June 2016.

#### ISCA, AAT and SAA-GE Ink MoU to Develop Accounting Talent in the Region

The Institute will be offering the ISCA Accredited Accounting Technician (ISCA AAT) Diploma in partnership with the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), the world's leading professional membership body dedicated to the education and development of accounting technicians. In November, ISCA and its education arm SAA Global Education (SAA-GE) inked a MoU with AAT to offer the AAT qualification to accounting technicians in Singapore. The ISCA AAT qualification is a flexible, skills-based programme for accounting technicians and develops practical skills such as basic bookkeeping, drafting of financial statements and auditing.

#### Expanded ISCA Associate Pathway

To add to the diversity as well as length and breadth of the talent pool, ISCA will also expand the Associate pathway to ISCA membership in March 2016. More professional accountants, including accountancy graduates of foreign universities, will be able to join ISCA as Associate members. Under this new membership criterion, professional accountants with a recognised accounting degree or an equivalent accounting qualification, working in the multi-faceted accountancy profession across diverse sectors, will be eligible.

### Raising Our Capabilities in Global Developments

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#### AFA Accounting Group – A Unified Voice for ASEAN

Within the region, ISCA is playing an active role in the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) to advance the role and promote the value of the accounting profession in light of the upcoming launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by the end of 2015.

In this regard, ISCA mooted the establishment of the AFA Accounting Standards Group (AASG) and with the approval of the AFA Council, the Group was successfully set up in early 2015. ISCA was elected as Chair of the AASG which aims to be a platform for ASEAN PAOs to engage in collaborative learning through sharing of experiences and lessons learnt as well as the best practices in the adoption/implementation of IFRSs. With this, the AASG will work towards discussing and putting up regional views on international accounting standards especially those affecting ASEAN.

#### Accounting Model for Micro Entities

One of the planned tasks of AASG is to assist AFA to develop a simplified accounting model that is suitable for micro entities operating in ASEAN. The Institute is leading the development of the accounting model for micro entities. This model will help encourage micro entities to transition from cash to accrual accounting and facilitate businesses in preparing

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

consistent and reliable financial information according to a set of recognised accounting standards. In turn, this will help facilitate wider acceptance and adoption of international standards of financial reporting within ASEAN.

### ISCA Chairs ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountants Coordinating Committee

To facilitate the mobility of accountancy services professionals across ASEAN and to enhance the current regime for the provision of accountancy services in ASEAN, ISCA – on behalf of Singapore – led the negotiations of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Accountancy Services. By 2017, ISCA members will be able to provide accountancy services throughout ASEAN without the need for further testing or compliance with the technical regulations and professional requirements of the host country.

### ISCA Invited to Speak at UNCTAD-ISAR Session in Geneva

In November, ISCA was invited by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to attend the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (UNCTAD-ISAR) to present at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session on *Guidance on Good Practices in the Area of Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement (CME)* in Geneva. ISCA President Gerard Ee had the opportunity to share Singapore's experience in the area of CME. This was a follow-on from the UNCTAD-ISAR 31<sup>st</sup> session in June, where Mr Ee had a fruitful discussion on UNCTAD's draft paper on CME.

### Enabling Members to Stay Ahead Of the Curve



Guest of Honour Lim Soo Hoon, Permanent Secretary (Finance)(Performance), Ministry of Finance, delivered the keynote address to the capacity audience.



ICAEW President Andrew Ratcliffe spoke about the impact of digital innovation on the profession.

ISCA members had the opportunity to learn about global issues facing the accountancy profession from thought leaders and industry veterans at the Singapore Accountancy Convention 2015 in November. Experts from the public sector, multinational corporations as well as the Big Four firms joined distinguished panellists for the one-day convention at Marina Bay Sands to discuss topics such as digitalisation and cyber-security risks, the evolving role of the accountant in proactive risk management, as well as base erosion and profit shifting.

### Spearheading Thought Leadership



The annual ISCA Pre-Budget Roundtable gathers the views and insights of business leaders, and provides valuable feedback on budget issues to the government.

Every year, ISCA conducts a Pre-Budget Survey to gather the views of the CA (Singapore) community. The 2015 survey attracted 400 participants and focused on the pace of economic restructuring, top business concerns, effectiveness of government schemes, as well as ways to improve competitiveness.

On January 13, ISCA organised the annual Pre-Budget Roundtable, which brought together a distinguished panel of business leaders to discuss a wide range of topical issues affecting the Budget. Key panellists included co-chairs ISCA President Gerard Ee and Liang Eng Hwa, Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee (Finance and Trade & Industry). The key insights raised at the Roundtable, together with ISCA's Pre-Budget Survey findings, provided important feedback to policymakers for their consideration in the formulation of the annual Budget.

During the year, ISCA studied many leading issues in accountancy, and published opinion pieces and commentaries including salient viewpoints on digital currency. ISCA published an article in the Business Times to educate the public on the difference between sustainability and integrated reporting and how these two reporting frameworks help to improve corporate reporting. Another article also published in the Business Times was "A Key to Unlock Audit Matters" which explains the concept of key audit matters and its value to investors. The Directors' Bulletin, a publication by the Singapore Institute of Directors, had also sought and published ISCA's views on audit market reforms which was based on the Institute's research collaboration with the National University of Singapore. With Bitcoin and other crypto currencies gaining ground, members were empowered with relevant knowledge to embrace digital innovation prevalent in today's business transactions.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Helping SMPS Increase Productivity



PKF-CAP Partner John Lim moderated a panel discussion at the second SMP Dialogue; the series provides a platform for SMPs to network and share best practices.



Rowland Kew, Co-Chair of OneSMP, and Managing Partner, CA Practice PAC, shared the role of OneSMP in the SMP ecosystem.



Quality Assurance Seminar 2015 - Upholding Audit Quality amidst Emerging Challenges in an Evolving Business World

The Institute is committed to helping small and medium-sized practices (SMPs) in Singapore flourish despite the challenges they face. As the business environment becomes more complex, ISCA continues to look for ways to lighten the burden on SMPs, such as through human capital development initiatives, support for overseas business mission trips, help with technology adoption, and more importantly, through educating SMPs on the various assistance schemes available.

One example is the SMP Dialogue series designed to promote best practices, address SMPs' challenges and encourage them to embrace relevant programmes and initiatives to uplift their capabilities and capacity. The second Dialogue, "Staying Relevant in an Increasingly Competitive Environment" in July, provided a platform for members to learn from each other and manage common issues such as human resource, audit quality and the business landscape.

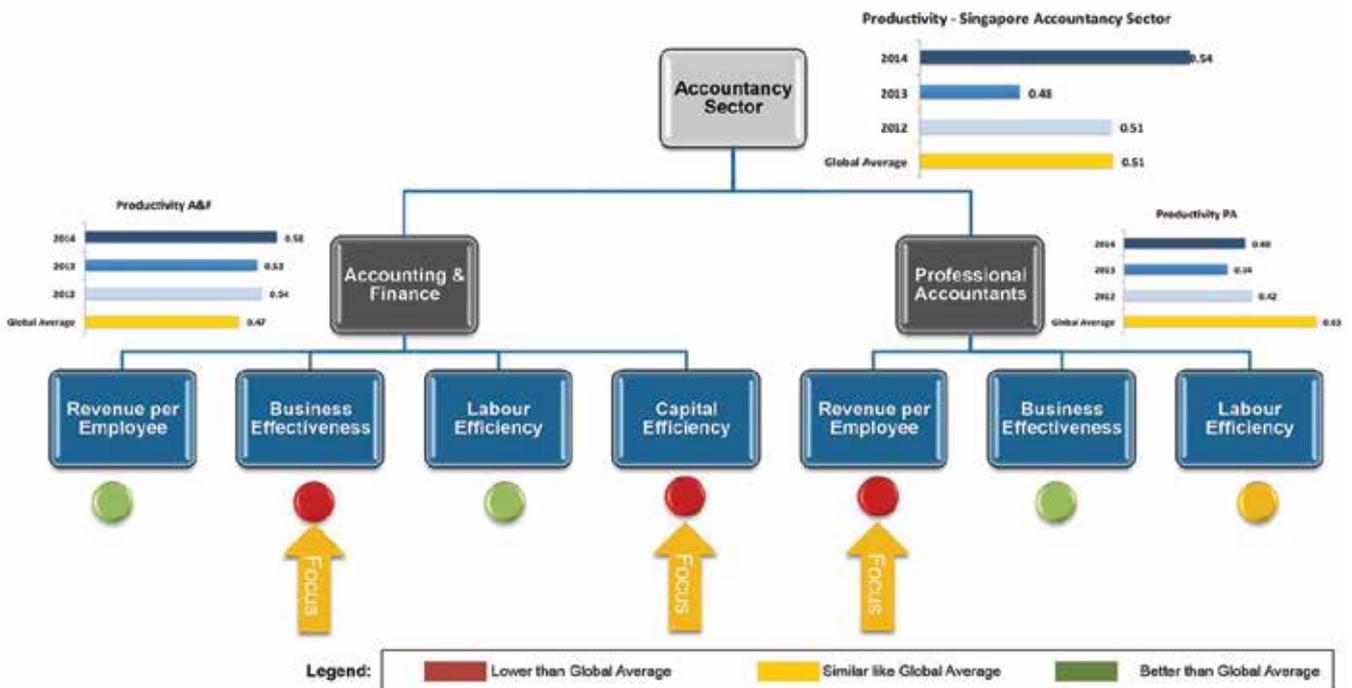
ISCA organised the second Quality Assurance Seminar on 22 September 2015 to provide SMPs with a better understanding of the recommended approaches to improving audit quality as well as to explore emerging issues such as the expanded auditor's report and the application challenges of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) requirements and guidelines. The seminar entitled "*Upholding Audit Quality amidst Emerging Challenges in an Evolving Business World*" was attended by over 400 participants. During the seminar, ACRA shared with the audience ACRA's key areas of audit quality concerns arising from the Findings of Practice Monitoring Programme.

ISCA has developed, with the support of the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), ten *On-the-Job Training (OJT) Blueprints* covering ten audit topics. These OJT Blueprints provide SMPs with a guide on providing structured inhouse OJT for staff. The OJT blueprints highlight the key considerations to note and the task standards for each audit work procedure, as well as the recommended competencies necessary for staff to effectively carry out their tasks.

## Benchmarking Productivity in the Accountancy Sector

ISCA, in partnership with SAP, released the third ISCA Productivity Scorecard and Benchmarking Survey Report for the accountancy sector in August. The study enabled participating firms to measure their productivity levels against the industry average, thus identifying the areas for improvements and gaining the know-how needed to improve their operations. Close to 250 CFOs and business owners responded, with the results showing that while the productivity index of the accountancy sector had improved in 2014 from 2013, it still lagged behind its global peers.

### Productivity Index\* of the Accountancy Sector in Singapore improved in 2014 but behind global average



\* Productivity Index is based on straight averages of normalised operational productivity metrics. The overall productivity is weighted at 75% A&F and 25% PA. Normalisation is done over bottom 25% and top 25% ranges.  
Source: ISCA survey in collaboration with SAP

## Keeping Members Updated

### Legislative Changes to Singapore Companies (Amendment) Act 2014

Singapore Companies (Amendment) Act 2014 introduced a slew of changes that will have an impact on ISCA members and their clients. As the changes were the most extensive since the Companies Act was enacted in 1967, ISCA collaborated with the Law Reform Department of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority on a series of articles in the *IS Chartered Accountant* journal for the benefit of members. The key changes were highlighted and more clarity was provided on the "small company" concept for audit exemption using various scenarios.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Technical Updates

The effective date of the new revenue standard, FRS 115 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, was amended to *annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018*. FRS 115 aims to clarify the principles for recognising revenue that would remove inconsistencies in current revenue recognition requirements, and provide a more robust framework for addressing revenue recognition issues *and improve comparability of revenue recognition practices*. ISCA published key insights on some application challenges to help members gain a thorough understanding of the effects of the new standard, which is a critical first step towards successful implementation.

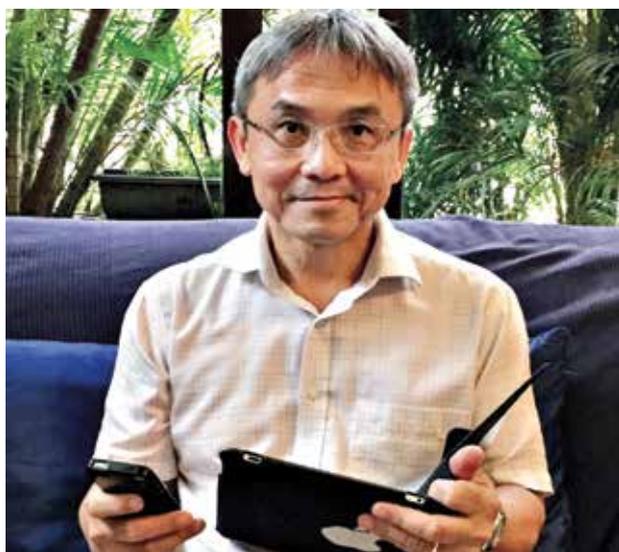
ISCA sets standards and guidance relating to professional ethics which are issued as Ethics Pronouncements (EPs). EPs set out high-quality ethical standards, including the fundamental principles of ethics, for professional accountants. In November, ISCA issued Implementation Guidance to support the profession in implementing the requirements in the EPs such as *EP 100 Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics*, and *EP 200 Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism – Requirements and Guidelines for Professional Accountants in Singapore*.

As a regional insurance hub, the Singapore insurance industry is affected by global and local regulatory developments, including changes in the Risk-based Capital framework, IFRS 4 and IFRS 9. ISCA sought to understand the key developments in these areas and published its findings in September. Equipped with a comprehensive picture of the new insurance reporting landscape, members can now make the necessary adaption to enhance their roles as business partners.

### ISCA Digital Journal

Members can now stay informed and be kept up-to-date about accountancy news and views with the new **IS Chartered Accountant** journal mobile app. Going digital means 24/7 access and extra functionality for journal readers (bookmark links, search, share interesting stories or save for offline reading); it also reduces the carbon footprint. The e-journal can be downloaded for free from the Apple app store or Google play store.

### Quick Guide to CPE



ISCA is also committed to helping members with their professional needs. Earlier this year, the Institute launched the Quick Guide to CPE to help members with frequently-asked questions on what constitutes Continuing Professional Education for Chartered Accountants in Singapore. The step-by-step guide paves the way for members to continue their professional development journey through CPE.

Former ISCA Council Member and Independent Director Lim Boon Cheng uses the iPad and iPhone for web-based CPE modules

### Supporting the Sector's Development through Singapore QP

This year marks the fifth intake of the Singapore Qualification Programme (Singapore QP), which has seen an increase in enrolment from candidates in accounting entities as well as commercial firms. Accredited Training Organisations including listed companies are playing a key role in grooming and developing a new generation of Chartered Accountants in Singapore.

Not only does the Singapore QP combine training with mentored work experience to produce accountants who possess the strong ability to analyse and interpret business problems and develop dynamic solutions, the rigorous approach will help them grow in their careers. It also offers an opportunity for non-financially-trained personnel to embark on a finance career when they enrol in the foundation programme.

### Building a Compassionate and Caring Accountancy Community



To build a compassionate and caring accountancy community, ISCA has established ISCA Cares, a charity which seeks to promote strong social conscience and a spirit of inclusivity in the accountancy community. For the first time, there is a dedicated channel for accountants to contribute their talents and resources, and to give back collectively as a profession.

Mooted in celebration of SG50, which marks Singapore's 50 years of independence and growth as a nation, ISCA Cares supports two causes. The Education objective provides disadvantaged Singapore youths with academic potential access to quality accountancy education through financial and non-financial assistance, while the Community objective harnesses the knowledge, skills and expertise of the accountancy community for community development projects through collaborative programmes with partners.



ISCA Advisor, Mr Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State for Manpower, shares his welcome address announcing the establishment of ISCA Cares, a charity championing giving by the accountancy profession.



### Updates on International Standards

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#### Thai Financial Reporting Standards (TFRS)

Thai Accounting Standards (TAS)/TFRS, Interpretation, Guidelines are updated in accordance with IFRS Bound Volume 2015. They are planned to be implemented on 1 January 2016, except for the standards relating to financial instruments. Therefore, the TFRS's effective date will only be 1 year delay from that of IFRS. IFRS for SMEs is in the process of reviewing the effects and setting implementation plan.

#### Thai Auditing Standards (TAS)

TAS is according to the international standards. At the end of 2015, there are new and revised standards which are in the process of translating and reviewing as follow:

- ISAE 3000 (Revised), Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information
- ISA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing or Accompanying Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report Thereon
- ISA 700 (Revised), Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements
- ISA 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 705 (Revised), Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 706 (Revised), Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 260 (Revised), Communication with Those Charged with Governance
- ISA 570 (Revised), Going Concern

#### International Education Standards

IES 1 is in the final process of approving by IFAC and it is prepared to be published on the FAP's website in January 2016. The translation process on the remainders of IES is still ongoing.

#### Continuing Professional Development

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In the year 2015, FAP has organised training courses with more than 10,000 participants taking part in topics such as:

1. Internal Audit Report-Writing Technique
2. Integrated Audit : Purchasing/Sales Systems
3. Business Strategy for Internal Auditors
4. Financial Statements Review for Internal Auditors
5. IT Audit for Non IT Auditors
6. Using Software as Audit Tool

7. Risk Assessment in Audit Planning
8. The Important Auditing Technique
9. Frauds Prevention in Organisation
10. COSO 2013 for Internal Auditors as Business Consultants
11. The overview of Thai Financial Reporting Standards
12. The overview of Thai Auditing Standards
13. Know-Use-Understand Financial Statement
14. Summarize of principles of accounting for Non-Publicly Accountable Entities (NPAEs) – asset and revenue
15. 10 Commandments for accountants in AEC

### CPD Professional Certificate Program

FAP has developed various professional certificate programs to enhance competency of our professional accountants such as Fundamental Practice for CFO Certificate Program, CFO Certificate Program, IR (Investor Relation) Profession Certificate Program and CFO Current Issues course which focuses on updating of TFRS, tax and economic outlook.



### Self-Study Continuing Professional Development (Self-Study CPD)

This project provides an alternative for certified public accountants (CPA) to develop their professional knowledge. There were 98 participants passed the exam during 2015.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### CIA Review Part 1

This is to increase globally accepted certification internal auditors in Thailand.



### Thailand Accounting Challenge 2015

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thailand Accounting Challenge 2015 was arranged on Saturday, 28 March 2015 to promote the accounting knowledge for accounting students from all over the country. There were 132 teams from 69 universities participated in this activity. The activity provides a great opportunity for students to perform their competence to answer challenge questions from international accounting firms (Big 4). In addition, participated students and teachers also had great opportunities to exchange and share their experiences and enjoy various activities together. This shows that the FAP attempted to enhance accounting harmonization among accounting professionals.



### Diploma in Thai Financial Reporting (Dip TFR)

This program was held to enhance understanding of accountants on Thai Financial Reporting Standards of Publicly Accountable Entities (PAEs). The diploma will be given to those who pass the test.



### Collaboration with Other Organisations

#### SEC-FAP “Capital Market Auditors” Project



During 2015, FAP and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Thailand had run the “Capital Market Auditors” project twice. Including one run at end of 2014, total auditors participated in this project are 90 person from 59 firms. This is a capacity building project to improve audit quality of auditors and audit quality system of audit firm in order for them to be ready for capital market.

#### Cooperative Audit

As requested by Cooperative Auditing Department (CAD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, FAP has sent representatives to sit in the Committee and Sub-Committees to help improve the CAD administration in many aspects e.g. updating Financial Reporting and Auditing standards to be used by cooperative auditors, improve systems as well as rules and regulations to appoint cooperative auditors and to monitor the operations of cooperatives.

#### Young & Smart Accountants Project

This project is organised by the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce to develop the accounting undergraduate program in Thailand. Its objectives are to prepare students for the real world of Accounting career, to enhance accounting knowledge and skills. Participated students will have the opportunity to practice accounting skills in accounting simulation system and gain real experience on accounting career. FAP has sent the representative to be the trainer in the program.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### Audit Committee Seminar – Get Ready for the Year End

FAP worked with IOD, SEC and SET to organise the seminar for member of audit committee in order for them to work efficiently for the coming year-end.



## VAA



■ Total members: 9,800



### Consultation and Coordination with Relevant Stakeholders

- Provided inputs to 10 laws and financial strategies such as the State Budget Law, State Auditing Law, Accounting Law, etc.
- Organised 8 workshops on issues relevant to the accountancy and audit profession. Coordinated with the National Assembly, State Audit, Ministry of Finance, Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), Academy of Finance, ACCA, ICAEW, CIMA, etc in organising 10 scientific seminars on finance, accounting and audit issues.
- Set up a dialogue between accountants and auditors with representatives of the Ministry of Finance.

### Participation in Dealing with Practical Accounting Issues

- Reviewed 109 organisations and 254 individuals who met the conditions to practice/or provide accounting services in Vietnam.
- Together with the World Bank and Ministry of Finance, evaluated the compliance of accounting and auditing standards in Vietnam.

### Events and Activities

- VAA successfully hosted the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of AFA Council in Hanoi on 9 May 2015 at the Sofitel Plaza Hotel, Hanoi. VAA welcomed the ten Primary Members and four Associate Members of AFA along with the representative of the World Bank. Back to back with the 118<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting, VAA successfully held the national congress and seminar on 8 May 2015. The series of events were held as the part of the celebration of the 20 years of Vietnam Accounting Reformation. More than 100 accountants gathered in the Ho Chi Minh Museum to participate for this event.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

- VAA successfully organised the 6<sup>th</sup> National Chief Accountant Club Congress – who initially was the first organisation of VAA and now is member of VAA.

- On 18 June 2015, VAA, The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), and Vietnam Chief Financial Officer Club (CFO Club) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) offering a fast track route to CIMA's professional qualification. Under the MoU members of VAA and the CFO Club will be able to complete CIMA's professional qualification by sitting for one exam only. VAA also committed to continue its good cooperation with ACCA, CPA Australia, CIMA and ICAEW.



- VAA has published the Accounting and Auditing review with 3,000 issues monthly. Its quality has been enhanced in both form and content. The information and propaganda activities were promoted, VAA upgraded website ([vaa.net.vn](http://vaa.net.vn)) and fanpage ([hoiketoankiemtoanvaa.vn](http://hoiketoankiemtoanvaa.vn)) has supplied many news and attractive articles, and policies.

- VAA organised 2 workshops on amendments to the Law on Accounting 2003 in the Hanoi City and Ho Chi Minh City with 200 delegates. Comments were collected, to be submitted to the Drafting Committee of Congress to complete the 2015 Accounting Law.



- On 16-17 October 2015, VAA successfully held the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Chief Accountant club in the Da Nang city. The seminar focussed on new business accounting regime and new tax policies – deployment results, problems and solutions. Three main topics were presented by the leading experts in economic and financial, accounting and auditing of the Ministry of Finance and VAA. The seminar attracted 250 participants.

- On 19 October 2015, VAA held the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Executive Committee at Buon Ma Thuot city in Dak Lak province. The conference was organised for the purpose of the evaluation activities in the first 9 months of 2015 and discussed the tasks and measures to enhance the activities of VAA quarter 4/2015 and 2016. During the conference participants held a discussion on "Organisation of the practitioner accountants exam" and "The training, professional training and strengthening scientific advisory activities, social criticism quarter 4/2015 and 2016 plan".

CPA Australia



Total members: 20,000

CPA Australia's participation in AFA is an important recognition of its standing this region. With nearly 20,000 of its global membership of over 155,000 based in Southeast Asia, this platform offers a great opportunity for CPA Australia to share insights and a breadth of experience on a broad range of areas that affect the accounting profession.

SINGAPORE

Pro Bono Accountancy Singapore



CPA Australia, in partnership with the Singapore Accountancy Commission, launched the Pro Bono Accountancy Singapore initiative on 2 April 2015. The platform promotes skills-based volunteering amongst accountants and finance professionals in Singapore to benefit the local community.

This is the first such initiative in the local accounting profession and complements the new Singapore Roadmap for Corporate Giving announced by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre in March.

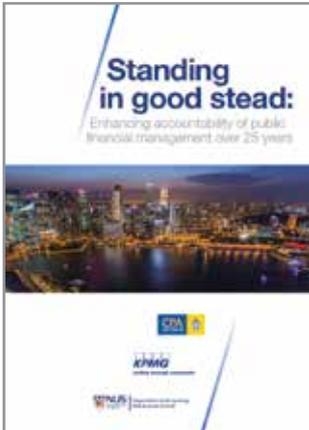
Pro Bono Accountancy Singapore aims to reach out to a potential base of some 30,000 accountants and finance professionals in the country. The initiative will begin with two partners, Shared Services for Charities and Social Enterprise Impact, that currently work closely with local charitable and social organisations.

Some of the initiatives planned under Pro Bono Accountancy Singapore will include the development of a toolkit aimed at helping charities develop best practices in risk management, governance and finance operations needs.

Pro Bono Accountancy Singapore has also launched a website ([www.probonoaccountancy.sg](http://www.probonoaccountancy.sg)) to highlight pro bono opportunities by charities and social organisations to encourage accountants and finance professionals to sign up.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Standing in Good Stead: Enhancing Accountability of Public Financial Management Over 25 Years

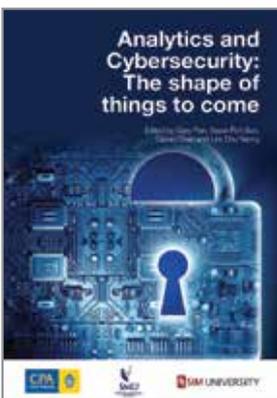


CPA Australia partnered with KPMG and the Nanyang University of Singapore Business School to conduct a ground-breaking study of the annual Auditor General's Reports from 1990-2015. The result is the publication of a landmark report on 31 July 2015 entitled "Standing in good stead: Enhancing accountability of public financial management over 25 years".

Singapore's Auditor-General's Office (AGO), an independent organ of state, has a mission to "audit and report to the President and Parliament on the proper accounting and use of public resources to enhance public accountability". The annual release of the AGO Report is therefore one of the more highly-anticipated occasions by government ministries and statutory boards. Its release is also widely-watched by the public, as it highlights areas of control lapses and weaknesses across public sector agencies.

The objective of this study is to contribute discussion points for policy and key decision-making in the public sector in an impactful way. Understanding the root causes of the issues highlighted is critical to raising awareness of the AGO's focus areas in its reviews, and what this means for finance and internal audit executives in the Singapore public sector. This will be particularly important as public sector entities strive to balance resources with managing reputational risk.

### Analytics and Cybersecurity: The Shape of Things to Come



In August 2015, CPA Australia collaborated with the Singapore Management University and SIM University to launch a new toolkit to help companies make better use of analytics and protect themselves from cyber attacks.

The toolkit, entitled "Analytics and Cybersecurity – The shape of things to come", is aimed at directors and senior management in multi-national corporations and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

It equips decision makers with industry-relevant insights into the most significant issues relating to analytics and cybersecurity, which impact companies' efficiency and the safety of their corporate data.

This publication helps the finance functions understand how analytics and cybersecurity affect modern businesses, highlights the key challenges and pitfalls to watch out for, and shows how organisations can go about leveraging the benefits of analytics and protect themselves against increasingly hostile cyber risks.

The publication brings together thought leaders in analytics and cybersecurity, and shares practical real life experiences and case studies from industry giants such as DBS, Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC.

### Deepening the Audit Quality Conversation

To further raise the quality of audits on financial statements in Singapore, the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) partnered with CPA Australia to introduce an Audit Quality Indicators (AQIs) Disclosure Framework. The result is a joint publication, entitled *Deepening the Audit Quality Conversation*, targeted at audit committee members. The booklet was released on 14 October at CPA Congress 2015. The AQI framework breaks new ground as it is the first time the Big-Four audit firms in Singapore have collectively agreed to provide audit committees of Singapore-listed companies with a set of comparable indicators on the auditors' ability and commitment to deliver quality audits. This is crucial in helping audit committees better evaluate and select the right auditors.

### Corporate Governance Case Studies (Volume 4)

Strong corporate governance is the bedrock of sustainable performance by companies over the long term. This is even more important as the fast-changing business landscape continues to present new complexities for boards and senior management. In this regard, CPA Australia collaborated with governance expert, Associate Professor Mak Yuen Teen of the Nanyang University of Singapore Business School to publish an annual series of corporate governance case studies. The latest, Volume 4, published on 12 October 2015 contains 22 case studies covering companies in Singapore, the Asian region and globally with discussion pointers to generate debate on salient governance issues.

### Finance Futurescape 2030



CPA Australia partnered with PwC Singapore on a joint publication looking at the role of CFOs and the finance function 15 years down the road. The report, entitled *Finance Futurescape 2030*, found that companies will likely see the war for finance talent intensify over the next 15 years as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) opens the door to greater mobility of professionals in the region. It also suggested that the role of the CFO will evolve towards increased business partnering, driving the new technologies agenda in their organisations, and a shift to better management of company profitability. This publication was released at the CFO Connect Symposium, on 27 August 2015, supplemented by a presentation and panel discussion at the event.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Finance Operations Development Program



In October 2015, CPA Australia commenced a partnership with the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) to drive sectorial training for accounting, finance and business professionals in Singapore.

The partnership begins with NTUC and e2i providing funding support for CPA Australia's Finance Operations Development Program. This program equips professionals with specialised technical and industry-relevant skills to increase their employability and upgrade their skills. It provides training in the key areas of financial management, business management, leadership and risk management. The skills acquired also facilitate job readiness for aspiring individuals going into a finance operations environment and fill the skills gaps of current finance operations practitioners. The funding covers 720 training places. CPA Australia members who are Singapore citizens and permanent residents will receive training subsidies to cover more than 40% of the course fee in this program.

### MALAYSIA



Pictured from left - Jeff Hughes, Chief Operating Officer - Member Services, CPA Australia and Johan Merican, Chief Executive Officer, TalentCorp

### New Pathway for Malaysian Undergraduates to Attain Professional Certification

CPA Australia has introduced a new pathway to enable Malaysian undergraduates in Year 3 onwards who are completing a local degree to begin their journey to attain professional certification. Eligible students may be fully funded by Talent Corporation Malaysia (Talentcorp) through its UNI-Qualified Fund for up to two segments of the CPA Program. Participating students may have the opportunity to network with CPA Australia's Recognised Employers giving them a head-start to potential employment opportunities. The agreement was signed on 11 March 2015.

## Helping to Meet Malaysia's Need for Accountants



Pictured from left – Priya Terumalay, Country Head - Malaysia CPA Australia; Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department; Tan Sri Dato' Sri Professor Ir Dr. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, Vice Chancellor UiTM; Johan Mahmood Merican, Chief Executive Officer, TalentCorp.

Working towards meeting Malaysia's need to have 60,000 qualified accountants by 2020, CPA Australia has formalised a collaboration with the MARA University of Technology (UiTM), on 25 May 2015, allowing 300 students from UiTM to begin their professional qualification journey with the CPA Program. Funding can be obtained via the UNI-Qualified Fund that was established through an earlier agreement between CPA Australia and Talent Corporation Malaysia (Talentcorp).

## Supporting the Transition to GST in Malaysia

In the lead up to the implementation of GST in Malaysia in April 2015, CPA Australia undertook several initiatives, including conducting meetings with the Royal Malaysian Customs to share Australia's experience in the implementation of GST. To help educate members and the general Malaysian public on what the tax changes meant and to alleviate concerns for many businesses, CPA Australia wrote a series of GST related articles for leading English daily The New Straits Times and its sister publication the Malay language Berita Harian that saw traction with the general public. A dedicated Malaysia GST page was created on the CPA Australia website providing the latest updates and fact sheets for easy reference.

### Goods and Services Tax: The Australian experience

**W**ITH the GST commencing from April 1, there are a lot of questions being asked about what its likely impact will be. Will it improve Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP)? Will it cause a recession? Will it be inflationary? Will it be positive or negative for business?

In considering these questions, we can look at how other countries have fared since the introduction of their GSTs.

Of course the economic impact depends on the nature and form of the new tax, as well as other changes that may accompany it.

For example, here in Malaysia, the sales and services taxes will be abolished and there will be cuts to personal income tax.

Similarly, when Australia introduced its 10 per cent GST in 2000 it was accompanied by the elimination of a multi-rated sales tax, income tax cuts, and special GST treatment for some items, including zero-rated treatment for exports, health/ medical care, educa-



**PAUL DRUM**

**VIEWPOINT**

tion, basic food, child care, charitable and religious services, as well as or exempting financial services and residential rents, among other things.

An official assessment of the GST's economic impact by Australian authorities found there was no large-scale adverse impact.

There did appear to be some transitional impact, such as a once-off increase in the price of many goods and services but generally, prices increased by less than 10 per cent.

These price changes largely "washed out" over the first two years. And the prices of those goods that had been taxed at higher rates under the sales tax regime, particularly motor vehicles and white goods, decreased.

The Australian economy temporarily slowed following the introduction of GST, although other factors may have been at work there as well, such as increases in interest rates and oil prices, and the end of the Sydney Olympics.

Nevertheless, the commencement of the GST in Australia was most likely partly responsible for a sharp but temporary slowdown in the residential housing sector. This can be attributed to residential constructions being brought forward to before July 1 2000.

However, the housing sector stabilised quickly and returned to strong growth aided by lower interest rates and an enhanced First Home Owners' Assistance Scheme.

Consumer behaviour changed momentarily too. Spending on a number of retail trade items was brought forward and was largely offset by the deferral of purchases of other items, such as motor vehicles.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) impact of the various indirect tax reforms also seems to have been fairly muted, with the impact peaking at around 2.5 per cent in the first year and then washing out over the next year or so.

This experience appears to be broadly similar with that of some other countries, including Singapore, which has sought to broaden its indirect tax bases in recent years.

The initial GDP decline was more pronounced in New Zealand and Canada, perhaps because their economies were weakening when tax reforms were introduced, whereas GDP growth in Japan and Singapore, like in Australia, rebounded quickly and strongly.

One thing is certain though. Australia's GST revenue growth has been extremely strong since its introduction.

GST revenues in 2011/12 were over A\$83 billion (RM229 billion), well above the A\$23.8 billion collected in 2000/01 when the GST commenced.

Against this background it is difficult to see how the six per cent GST proposed for Malaysia could have a significant impact on inflation, or bring on a recession, or be a showstopper for business.

People will still go to work and they will still need to consume goods and services.

Businesses that prepare well for the GST will be there ready, willing and able to meet that consumer demand.

So what's stopping you from getting ready?



The writer is FCPA head of policy at CPA Australia

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### MoU with Malaysia Professional Accountancy Centre

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CPA Australia and the Malaysia Professional Accountancy Centre (MyPAC) signed in June 2015 is aimed at accelerating the development of Bumiputera (Indigenous) Professional Accountants in Malaysia. The MoU cemented MyPAC's commitment to work with CPA Australia and will enable further penetration into universities and various employment sectors.



Pictured from left – Mark Chau, Regional Manager - Employer, CPA Australia; Seri Idawaty, Head of Market Development, MyPAC; Elaine Liew, Project Director, MyPAC; Datuk Zaiton Mohd Hassan, Deputy Chairman, MyPAC; Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia; Jeff Hughes, Chief Operating Officer – Member Services, CPA Australia; Sherry Ooi, Manager - Membership and Governance, CPA Australia; Priya Terumalay, Country Head - Malaysia, CPA Australia

### New Registered Tuition Provider



On 1 September 2015, CPA Australia appointed Sunway TES Centre for Accountancy Excellence as a registered tuition provider. Sunway TES Centre for Accountancy Excellence is the leading professional accountancy and finance provider in the Asia Pacific Region. With this new partnership, CPA Australia will also be offering scholarships to 5 High Distinction UNI-Qualified Fund candidates annually for 3 years.

Pictured from left – Priya Terumalay, Country Head – Malaysia, CPA Australia; Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director Sunway Education Group and Sunway University; Teo Ee Sing, Founder and Executive Director of Sunway TES; Johan Mahmood Merican, Chief Executive Officer, Talent Corporation Malaysia; Wong Chin Aik, President – Malaysia, CPA Australia

## VIETNAM

### Welcome Back Aussie Alumni Events in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City



In February 2015 CPA Australia was a key sponsor of the inaugural “Welcome Back Aussie Alumni” events held simultaneously in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. The events were organised by the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam for international students returning home after graduating from Australian universities and provided them with opportunities to network with employers, established Australian alumni currently employed in Vietnam and professional membership bodies. Graduates also had access to individual advice sessions with CPA Australia.

### Reinforcing Partnerships with Government and Professional Bodies

During a visit to Vietnam in April 2015, Graeme Wade, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, CPA Australia and Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia met with senior leaders of the government of Vietnam and local professional bodies to reinforce partnerships and discuss plans for future cooperation. The meetings were an opportunity to review past cooperation activities and reiterate CPA Australia’s commitment to upcoming activities, in particular the quality control system for auditing firms in Vietnam, international expertise and experience sharing for the implementation of IFRS and fair value, and performance audit. On behalf of CPA Australia, the President expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation from the government and professional bodies to CPA Australia’s activities and operation in Vietnam.



Pictured from left - Graeme Wade, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, CPA Australia and Dr Tran Xuan Ha, Deputy Minister of Finance, Vietnam



Pictured from left – Tran Thien Huong, Country Manager – Vietnam, CPA Australia; Tran Van Ta, President, VACPA; Graeme Wade, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, CPA Australia; Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia; Van Dang, Business Support Manager, CPA Australia

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

The President also delivered a congratulatory speech at the Vietnam Association of Certified Public Accountants' (VACPA) 10th Anniversary celebration and the 4th National Congress. The event was attended by more than 300 representatives, who are senior leaders from the State and government's offices, professional bodies, departments and agencies, international organisations and local and international auditing companies.

CPA Australia conveyed its commitment to continue supporting and cooperating with the government of Vietnam and professional bodies to further enhance the technical capacity for Vietnamese accountants and auditors.

### Expanding CPA Australia's Relationship with Hanoi University



Pictured from left - Graeme Wade, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of CPA Australia and Dr Nguyen Dinh Luan, Rector, Hanoi University  
Back row - Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia (middle) with representatives from the Australian Embassy; CPA Australia; North Vietnam's Advisory Committee and academic staff of Hanoi University

CPA Australia and Hanoi University officially signed a Cooperation Agreement on 14 April 2015, formalising the close relationship between them.

Under the agreement, CPA Australia is committed to sponsoring the University's student activities and seminars/conferences for accounting professionals as well as providing students and lecturers with access to professional resources at the CPA Corner in the University's library.

The signing of the agreement was witnessed by members of CPA Australia's North Vietnam Strategic Advisory Committee, a representative from AUSTRADE, and the academic staff of Hanoi University.

### Signing of Annex of Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Finance, Vietnam



Pictured seated from left - Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia and Dang Thai Hung Director – Accounting and Auditing Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Vietnam with staff from CPA Australia and the Ministry of Finance, Vietnam

CPA Australia signed an Annex of Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) on 16 November in Hanoi. The agreement formalises the already very productive working relationship between CPA Australia and the MoF and delivers additional benefits for CPA Australia members. Under the Annex of Cooperation Agreement, CPA Australia ASA members will now be able to undertake a Vietnamese Taxation subject in place of the Australian Advanced Taxation segment of the CPA Program.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

This will mean that CPA Australia members in Vietnam will have the most practical and in-depth knowledge of the local tax system, and will be able to bring high-level expertise to their daily advisory work with clients. The agreement will also enable CPA Australia to engage more effectively with government bodies, organisations and individuals in Vietnam in the areas of finance, accounting, auditing and tax.

### CFO Event in Hanoi



Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia presenting at the CFO Event

On 17 November 2015, CPA Australia held a CFO event focussing on “Optimizing Cash Flow Management for Growth in a Challenging Business Environment” in Hanoi.

Senior finance and accounting leaders from major local and international firms, banks, state-owned enterprises and private companies attended and heard from three keynote speakers - Adam Awty, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial, CPA Australia; Bernard Wang CPA (Aust.) Partner, KPMG Vietnam Ltd; and Trieu The Hiep CPA (Aust.) MBA, Group Finance Director, Dat Viet VAC Media & Communications Group Holding Corporation.

## INDONESIA

### Official launch of Women in Global Business – Indonesia Chapter

On 31 March 2015, the official launch of the Indonesian Chapter of the Women in Global Business (WIGB) was held at the Aryaduta Hotel in Jakarta. CPA Australia is delighted to work with AUSTRADE on the launch of this initiative. Retty Setiawan Country Manager – Indonesia, CPA Australia serves as a WIGB advisory board member.



Official launch of WIGB – Indonesia Chapter



Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, HE Paul Grigson (centre) with the WIGB advisory board members

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### MoU with the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants



CPA Australia and the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IAPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that establishes a framework for the two associations to work together to develop talent and the advancement of the accountancy profession in Indonesia. The agreement was signed on 26 August 2015 at Hotel Mulia Senayan in Jakarta.

Pictured from left - Tarkosunaryo Chairman, IAPI and Cathy Bibby, Chief Information Officer, CPA Australia

### Joint Seminar on “Digital Darwinism, Adapt or Die?”

On 26 August 2015 Cathy Bibby, Chief Information Officer, CPA Australia, spoke at a seminar organised jointly with the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IAPI). The focus for the seminar was “Digital Darwinism, Adapt or Die?” and Cathy addressed the topic of Digital Darwinism – Systems and Management Impact.

The aim of the seminar was to increase the understanding of the Three Lines of Defense and to demonstrate how Governance Risk and Control could be implemented as a tool to mitigate business risk in an environment in which technology is changing at a rapid rate.

## CAMBODIA

### Launch of CPA Australia Count4Kids Cambodia App



In November 2015, Anthony Matis, General Manager - Education Development, CPA Australia launched the Count4Kids Cambodia App in partnership with the Australian international aid organisation Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA). Anthony visited Chhouk Village in the Kampong Chang province in Central Cambodia and distributed Samsung tablets pre-loaded with the Count4Kids app.

The app will provide local children aged 7 to 12 with the opportunity to learn the basics of financial literacy. It introduces children to four basic financial concepts: earning money, budgeting for items, saving for future financial goals and making choices about spending money. The development of financial literacy at a young age creates independence and can have a positive long term impact, bringing great benefits for the whole community.

### PHILIPPINES

#### Enhancing Relationship with Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

On 27 November 2015, CPA Australia and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) signed a Member Pathway Agreement to further develop the relationship between the two bodies and establish guidelines on how qualified members of PICPA and/or candidates who have passed the local CPA Licensure exams could attain an international designation recognised across the globe through CPA Australia.

Gaining membership with CPA Australia through the CPA Program, would provide the opportunity for local CPAs to enhance their skillsets and gain recognition globally.

By taking up the CPA Program, candidates who have passed the local CPA Licensure exams and/or PICPA members will receive recognition as an Associate member of CPA Australia and the opportunity to attain full membership status.



Pictured from left – Sharan Bhinder, Assistant Regional Manager, Employer – International Business Development CPA Australia; Mark Chau, Regional Manager – International, Employer and Emerging Markets - Employer Development CPA Australia; Dominador A Barrion, National President, PICPA; and Joel L. Tan-Torres, Chairman Board of Accountancy (BOA) of the Professional Regulatory Commission

## CAANZ

■ Total members: 115,000



In 2015 Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand has over 115,000 diverse, talented and financially astute members who utilise their skills every day to make a difference for businesses the world over. Members of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand are known for professional integrity, principled judgment, financial discipline and a forward-looking approach to business.

### Our Focus in 2015

This year we focused on the education and lifelong learning of our members, and engaged in advocacy and thought leadership in areas of public interest that impact the economy and domestic and international capital markets.

In the last 12 months we've advocated on behalf of our members and the public on areas such as audit, insolvency, taxation, reporting, ethics, financial advisory and superannuation. In total, 137 submissions have been sent to our Governments in Australia and New Zealand. We were invited to participate in over 32 roundtable discussions leading to sensible changes and contributions to policy thinking, including superannuation regulation and governance; liability capping schemes and Base Erosion Profit Shifting.



Through our business magazine Acuity we addressed business issues that every organisation in every country face, providing the platform to talk about the critical needs required for future direction and prosperity.

We have contributed to international discussions through our public commentary and submissions. Our Leadership and Advocacy team is well respected and are known as some of the leading policy experts in Australia and New Zealand, representing Chartered Accountants in critical discussions and policies. We have funded and presented research into diversity, Australia and New Zealand's tax systems, digital currencies, financial reporting, national prosperity and revolutionising reporting.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

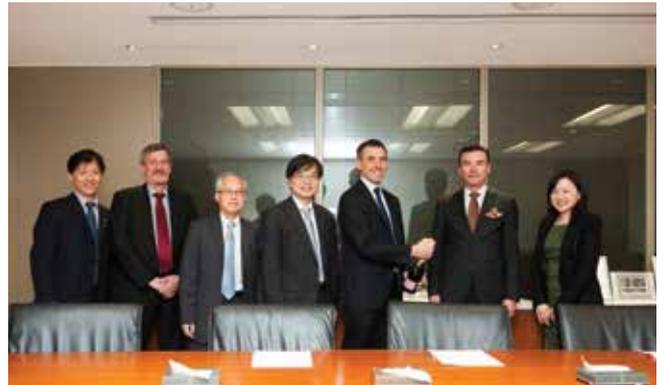
We have been able to reach millions of people through our media profile, including coverage from BBC, Sky Business, ABC, Channel 7, Bloomberg Asia, Australian Financial Review, South China Morning Post, Sydney Morning Herald, Business Review Weekly, The Australian, Singapore Times, NZ Herald and National Business Review. We have truly become a voice for Chartered Accountants and a trusted voice for the public not just in Australia and New Zealand, but across the globe.

The amalgamation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia and the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants meant that we would have the scale and financial capacity to deliver services that are relevant and valuable to members.

### Key Activities in Asia

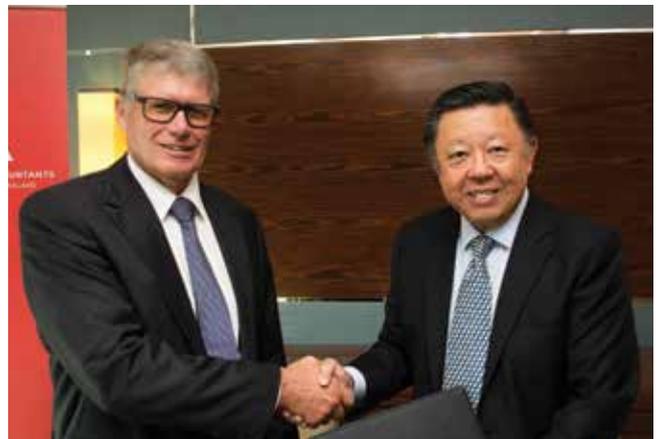
#### Opening of Offices Across Asia

Chartered Accounting is a mobile profession. We have members working around the world, particularly in Asia. We have recognised this and have opened offices in Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore as well as in London. We wanted to provide our members with a physical presence – providing them with access to their member organisation.



#### International Agreements

We have signed MoUs with international bodies and agencies to enable greater global collaboration and recognition for Chartered Accountants. Specifically within the ASEAN region we signed an MoU with the Singapore Accountancy Commission for mutual recognition of credit towards professional qualifications.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## Thought Leadership



We hosted a series of *future[inc]* thought leadership roadshows in Asia on the topics of digital currency and diversity with the launch of our publications “Digital Currencies: Where to from here?” and “Fast Forward: Leading in a Brave new world of Diversity”. Visiting Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, we invited Chartered Accountants and other stakeholders from the accounting and business communities to take part in these forward thinking discussions.

In May 2015 CEO Lee White and Head of Leadership & Advocacy, Rob Ward, invited CA ANZ members and other stakeholders from the accounting and business communities to take part in a discussion with local leaders in the digital currency field. The conversations covered a broad range of topics ranging from opportunities for financial inclusion, to the need for regulation and the potential for use of block chain technology in a range of business scenarios.

In October 2015, CEO Lee White and General Manager, Australia and Overseas Members, Lee Whitney invited members of CA ANZ and other professional bodies along with stakeholders from the business community to engage in discussions

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

around diversity in leadership. Joined by Juliet Bourke, Partner Human Capital from Deloitte and a range of local experts, participants explored diversity issues covering gender, age, culture and innovation.



### The Future of the Profession

We launched the *Future Proofing the Profession: Preparing Business Leaders and Finance Professionals for 2025* as part of our Academic Leadership Series. Chartered Accountants Head of Academic Relations, Professor James Guthrie hosted a round table event in Malaysia with fellow academics to discuss the key topics for the future of accounting and finance.



### Celebrating Graduate and Candidate Excellence in Malaysia

In collaboration with The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants we recognised outstanding graduates for their high achievement in our joint programme. We also awarded candidates who achieved excellent results in their pursuit of a professional qualification in accounting.

### Co-Host Event (with SAC) with Professor Arnold Schilder of IAASB

CA ANZ hosted a Breakfast Forum in Singapore with Prof. Arnold Schilder (Chairman), Jim Sylph (Co-Chair of the Auditor Implementation Working Group) and James Gunn (Managing Director, Professional Standards) of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) on 12 November at The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore. The forum provided members with insights on the objectives of the revolutionary changes to the new Auditor's Report and related implementation experiences. This forum was held in conjunction with the Singapore Accountancy Commission (SAC).



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### Other Updates

#### Support of a Low Carbon Future

As part of the global accountancy profession we urged world leaders to demonstrate determination and political will in order to achieve a low carbon, sustainable future, ahead of the COP 21 Climate Change meeting in Paris in December 2015. In an open letter to world leaders, along with other chief executives of the accounting bodies representing one million accountants worldwide, we asked governments to:

1. Commit to an agreement in Paris that provides a clear signal that governments will act to achieve a low carbon, sustainable future.
2. Put in place a framework that sets out necessary government actions, reduces uncertainty and enables investors, businesses and others to make informed decisions that are consistent with this aim.

#### Innovative Collaboration and the Predictive Accountant

In 2015 we collaborated with Microsoft and Westpac Bank to develop a tailored predictive analytics solution for Chartered Accountants. The venture was a significant and vital step in equipping businesses with skills and tools to access big data in a meaningful way. This collaboration will enable businesses to become more agile and innovative through predictive analytics technologies.

ACCA is committed to the ASEAN region, having an extensive presence of over 90,000 ACCA members and students in the region, offices in 6 of the 10 ASEAN markets, and extensive collaboration with the profession in all ASEAN countries, including AFA.

### First ACCA President from ASEAN Pledges to Inspire Young People

Alexandra Chin, the new President of ACCA and the first Malaysian to be elected to the role, pledged in September 2015 to inspire young finance professionals during her year in office.

Alexandra, who holds the prestigious honorary title 'Datuk' in Malaysia, has been in public practice since 1981 and has her own practice in Sabah, Malaysia. She is the fourth woman to be elected ACCA President.

Alexandra qualified as an ACCA member in 1986 and she has been a member of ACCA's Council since 2005. Alexandra has been Chairman of ACCA's Qualifications Committee and will chair ACCA's Nominating committee during her year as President.

### Education Updates

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#### ACCA and University of London Launch Ground-breaking Masters

ACCA and the University of London have launched a ground-breaking Masters programme to be made available to ACCA students and members around the world. This marks the first time an accountancy body has joined with a university to enable students across the globe to gain a Masters' degree and a professional accountancy qualification at the same time.

#### ACCA-X Expands as Global Demand Grows

Global registrations to ACCA-X – ACCA's online accountancy courses revealed that demand for high quality, accessible learning is world-wide, with many signing-up from emerging markets and developing countries.

Between its launch in Spring 2015 and November 2015, ACCA-X saw nearly 68,000 enrolments for its courses. The sign-up statistics show demand for ACCA-X is growing in the Asia Pac region and also in developing economies. As a result of the demand, ACCA-X will now be offering the Diploma in over 190 countries.

Delivered on the respected edX platform, a nonprofit online learning destination founded by MIT and Harvard, ACCA-X's open access courses feature professional content developed by Epigeum.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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## Capacity Building, Research & Insights Updates

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### ASEAN Accountancy Roadmap Project

ACCA was appointed by the ASEAN Secretariat and Aus-Aid to develop a roadmap to support the implementation of the ASEAN MRA that is intended to support mobility of professionally qualified accountants across the ASEAN region.

### Capacity Building Projects in Mongolia, Philippine and Vietnam

ACCA worked on a World Bank funded project to support the Confederation of Asian & Pacific Accountants (CAPA) in improving the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Systems.

The project benefited the national professional accountancy organisations in three countries – namely the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), Vietnam Association of Certified Public Accountants (VACPA), and the Mongolian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MonICPA).

### ACCA Backs Ground-breaking Research Programme

The Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance at Cambridge Judge Business School, the Tsinghua University Graduate School of Shenzhen and the University of Sydney Business School have joined forces to survey the size and potential economic impact of the rapidly expanding alternative finance sector in the Asia Pacific Region.

The 2015 Asia-Pacific Alternative Finance Benchmarking Survey focused on crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending and other forms of finance with the ability to disrupt traditional markets.

The study was supported by ACCA, KPMG, the CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) Group Foundation, and 20 leading industry and academic research partners. It covered alternative finance in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Australia and New Zealand.

### Global SMP Business Model Survey

The survey was conducted by ACCA, with support from the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA); Corpul Expertilor Contabili se Contabililor Autorizati din Romania (CECCAR); Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA); Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CICPA); and Vietnam Association of Chartered Public Accountants (VACPA).

The Global SMP Business Model Survey provides a unique insight into how the SMP business model is changing to adapt to a new reality. It is the first study to provide such a detailed map of the sector's service offering, its growth prospects and the source and value of its diverse skills.

ACCA has launched a number of other research reports in 2015. The reports can be accessed for free at <http://www.accaglobal.com/sg/en/research-insights.html> Reports include:

- CFO and the C-suite: Leadership fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Performance reporting: An eye on the facts
- The robots are coming? Implications for financial shared services

- Planning, budgeting and forecasting: An eye on the future
- Tomorrow's finance enterprise
- Global SMP Business Model Survey
- ACCA-KPMG study of corporate governance – Balancing rules and flexibility
- Talent Attraction and Retention in Accounting Firms: SG, MY& TH
- AEC 2015 Awareness Survey
- Mobility of Professionals in ASEAN

### **ACCA Asean Country Report**

#### **Brunei Darussalam**

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##### **Renewal of BICPA – FTMS Accountancy Academy ALP Gold Status**

BICPA – FTMS had successfully renewed their ALP Gold Status in Dec 2015. ACCA will continue to support BICPA – FTMS in building greater capacity and promote accountancy profession in Brunei.

#### **Indonesia**

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##### **Indonesia Renewed MOA with IAPI**

ACCA Indonesia has signed a memorandum of agreement as a follow up action to the memorandum of understanding that was signed in 2014 with the aim to collaborate on shared national testing and collaborate in matters benefiting the profession.

##### **IAI and IFAC Look to ACCA for Trust and Integrity**

ACCA Indonesia participated in the IAI-IFAC Seminar in Jakarta. The seminar celebrated IAI's 58th anniversary and focused on "The Relevance of Professional Accountants in a Hyper Connected World" as its main theme. Andrew Smart, Head of Emerging Markets Asia, spoke on behalf of ACCA about the importance of integrity and trust in Financial Services. He presented the ACCA's Trust Equation and detailed the benefits of Integrated and Real-Time reporting uncovered through ACCA's global research programme.

##### **ACCA and University of Indonesia Sign Vocational Agreement**



ACCA Indonesia signed a collaboration Agreement with Vocational Programme of University of Indonesia (UI). The Vocational Programme was formed in 2008 as a programme of education at the college level that aims to prepare workers who can apply their expertise and skills in the field.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### ACCA Signed MoUs with Leading Indonesian Universities

ACCA signed collaboration agreements with Indonesia Banking School (IBS) and Trisakti School of Management (TSM) to further the promotion of the accountancy profession amongst young people. A renewal MoU was also signed with Prasetiya Mulya Business (PMBS) School to further strengthen the ongoing partnership with PMBS.

### Malaysia

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#### Lead the Change

The Prime Minister of Malaysia launched the Malaysia chapter of the 30% Club to help Malaysia achieve its target of tripling the percentage of women on companies' board to 30% by 2016.

ACCA's Chief Executive, Ms Helen Brand joined the panel discussion titled "Gender Diversity on the Broadroom – a Business Led Change" along with other panellists : Datuk Ranjit Singh, Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia, Lain Lo, Chairman of Shell Malaysia, Elizabeth Passey, Director of 30% Club UK and moderated by Johan Merican, CEO of Talent Corporation Malaysia.

#### ACCA and TalentCorp's New Partnership Agreement Offers Sponsorship

In a move to prepare more professional accountants to contribute to Malaysia's economic development, ACCA and Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) have signed a new Partnership Agreement.

The new agreement will enable 1,000 Malaysian undergraduates registered with the ACCA Accelerate scheme to commence their ACCA Qualification studies through a joint funding structure hence supporting the national agenda to increase the number of professionally qualified accountants by 2020.

#### ACCA Malaysia Sustainability Reporting Awards (MaSRA)

ACCA held its MaSRA 2015 Awards Presentation Ceremony which was officiated by YB Senator Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. ACCA partnered with TalentCorp Malaysia to promote this national agenda, marking this partnership with the introduction of a new award category named 'Diversity & Inclusion'. The ACCA MaSRA has also been endorsed by Bursa Malaysia since 2006.

ACCA MaSRA continues to support and compliments national agenda in promoting sustainable and inclusive development in the country such as introduction of FTSE-4-Good Bursa Malaysia Index, introduction of the new listing requirements for sustainability statements, the sustainability reporting guide and government's aspiration to achieve 30% women on board by 2016.

### Myanmar

#### AFA – MAC/MICPA SME Forum

In support of AFA and MAC/MICPA's objective to help strengthen SMEs, ACCA Myanmar organised a SME forum to prepare SMEs for increased competition and growth by discussing the opportunities and threats within the AEC: ways banks and SMEs can better work together; and how accountants and IFRS can help SMEs to secure financing. This forum was held as part of the AFA Task Force 2 working program, to facilitate the AFA member bodies in dealing with SMEs. AFA wished to assist the SMEs in Myanmar in preparing for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 and growth.

#### Businesses Need to Understand the Benefits of Good Corporate Behaviours



ACCA and the UK - Myanmar Financial Services Taskforce recently held a seminar in Yangon, Myanmar with theme of "Building Financial Reporting for Growth". Delegates from nearly 100 leading local businesses attended the event. Organised by the Taskforce and supported by ACCA, this was the most recent of a series of seminars on issues relating to Corporate Governance. The session focussed on the broad business benefits companies can gain from high quality financial reporting.

### Philippines

#### BOA and ACCA Forge New Partnership in the Philippines



ACCA and Professional Regulatory Board of Accountancy of the Philippines (BoA) have signed a new Partnership Agreement in Makati City. The Partnership Agreement will advance the accountancy profession in the Philippines and will see BoA and ACCA work together in a number of areas including sharing best practise and expertise and holding high level conferences and forums to benefit the profession.



#### ACCA Signed MoU with University of Santo Tomas

ACCA signed its first MoU with a Philippines university - University of Santo Tomas to promote the sustainable development of the accountancy profession. Established in 1611, University of Santo Tomas (UST) is the oldest existing university in Asia, and in terms of student population, it is the largest Catholic university in the world in a single campus.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## ACCA Participated as the Strategic Partner in the 19<sup>th</sup> AFA Conference



The Conference was held on 4 December 2015, in conjunction with the 120<sup>th</sup> AFA Council meeting on 5 December 2015 in Manila. Nearly 300 participants from all across ASEAN attended the Conference, co-hosted by ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) and Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). The theme of the AFA Conference was “ASEAN Integration: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs and SMPs”. As the Strategic Partner, ACCA provided thought leadership, shared knowledge and helped shape the Conference agenda.

ACCA’s Director, Emerging Markets, Lucia Real Martin was invited to speak on the topic “Maximising Opportunities for Accountants from the ASEAN Integration”. The discussion covered the AEC plans; lesson learned from European Union; and the opportunities & challenges faced by Accountants, highlighting the talent and skills necessary for the Profession to add significant value.

## Singapore

### ACCA Singapore Annual Conference 2015



Ms Estelita Caleon Aguirre, President of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants was the Guest of Honour at the ACCA Singapore’s Annual Conference on the theme of ‘Smart Finance: Rise of the digital intrapreneur’.

### IAASB Roundtable in Singapore



The IAASB International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), and the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) hosted a roundtable with audit committee members on audit quality and auditor reporting. The objective was to facilitate a high-level discussion regarding the latest developments in more transparent auditor reporting and efforts to enhance audit quality. ACCA’s Regional Head of Policy Chiew Chun Wee served as the roundtable moderator.

### Indonesia Study Mission for SMPs

Singapore SMPs (Small and Medium Practices) participated in the ACCA-ISCA Business Study Mission to Jakarta. Co-organised by ACCA Singapore and ISCA (Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants) and supported by SPRING Singapore, a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the mission was aimed at supporting the regional growth aspirations of SMPs in Singapore.

Meetings were held with national bodies – Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (IAI) and Institut Akuntan Publik Indonesia (IAPI) to help the delegates learn more about the accounting environment in Indonesia and facilitated networking sessions with the members of both organisations.

### Vietnam

#### ACCA Supports Vietnam to Identify Opportunities, Challenges and Solution of Accounting Profession as Vietnam Access AEC and TPP



Over 120 employers and members in HCMC and 150 in Hanoi attended the workshop co-organised by ACCA and VAA. The Director of Accounting and Auditing Policy Department, Ministry of Finance highlighted the opportunities and challenges of accounting profession as Vietnam access AEC and TPP in the light of the newly approved revised Accounting Law in November 2015 VAA President shared the AFA 2015-2017 road maps among proposed solution to prepare for the accounting profession to gain the benefits from AEC and TPP accession.

#### ACCA Receives Award from State Securities Commission of Vietnam

ACCA is awarded by State Securities Commission of Vietnam for the outstanding achievements in building the technical capacity in finance and accountancy for listed companies on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange with the witness of Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Minister of Finance Dinh Tien Dung, Mr. Vu Viet Ngoan - Vice Director of National Financial Supervisory Committee, government delegations and representatives.

#### ACCA Co-organises Vietnam CFO Forum 2015 on Financial Management in the Currency War



280 CFOs and professional association representatives attended Vietnam CFO Forum 2015 on Financial Management in the currency war in Ho Chi Minh City.

ACCA speaker - Mr. Joseph Alfred - Head of Policy and Technical, ACCA Singapore spoke about the role of CFOs in moving towards sustainable enterprise development with Viet Nam and the region poised on the threshold of greater integration, said finance would also be people- and data-centric.

### ICAEW

■ Total members: 145,000



ICAEW is a world-leading professional membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports over 145,000 chartered accountants in more than 160 countries worldwide. This report briefly details ICAEW activities across South East Asia in 2015, as well as elsewhere in the world. For further information visit [icaew.com](http://icaew.com).

#### ICAEW the First Non-legal Body in the UK to Regulate Probate Services and Grant Alternative Business Structure Licences

ICAEW is now an approved regulator and licensing authority for probate services in the UK. This allows ICAEW Chartered Accountants to be accredited to offer probate services to consumers. There is also the opportunity for ICAEW firms to set up alternative business structures.



#### Reciprocal Membership Agreement (RMA) in Botswana

A new RMA was signed with the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) in November 2015. This arrangement was as a result of a World Bank project between BICA and ICAEW where ICAEW supported BICA in developing the BICA qualification. This revised qualification was based upon the ACA with local variant papers for tax and law.

The RMA sets out the requirements for BICA and ICAEW members to become a member of the partner body without the requirements for further examinations or work experience. BICA will allow ICAEW members to practice audit provided they have a BICA Practising Certificate. Members must maintain membership of their home body in order to remain eligible for dual membership of both ICAEW and BICA.



#### The Economist Events in association with ICAEW in Singapore and Hong Kong

The topic was '*Economist Insights: Boardroom risk in a changing economic for climate*' interactive roundtable events held in March and September. The events were attended by industry leaders who gathered to discuss the challenges boardrooms faced.

### ICAEW Economic Insight: South East Asia Report 2015

A quarterly forecast for the finance profession, Economic Insight focuses on the largest economies of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Every quarter a report discusses trends, policies and socio- or macro-economic matters that impact on the ASEAN communities and businesses.



### Woman in Leadership (WiL) Graduation

ICAEW and Talent Corporation Malaysia (TalentCorp) jointly celebrated the graduation of 18 participants together with their mentors in Kuala Lumpur in November. The WiL is an eight-month development programme to support women in advancing to senior roles with the support and guidance from their mentors. It is targeted at women across all industry sectors who aspire to progress to senior leadership or board roles.

### Shared Learning on Developments in Tuition and Examination Trends

The first ICAEW international academic conference and tutor workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur on 14-15 January 2015. It was attended by over 250 delegates from 36 institutions of higher learning as well as representatives of employers, professional bodies and tuition partners from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam.

### Contractual Agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ICAEW signed a contract with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the sponsorship of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) for Strengthening Financial Management in Asia and the Pacific: Piloting Audit Quality Assurance Systems for Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs). The project involves advisory and technical assistance to enhance the quality assurance (QA) systems of professional accountancy organisations (PAOs) in the selected pilot countries, namely Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Samoa. CAPA will assist ADB in providing oversight of the project and in facilitating information sharing in the region related to the project, including its objectives, deliverables and outputs.

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed with Professional Bodies Across Southeast Asia

2015 saw ICAEW in Southeast Asia strengthening its regional collaborations through MoUs signed with various professional bodies in Indonesia (IAI), Vietnam (VACPA) and Singapore (ISCA). This agreements aim to jointly advance the accountancy profession and to deepen working relationships as well as setting out the commitment to develop the accountancy profession in the respective markets.

### Capacity Building around Qualifying Programme in Myanmar

ICAEW secured further funding from the UK Prosperity Fund to support the third phase of the programme to develop a new Qualifying Programme in Myanmar for the Office of the Auditor General & the Myanmar Accountancy Council. A significant milestone was met with the award of the learning materials contract to BPP.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Malaysia Day at Chartered Accountants Hall, London

To support Malaysian and ASEAN undergraduates in the UK to enter the profession and study for the ACA at its Regional Centre of Excellence in Malaysia, ICAEW hosted a Malaysia Day and UKEC-Graduan week in March at Chartered Accountants' Hall in London. The series of events included the ICAEW – MACFIS Business Challenge 2015 with almost 100 undergraduates from 8 universities in the UK participating. That event was supported by TalentCorp, the big four and ICAEW's authorised training employers e.g. JCorp, Sime Darby, Felda Global Ventures, Sime Darby and Intel who were the facilitators and judges.



### ICAEW Appoints Head of Indonesia

ICAEW appointed Mr. Deny Poerhadiyanto, CA as its first Head of Indonesia. This is part of ICAEW's commitment to build and strengthen its initiatives and presence in Indonesia and within the South East Asia region. A well-known member of the finance and accountancy community, he is responsible for developing ICAEW's presence in Indonesia and building strong relationships with local stakeholders.

### Vietnam Day at Chartered Accountants Hall

On 22 October 2015 Chartered Accountants' Hall welcomed seven ICAEW authorised training employers (ATE) from Vietnam, a top executive search firm and also Vietnamese students studying in the UK (SVUK). The inaugural International Career Fair was aimed at reaching out to and connecting the SVUK students with top firms with the potential to be offered a career with one of these firms upon graduation. The event also included a mentoring session by seven VietPro (Vietnamese Professionals in the UK Association) members.

### Official Launch of the ICAEW Vietnam Office



On 10 November 2015 ICAEW officially launched its Vietnam office in Hanoi with a ceremonial event that was attended by dignitaries from top firms, leaders from the profession, government bodies as well as Michael Izza, ICAEW Chief Executive.

### ICAEW Annual Dinner in Singapore

ICAEW hosted an annual dinner and award ceremony event in Singapore on 13 November 2015. This event was attended by over 200 guests from top accountancy firms, members, higher education institutions and students. ICAEW also welcomed over

40 dignitaries from Chartered Accountants Worldwide at this event. An event to celebrate the key milestones achieved in the region, the ICAEW President welcomed new members as well as acknowledging the support from partners in helping ICAEW achieve excellence in 2015.

#### Making a Mark in the Profession

Malaysia aims to produce 60,000 professionally-qualified accountants as part of its goal to attain the status of a developed nation by the year 2020. The Committee to Strengthen the Accounting Profession (CSAP), in its report released in December 2014, outlined its recommendations in moving the profession forward in Malaysia. As the only Malaysian-grown professional body, The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) is proud to have been recognised as a key player in the Report, in particular, as the benchmark of professional qualification in Malaysia. We are supportive of the Report recommendations and look forward to playing our role in helping implement the recommendations for the overall betterment of the profession in Malaysia.

For the past six years, MICPA has been working closely with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) to grow our professional accounting programmes whilst offering more privileges to our Malaysian candidates. Our qualifications are readily accepted in the Malaysian, Australian and New Zealand markets and recognised globally just by going through one set of examinations. Malaysian undergraduates studying in Australia and New Zealand form a large percentage of our candidates and we continue to actively reach out to them. Upon completing their studies and returning to Malaysia to begin their careers, many make the Institute their first stop.

#### Conversion Programme for Non-Accounting Graduates

Talent acquisition is an urgent priority due to the need for more accountants. MICPA has formulated a new pathway for graduates from other disciplines to join the profession through our flagship Conversion Programme. This first-of-its-kind programme will allow degree holders from non-accounting backgrounds to join the pool of candidates that can qualify as a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Accountant. The first university to partner with us to pilot the Conversion Programme back in the last quarter of 2014 was Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). In 2015, Universiti Malaya (UM) came on board as our newest partner for this Programme expanding the number of centres that offer this programme.

#### Enriching the Accounting Community



The Institute is actively involved in preparing the business community and other stakeholders in Malaysia for compliance with a suite of new and revised Auditor Reporting standards introduced by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). In line with the introduction of these new standards, MICPA and the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) are working together with the Malaysian Securities Commission's Audit Oversight Board to address the implementation and transition to the new Standards.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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MICPA has been organising a joint audit forum with CAANZ for 6 years in a row now, with the most recent one in October 2015 focusing on 'The Future Of Auditor Reporting – The Practical Impact'. The Audit Forum was intended to assist practitioners in the adoption of the new and revised Auditor Reporting standards and the crafting of a sound communications strategy to ensure that the impact of the changes are understood by key stakeholders.

MICPA in collaboration with MIA and Bursa Malaysia organised a Corporate Governance Breakfast Series. Held over a few sessions throughout the year, this Series was opened to senior management, stakeholders and shareholders of various organisations to help them understand the requirements of the newly introduced auditor reporting standards.

Throughout the year, a number of activities were carried out to meet the interests and professional development needs of the different segments of membership. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses on a broad scope of topics were organised throughout the year to keep members abreast of current changes in today's highly competitive global economic environment. Topics covered areas in accounting, auditing and assurance and taxation.

In light of the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as well as the implementation of the new auditor reporting standards, MICPA also arranged several evening talk sessions and full day forums to help address any issues and questions whilst providing members with pertinent and relevant information relating to these two new changes within the profession.

MASB's announcement on a new financial reporting framework – the Malaysian Private Entity Reporting Standards (MPERS) which takes effect on 1 January 2016, was also the catalyst for the Institute to organise a seminar in November 2015 aimed at providing a clear understanding on the concepts of major sections of the MPERS and the significant differences between the respective frameworks. MICPA also worked closely with MIA to organise Audit World in November 2015 which served as another workshop and discussion forum for members on current and important issues related to the world of Audit.

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)**

On 30 March 2015, CIPFA, MIA and MICPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen public financial management through development of skills and increase capacity within the public services in Malaysia. This MoU outlines the future co-operative relationship between the three Institutes to seek and identify areas in Malaysia's public finance system where there is the greatest scope for development through collaboration. This MoU also paves the way for our members to gain CIPFA membership.

### **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Universities**



In its continued commitment to advance the accounting profession in Malaysia, MICPA signed Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with two universities namely Universiti Malaya (UM) and Management & Science University (MSU). The MoA aims to develop accounting-related educational programmes while promoting institutional exchanges through intellectual discourse and knowledge sessions between both parties to help develop academia, training and student development.

### Event Highlights

Some key corporate events that MICPA has developed and contributed towards include MICPA's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, MICPA Excellence Awards, MICPA 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lecture and Luncheon, and the National Annual Corporate Report Awards (NACRA) 2015.

#### MICPA 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner



MICPA celebrated its 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Institute's Annual Dinner. Held on 20 June 2015 at Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, the dinner was graced by YB Datuk Chua Tee Yong, Deputy Minister of Finance II. A yearly affair, the Annual Dinner saw guests from various Government and regulatory bodies, well known corporates, institutes of higher learning and accounting firms coming together for a night of celebration, camaraderie and networking. Also in attendance were the Institute's Council, members, graduates, past presidents and employees.

Every year the Institute will confer the 'Anugerah Presiden' award to a Past President for their exceptional contributions to society, the profession and the Institute. The winner for 2015 was Dato' Larry Seow Thiam Fatt. This year was also made memorable by the Institute's inaugural celebration of 189 MICPA Life Members. These members, aged 70 and above have faithfully served as members of the Institute for 30 years or more. It was an honour for the Institute, its Council and Secretariat to recognise the Institute's Life Members.

#### MICPA Excellence Awards 2014



Graduating candidates of the prestigious MICPA-CAANZ Programme received their examination certificates at MICPA annual Excellence Awards. MICPA Past President YBhg. Dato' Zainal Abidin bin Putih was the guest of honour for the night and he was accompanied by Mr Tan Theng Hooi, MICPA Vice President and Mr Lee White, Chief Executive Officer of CAANZ. All three gentlemen were on hand to present the awards to the top achievers. We celebrated 57 graduates, 3 Gold Medal winners and 6 Certificate of Merit award recipients.

Every year, the Institute works towards producing top notch professional accountants and both MICPA and CAANZ have a strong history of having some of the best professional accountants in the industry with many becoming distinguished business leaders.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### MICPA 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lecture & Luncheon



MICPA held its 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lecture on November 12, 2015. Held annually since 1988, the Commemorative Lecture provides all those in attendance with an opportunity to listen, discuss and learn about some of the hot topics currently making its rounds within the industry. Guests include illustrious corporate leaders, representatives from the various regulatory bodies, members of academia and the accounting profession.

YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hj. Mokhtar, Managing Director of Khazanah Nasional Berhad graced the event as Guest of Honour and delivered the Commemorative Lecture. His chosen topic was "Sense & Sensibility, Accounting & Accountability: A Practitioner's Perspective".

### National Annual Corporate Report Awards (NACRA) 2015

NACRA is jointly organised by MICPA, MIA and Bursa Malaysia Berhad. It was launched in 1990 with the aim to promote excellence in annual corporate reporting. The main objective of NACRA is to promote greater and more effective communication by organisations through the publication of timely, informative, factual and reader-friendly annual reports. It aims to recognise and encourage excellence in the presentation of financial and business information. NACRA also aims to create public awareness of the objectives of organisations, their operations and their financial performance as well as to promote higher standards of corporate governance. NACRA is open to all companies incorporated or registered in Malaysia as well as the public sector and other organisations established in Malaysia. 2015 saw the introduction of a new award in collaboration with TalentCorp – the Inclusiveness and Diversity Award.

### Outreach & Awareness



The Institute actively engages with potential candidates through Programme talks, networking sessions, exhibitions, career fairs and orientation sessions in accounting firms. In May 2015, MICPA introduced a new student event – MICPA Accountant's Dash. This 5km fun run was open to all MICPA-accredited universities and aims to strengthen the Institute's relationship with accounting undergraduates across Malaysia. We also continued with our yearly MICPA-CAANZ Accountancy Week which continues to receive strong support from all the accounting students. 2015 marked the Institute's 16<sup>th</sup> Accountancy Week and has proven to be

a great success with accounting students gathering from across the country to participate in the various activities offered which include a quiz, management simulation game and sports events.

The Institute is constant in its outreach activities at universities promoting the joint MICPA- CAANZ Programme and the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP). Top achievers from public universities continue to be responsive towards SSP - a flagship Programme developed by the Institute in 2012 which provides an internship placement, a full-time job offer upon graduation, and sponsorship for students to pursue 2 out of 5 modules of the MICPA-CAANZ Programme in their final year of their Bachelor of Accounting degree.

### International Initiatives



JICPA was honored to have a number of opportunities to be connected and engage with individuals from other accountancy organisations and institutions around the globe in 2015, including:

- President of the Institute of Registered Auditors in Belgium
- Chair of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and representatives from IFRS Foundation
- President of Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)
- President of the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CICPA)
- President, Deputy President, and CEO of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA)
- Chairs of the International Accounting and Auditing Standards Board (IAASB), International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)
- President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- President of Institute of Chartered Accountants in Singapore (ISCA)
- CEO of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC)
- President of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)



### Development Support for Myanmar CPAs

JICPA has been involved with Japan's initiative in assisting the development of capital markets in Myanmar since 2014. Mr. Kimitaka Mori, Chairman and President of JICPA, visited Myanmar in February and August and exchanged views with various stakeholders both in public and private sectors in Myanmar.

JICPA also hosted a one-day training seminar for Myanmar CPAs in support of the MICPA-DAIWA Myanmar Japan Foundation's program, which has been established for Myanmar CPAs to understand and learn about the stock market and related topics.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### Strengthening Corporate Governance - CPAs' Commitment Renewed

Japan's Corporate Governance Code and related rules entered into force on 1 June, 2015, and all listed companies on the First and Second sections of Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) became subject to follow the new Code. In relation to the application of the new Code, JICPA offered training opportunities and encouraged members to assist companies in enhancing transparency in corporate management and achieving sustainable growth by utilizing the expertise and competence in the areas of accounting, auditing and business.

### Joint Seminar on Framework-based Understanding of IFRS



JICPA and IFRS Foundation hosted a second joint seminar on Framework-based understanding of IFRS in July 2015. Inviting Mr. Michael Wells, IASB IFRS Education Initiative Director, as a main speaker, the first half of the seminar focused on the importance of understanding IFRS with an emphasis on the purpose of financial reporting as regulated in the Conceptual Framework. Mr. Takatsugu Ochi, IASB member, and Mr. Tatsumi Yamada, former IASB member, also presented concepts and issues related to the implementation of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments and IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

### Seminar on Corporate Reporting for Long-term Value Creation



On 9 September 2015, JICPA co-sponsored a conference entitled "IFRS for Growth Strategy – Corporate Reporting for Long-term Value Creation" to discuss the future of corporate reporting in the age of globalization.

A member of the House of Representatives, who is also a secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's sub-committee on corporate accounting, opened the conference with a speech on the future of accounting standards, followed by keynote remarks by Mr. Tokio Morita, Deputy director-General of the Planning

and Coordination Bureau of the Financial Services Agency and Mr. Hugh Shields, Executive Technical Director of the International Accounting Standards Board.

Heated discussion over the use of IFRS for enhancing further economic growth followed after the opening remarks, with panelists including Mr. Kimitaka Mori, Chairman and President of JICPA, Mr. Koichiro Miyahara, President of Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc., Mr. Yoshiaki Nishimura, President and CEO of Sumitomo Riko Company Limited, and Mr. Masao Yanaga, Professor of Tsukuba University.

### Joint Technical Forum with ICAEW and AICPA

On 5 and 6 October 2015, JICPA hosted a technical forum on the introduction of a new revenue recognition standard and lessons learned from the European experience on IFRS reporting with speakers from ICAEW and AICPA. Speakers from ICAEW and AICPA also met with JICPA management and members of technical committees and a study group on IFRS, and discussed the issues related to IFRS reporting and current situations in each country.

### 36<sup>th</sup> JICPA Annual Conference

The 36<sup>th</sup> JICPA Annual Conference was held in Okinawa, with a main theme “Contributing to a Society – Revising the missions and responsibilities of CPAs.”

The total of 10 concurrent sessions were held, including a session on the expanding the CPAs involvement in financial management of public and not-for-profit sectors. Expectation is particularly high from the public to further accelerate the involvement of CPAs in local governments for the smooth implementation of the new unified accounting standards for local governments.

Widening the area of services for CPAs particularly in assurance, and attracting more talents to the accounting profession were also the topics for discussion at the conference. Experts from the fields of business revitalization as well as corporate finance for business value creation also offered interesting perspectives on the current issues in each field. The conference was attended by over 800 JICPA members and individuals from related fields.

### IFAC President visit to JICPA and Integrated Reporting Forum in Tokyo

During the week of 29 November 2015 Ms. Olivia Kirtley, President of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and Mr. Gary Pflugrath, Director, Public Policy and Regulation of IFAC, visited Tokyo and met with JICPA leadership and representatives from regulatory agencies, including the Financial Services Agency (FSA) and Certified Public Accountants and Auditing Oversight Board (CPAFOB).

On this occasion of her first visit to Tokyo, Ms. Kirtley also spoke about the importance of corporate governance and the roles of CPAs in enhancing a dialogue between companies and investors at the Integrated Reporting Forum held on 2 December, which preceded the International Integrated Reporting Council meeting held in Tokyo on 3 December 2015.

### Forum on Increasing the Relevance and Attracting Best and Brightest to Accounting Profession

JICPA, together with a number of international accounting firms and accounting graduate schools, hosted a talent forum on 1 December 2015.

Speakers at the forum included Mr. Kimitaka Mori, Chairman and President of JICPA, and Ms. Olivia Kirtley, President of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), as well as academics and young professionals with varieties of backgrounds. The forum attracted around one hundred participants interested in raising the awareness and relevance of CPAs in the healthy functioning of capital markets. The details of the symposium were later reported in the Nikkei, Japan’s leading business daily newspaper.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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### JICPA Joined AFA



JICPA has become one of the associate members of the AFA at the 120<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Federation of Accountants Council meeting held in Manila on 5 December 2015.

JICPA is committed to keep strengthening ties with AFA and AFA member bodies in supporting the development of the CPA profession and capital markets in the region.

# Communicating With AFA

**T**HE ever changing environment of the Southeast Asia region in particular was driven among others by the advancement in communication technology. Home to more than 608 million people representing a USD2.3 trillion economy, our diverse region has embraced the use of different forms of technology, to be connected and updated in real time.

To best serve our role as the umbrella organisation for the national professional accounting organisations of the ASEAN member countries, we acknowledge the importance of taking advantage of technology to extend our reach to stakeholders in the region.

This year we are proud to establish our presence in Twitter as one of the most used communication media. Through our Twitter account, [@AFA\\_Accountants](#), we will deliver the most up-to-date information about AFA's and our members' activities right to your device of choice.

For those of you who need more information and would like to access the many reports that we have published, you could access our website at [www.aseanaccountants.org](http://www.aseanaccountants.org) or reach us through email at [afasecretariat@iaiglobal.or.id](mailto:afasecretariat@iaiglobal.or.id).

We hope that through all of these communication channels AFA would be more accessible, so that we could hear from you as one of our stakeholders in together working for the betterment of our beloved accountancy profession in the Southeast Asia region.

Khawp Jai.

**Aucky Pratama**  
Executive Director  
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Countries in which AFA Primary Members are located are marked with its respective country flags.

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ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015



**BAKER TILLY  
TFW**

Baker Tilly TFW LLP  
Chartered Accountants of Singapore

An independent member of Baker Tilly International

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## FEDERATION PROFILE

### Primary Members

<b>Brunei</b>	Brunei Darussalam Institute of Certified Public Accountants (BICPA)
<b>Cambodia</b>	Kampuchea Institute of CPAs and Auditors (KICPAA)
<b>Indonesia</b>	Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (IAI)
<b>Laos</b>	Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA)
<b>Malaysia</b>	Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)
<b>Myanmar</b>	Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC)
<b>Philippines</b>	Philippines Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)
<b>Singapore</b>	Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA)
<b>Thailand</b>	Federation of Accounting Professions (FAP)
<b>Vietnam</b>	Vietnamese Association of Accountants and Auditors (VAA)

### Associate Members

<b>Australia</b>	CPA Australia
<b>Australia and New Zealand</b>	Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

### Office Bearers for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

<b>AFA President</b>	Ms Estelita C. Aguirre (PICPA)
<b>AFA Deputy President</b>	Mr. Sonexay Silaphet (LICPA)
<b>AFA Secretary-General</b>	Ms Josefe Sorretera-Ty (PICPA)
<b>AFA Treasurer</b>	Mr. Frankie Chia (ISCA)

### Office of the Federation

**Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia**  
Grha Akuntan  
Jl Sindanglaya No. 1 - Menteng  
Jakarta 10310  
Indonesia

### Independent Auditor

**Baker Tilly TFW LLP**  
Public Accountants and  
Chartered Accountants  
Singapore

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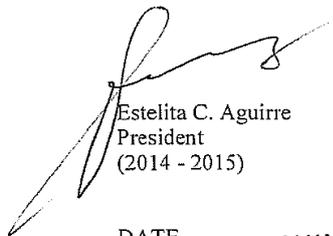
**ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS**

**STATEMENT BY COUNCIL**

In the opinion of the Council:

- (i) the financial statements as set out on pages 4 to 12 are properly drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ASEAN Federation of Accountants (the "Federation") at 31 December 2015 and of the financial performance, changes in accumulated fund and cash flows of the Federation for the financial year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards; and
- (ii) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Federation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

On behalf of the Council



Estelita C. Aguirre  
President  
(2014 - 2015)



Frankie Chia  
Treasurer

DATE **20 MAY 2016**



## BAKER TILLY TFW

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### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PRIMARY MEMBERS OF ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS**

#### **Reports on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ASEAN Federation of Accountants (the "Federation") set out on pages 4 to 12, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in fund and statement of cash flows for the financial year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Council's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Federation are properly drawn up in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federation as at 31 December 2015 and the financial performance, changes in accumulated fund and cash flows of the Federation for the financial year ended on that date.

Baker Tilly TFW LLP  
Public Accountants and  
Chartered Accountants  
Singapore

20 May 2016

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ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	26,750	26,750
Interest income	3,735	1,668
Other income	7,384	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,869	28,418
<b>Less expenditure</b>		
Auditor's remuneration	2,000	1,750
Bank charges	399	470
Courier charges	25	260
Foreign currency exchange loss	(391)	(227)
Forum expenses	4,885	–
Meeting expenses	11,996	5,166
Publications	1,545	1,620
Staff costs	15,000	–
Sundry expenses	305	368
Travelling expenses	11,454	2,841
Website expenses	1,263	2,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48,481	14,817
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus and total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(10,612)	13,601

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

**BALANCE SHEET**  
At 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Other receivables	3	10,427	384
Cash and cash equivalents	4	505,474	488,365
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		515,901	488,749
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables and accruals	5	39,514	1,750
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net assets</b>		476,387	486,999
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>		476,387	486,999
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND**  
**For the financial year ended 31 December 2015**

	\$
Balance at 1 January 2014	473,398
Net surplus and total comprehensive income for the year	13,601
Balance at 31 December 2014	<u>486,999</u>
Net deficit and total comprehensive income for the year	(10,612)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u>476,387</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year		(10,612)	13,601
Adjustment for:			
Interest income		(3,735)	(1,668)
Operating (deficit)/surplus before movements in working capital		(14,347)	11,933
Other receivables		(7,384)	–
Payables and accruals		37,764	(10,908)
Cash from operations		16,033	1,025
Interest received		1,076	4,783
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		17,109	5,808
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		17,109	5,808
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		488,365	482,557
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	4	505,474	488,365

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

## ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the financial year ended 31 December 2015

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

#### 1 Corporate information

The office of the Federation is at Jalan Sindanglaya No. 1, Menteng, Jakarta 10310, Indonesia.

The principal activity of the Federation is the advancement of the accounting profession in the ASEAN region.

#### 2 Significant accounting policies

##### (a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements, expressed in Singapore dollar (“\$”) which is the Federation’s functional currency, have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as disclosed in the accounting policies below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Federation’s accounting policies. It also requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of income and expenditure during the financial year. These estimates and assumptions are assessed on an on-going basis and are based on experience and relevant factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There were no significant judgement and estimates made during the financial year.

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, other current receivables and payables approximate their respective fair values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

In the current financial year, the Federation has adopted all the new and revised IFRS issued by the IASB and Interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (“IFRIC”) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current financial year. The adoption of these new and revised IFRS and IFRIC did not have any material effect on the financial results or position of the Federation.

New standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that have been issued at the balance sheet date but are not yet effective for the financial year ended 31 December 2015 have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Federation in the period of their initial adoption.

## 2 Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

### (b) Financial assets

#### i) Classification

The Federation classifies its financial assets according to the purpose for which the assets were acquired. The Council determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every balance sheet date. The Federation's only financial assets are loans and receivables.

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except those maturing later than 12 months after the balance sheet date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are presented as "other receivables" and "cash and cash equivalents" on the balance sheet.

#### ii) Recognition and derecognition

Regular purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date – the date on which the Federation commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Federation has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. On disposal of a financial asset, the difference between the net sale proceeds and its carrying amount is recognised in income or expenditure. Any amount in the fair value reserve relating to that asset is also transferred to income or expenditure.

#### iii) Initial measurement

Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs.

#### iv) Subsequent measurement

Loans and receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Interest income on financial assets are recognised separately in income or expenditure.

#### v) Impairment

The Federation assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired.

Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments are considered indicators that the receivable is impaired.

The carrying amount of these assets is reduced through the use of an impairment allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in income or expenditure. The allowance amount is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. When the asset becomes uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are recognised against the same line item in income or expenditure.

## 2 Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

### (c) Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities, which comprise other payables and accruals are recognised on the balance sheet when, and only when, the Federation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value of consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expired. Gains and losses are recognised in income or expenditure when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

### (d) Foreign currency

#### (i) *Functional and presentation currency*

Items included in the financial statements are measured using the currency that best reflects the economic environment substance of the underlying events and circumstances ('the functional currency').

#### (ii) *Transactions and balances*

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rate of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in income or expenditure.

### (e) Income taxes

The Federation's income from its principal activities is exempt from income tax under Section 11(2) of the Income Tax Act because the Federation is deemed not to be a carrying on a business in Singapore.

### (f) Income recognition

Income comprises the fair value of the consideration received or recoverable for the rendering of services. Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Federation and the amount can be reliably measured.

Members' annual and admission fees are recognised when due.

Interest income is recognised as the interest accrues based on effective interest method.

### (g) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Federation has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount can be made. Where the Federation expects a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

**3 Other receivables**

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Other receivables	7,384	–
Interest receivables	3,043	384
	<u>10,427</u>	<u>384</u>

**4 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Fixed deposits	401,087	300,011
Bank balances	104,387	188,354
	<u>505,474</u>	<u>488,365</u>

Cash and cash equivalents are denominated in the following currencies:

Singapore dollar	499,588	482,822
United States dollar	5,886	5,543
	<u>505,474</u>	<u>488,365</u>

Fixed deposits bear interest rates ranging from 0.20% to 1.80% (2014: 0.20% to 1.20%) per annum and mature between 1 and 10 months (2014: 1 and 22 months) from the balance sheet date.

**5 Payables and accruals**

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued operating expenses	20,514	1,750
Membership fees received in advance	4,000	–
Other payables	15,000	–
	<u>39,514</u>	<u>1,750</u>

**6 Financial instruments****a) Categories of financial instruments**

Financial instruments at their carrying amounts at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Loans and receivables (including cash and cash equivalents)	<u>515,901</u>	<u>488,749</u>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
At amortised cost	<u>35,514</u>	<u>1,750</u>

## 6 Financial instruments (cont'd)

### b) Financial risk management

The main risks arising from the Federation's financial management are credit risk, foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and liquidity risk. The Federation reviews and agrees on policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below:

#### *Credit risk*

The Federation's exposure to credit risk arises from the failure of a counterparty to settle its financial and contractual obligations to the Federation, as and when they fall due. The Federation manages this risk by monitoring credit ratings and limiting the aggregate financial exposure to any individual counterparty.

The Federation places its cash and fixed deposits with banks and financial institutions which are regulated.

At balance sheet date, there is no significant concentration of credit risk. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each category of financial assets in the balance sheet.

#### *Foreign currency risk*

The Federation has no significant exposure to foreign currency risk as its financial assets and financial liabilities are mainly denominated in Singapore dollar. The Federation does not use financial instruments to hedge its foreign currency risk. The Federation, however, monitors its exposure to foreign currency risk closely to assess the necessity to hedge the risk.

#### *Interest rate risk*

The Federation is exposed to interest rate risk through the impact of rate changes on its interest-bearing fixed deposits. The Federation's policy is to review the terms of these deposits to take advantage of the best market rates in order to optimise the income received from these deposits. The sensitivity analysis for changes in interest rate is not disclosed as the effect in income and expenditure is considered not significant.

#### *Liquidity risk*

In the management of liquidity risk, the Federation monitors and maintains a level of cash and bank balances deemed adequate by the Council to finance the Federation's operations and mitigate the effects of fluctuations in cash flows.

## 7 Fair values

The carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities recorded in the financial statements of the Federation approximate their fair values due to the relatively short period of maturity of these assets and liabilities.

## 8 Fund management

The Federation's objectives when managing its funds are to safeguard and maintain adequate working capital to continue as a going concern. The Council considers the accumulated fund as the capital of the Federation and no changes were made to the Federation's fund management objectives during the financial years ended 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2014.

## 9 Authorisation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Federation for the financial year ended 31 December 2015 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Council dated 20 May 2016.



# ASEAN Federation of Accountants



**ASEAN Federation of Accountants**  
Accredited Civil Society Organisation of ASEAN  
[www.aseanaccountants.org](http://www.aseanaccountants.org)

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