

January 2009

CPA Students eCommunicator is a monthly electronic newsletter designed for our CPA students to give quick updates on recent developments at the Institute and the profession.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear CPA Students

It gives me great pleasure to wish you a **Happy New Year**. Setting realistic New Year resolutions and goals is the most effective and simple way to make things happen. Accomplishing new years' resolution calls for a passionate desire within oneself and a definite purpose to make it really happen. **All the Best for the Year 2009!**

I would also like to extend my **Congratulations** to all students who passed the Advanced Stage Examination in the November 2008 sitting. **Well Done!**

Chinese New Year Greetings



The President, Council, Management and Staff of the MICPA would like to wish all our Chinese students

A Happy & Prosperous Chinese New Year

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MICPA Office Closed

The Institute will be closed for the Chinese New Year festivities on Monday & Tuesday, January 26 - 27, 2009 and will resume operations on Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

CPA Students Corner

Payment of Students Annual Fee for 2009

In accordance with bye-law 63 of the Institute's bye-laws, any student who fails to pay the annual fee or other sum payable by him to the Institute for six months after the same has become due shall automatically be excluded from the register of students and therefore forfeit any right to sit for the Institute's examination. Students

are reminded to remit the amount payable to the Institute by **January 31, 2009**. For further information, please contact the Institute's Accounts Department on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: ksl.acc@micpa.com.my

November 2008 Examination Results

The November 2008 Examination results were released on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. Please click [here](#) to view the results. For further information, please contact the Institute's Examination Officer at Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: hl.exam@micpa.com.my

2009 Workshop Sessions Schedule

We are pleased to inform students that the workshop sessions for the Advanced Stage Examination (ASE), which constitutes Modules C, D, E and F for the May 2009 examination will be held from February 21 – April 19, 2009. Registration for the workshop sessions is now open. For further information, please click [here](#). You may also contact the Examination Officer at Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: hl.exam@micpa.com.my

May 2009 Examination Time-Table

The May 2009 Examination Time-Table has been posted in the students' website. For further information, please click [here](#)

Young CPA Group

We are pleased to inform you that the *Young CPA Group* was established in 2004 with the aim of encouraging our younger members to take part in the Institute's work and activities. Young members play an important role in identifying the professional needs of its members and provide valuable feedback and suggestions and recommendations to the Institute. CPA Students are encouraged to join the Young CPA Group. Please register yourself online at www.micpa.com.my. **Membership is FREE!**

Be Different by Joining the Young CPA Group Today?

Articles of Interest

In the October issue, we had created a new section called **Articles of Interest**. We have since uploaded articles on Single Tier Tax System, Fair Value Accounting & Business Valuation from a Regulatory and Corporate Governance Perspective and Approach to Valuation.

For this issue, you will be able to learn more on **M&A Strategies in a Down Market**. We hope that you will find the article informative and value-add. The article appeared in The McKinsey Quarterly, September 2008 issue who have granted the Institute permission to post the article in the CPA Students eCommunicator. The link provided will direct readers to the McKinsey Quarterly site, where they will be asked to register for free, and you will be able to access the said article.

M&A Strategies in a Down Market

Rough economic periods can create good opportunities for companies to buy undervalued assets. McKinsey research indicates, however, that many do just the opposite: they are more likely to undertake divestments during downturns (and buy

new businesses when times are good). Earning better returns, though, requires discipline, a willingness to run against the crowd, and careful balance-sheet management that makes it feasible to invest when times are tough.

Article URL: <http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/links/31874>

Activities of the Institute

MICPA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Lecture cum Luncheon

The Institute will be holding its 50th Anniversary Commemorative Lecture cum Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at Sapphire Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur at 12.30 p.m.** The Commemorative Lecture cum Luncheon provides an opportunity for members of the accountancy profession, the Government, regulatory authorities and the business community to get together to evaluate the most pertinent issue affecting the Malaysian and global economies, and the role of the accountancy profession.

In this regard, we have pleasure in inviting you and your colleagues and business associates to the Commemorative Lecture and Luncheon. For further information, please contact the Public Affairs & Communications Manager on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: vic.pr@micpa.com.my

MICPA Participates in Career Fairs and Exhibitions

The Institute continues to embark on a more aggressive marketing strategy to position the CPA and CFiA as the designated choice. In this regard, the Institute participates actively in career fairs and exhibitions across the country to promote accountancy as a career, and in particular to create greater awareness of the CPA Malaysia qualification. The Institute welcomes participation from students who would like to support and participate in these activities. For further information, please contact the Public Affairs & Communications Manager on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: vic.pr@micpa.com.my

Collaboration with Universities

As part of the Institute's efforts to foster closer collaboration with the academic staff of universities in a positive and mutually beneficial manner, the Institute has scheduled meetings with the Deans of the Faculty of Accountancy of the various public universities. The aim is to promote the CPA and CFiA qualifications to university students and lecturers.

- On Tuesday, January 6, 2009, the Institute made a visit to UNITEN, Muadzam Shah, Pahang. YBhg Datin Fadzillah Saad, Council Member of the Institute gave a briefing to the accounting lecturers on the CFiA qualification and to the accounting students on the CPA qualification.

Appointment of New Approved Training Organisation

We are pleased to announce that ***Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) Sdn Bhd*** has been appointed as an Approved Training Organisation of the Institute under Stream II. Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (SYABAS) was incorporated on July 8, 1996 under the Malaysian Companies Act, 1965 to undertake the privatisation of water supply services in the State of Selangor and the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya ('the Privatisation').

Practical training is an integral part of the Institute's CPA programme. Under the Stream II training, candidates may undertake the CPA examinations prior to the start of practical training or during the training period and are not required to enter into a training contract but must maintain a training log book as a record of their practical experience, which must be obtained in an approved training organisation (ATO) under the supervision of a member of MICPA or approved professional body.

To date, 77 approved training organisations (ATOs) are registered with the Institute where students can undertake training. To view the list of ATOs, visit the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my under the List of CPA Firms in the Homepage.

Job Opportunities on MICPA Website

As part of the Institute's service to members', Members' Firms who wish to advertise any job opportunities in their respective firms are welcome to send in the job vacancy to the Institute. The opening will be posted on the MICPA website for **1 month**. For further information, please contact the Public Affairs & Communications Manager on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or email: vic.pr@micpa.com.my

Announcements

Change of Correspondence and E-mail Address

Students are reminded that they should inform the Institute of any change in their correspondence and e-mail addresses. **This is to ensure that you receive all notices, circulars, publications, correspondences and e-mail broadcasts promptly.** Please click [here](#) to download the form and fax the completed form to the MICPA Secretariat at Fax No 03-2698 9403.

Upcoming Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programmes

A Practical Guide to Auditing

A two-day Workshop on *A Practical Guide to Auditing* will be held on February 18-19, 2009 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the workshop is to equip participants with the technical knowledge and skills in conducting an audit of financial statements in accordance with international standards on auditing, which have been adopted for application in Malaysia. The workshop will cover the fundamental auditing principles, the development of an audit plan, performance of audit procedures, documentation, audit conclusions and reporting. The workshop will be conducted by Mr Yung Chuen Seng. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of the MICPA Audit Guide for Practitioners worth RM350.00.

Risk Management

A one-day Workshop on *Risk Management* will be held on February 25, 2009 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, which is jointly organised by the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) and MICPA. The workshop is highly intensive and takes a pragmatic approach to risk management that can benefit CEOs, CFOs, directors, risk managers and external auditors. It will focus on practical examples and lessons learned from real life case studies in risk management. The workshop

will also highlight the key amendments in the Companies Act in relation to internal control and related provisions to mitigate risk and enhance control in an organisation. The Workshop will be led by Mr Yogaretnam, Managing Director of FRM Enterprise. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

News from Regulatory and Professional Bodies

Securities Commission Malaysia (SC)

Audit Oversight Board - SC: Bill To Be Tabled in March

A bill to set up an Audit Oversight Board (AOB) is expected to be tabled in Parliament this March. The AOB is a special independent body that will regulate auditors in the country. The idea for an AOB was first brought up during the tabling of Budget 2008. Sources from the auditing industry say they are supportive of it, pointing out that it has become important for Malaysia to set one up as soon as possible given the rise in accounting scandals of late, both at home and abroad.

The concept is globally recognised and would also help improve investor confidence. According to the SC, a high-level task force had already put forward recommendations to the Government on the most appropriate framework for the AOB. Among other things, the task force recommended adding gate-keeping powers to the AOB to ensure that only fit and proper persons are allowed to audit companies. It also proposed that the AOB be composed of a majority of suitably qualified non-practising accountants, so that it is independent from those it is regulating. The SC said the AOB would be able to conduct regular and rigorous inspections on public-listed auditors, in addition to having disciplinary powers via a broad range of sanctions.

The task force comprised representatives from the SC, the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), Bank Negara Malaysia, Bursa Malaysia Berhad and various public-listed companies.

(This article appeared in the New Straits Times dated January 14, 2009)

Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)

Accountancy: Career and Education Fair 2009

The Malaysian Institute of Accountants will be organising the Accountancy: Career and Education Fair 2009 on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Mid-Valley Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The MICPA will be participating in the above fair as an Exhibitor, so if you are free, do come along and visit us at booth No.2002. For further information, please visit www.mia.org.my

World Congress of Accountants 2010

Malaysia will host the 18th World Congress of Accountants 2010 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur on November 8-11, 2010 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. For further information, please click [here](#)

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)

IAASB Practice Alert Helps Auditors and Management Assess Impact of Credit Crisis On-Going Concern

The unexpected severity, speed and consequences of the credit crisis present unique challenges for management and auditors in meeting their responsibilities in assessing an entity's ability to continue as a going concern. To help auditors and management, as well as those charged with governance, in addressing those challenges, the staff of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), an independent standard-setting board under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), has released a new practice alert entitled *Audit Considerations in Respect of Going Concern in the Current Economic Environment*. The alert was developed following consultation with the IAASB and a review of similar guidance issued by national standard setters.

Management, those charged with governance and auditors alike must consider the effect of the credit crisis and economic downturn on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and whether these effects ought to be described in the financial statements. The alert highlights areas within International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 570, *Going Concern*, as well as other ISAs, that are particularly relevant in the current economic environment and provides additional guidance for auditors in evaluating management's use of the going concern assumption. It also raises awareness of issues surrounding liquidity and credit risk that may create new uncertainties for entities or exacerbate those already existing.

James Sylph, Executive Director, Professional Standards, emphasizes, "While the alert notes that auditors are always required to evaluate management's use of the going concern assumption, given current economic conditions, the evaluation will take on even more importance and is likely to be more complex. This is particularly the case with regard to the availability of credit and the impact of the current economic environment on budgets and forecasts, factors which are likely to result in additional disclosures in the current period's financial statements. As such, we believe this alert will be useful for auditors as well as management of entities of all sizes in the current audit season."

This new alert is the second alert issued by staff of the IAASB. The first, *Challenges in Auditing Fair Value Accounting Estimates in the Current Market Environment*, was issued in October 2008 to assist auditors in addressing the challenges of auditing fair value accounting estimates, and highlights areas within the ISAs that are particularly relevant in the audit of fair value accounting estimates in times of market uncertainty. Both alerts may be downloaded free of charge from the IFAC website (www.ifac.org). For more information on IFAC initiatives with regard to the global financial crisis, please visit <http://www.ifac.org/financial-crisis/>.

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

First Meeting of the Financial Crisis Advisory Group to Take Place in London

In a press release dated January 9, 2009, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) announced that the first meeting of the Financial Crisis Advisory Group (FCAG) will take place in London on January 20, 2009.

The FCAG has been set up jointly by the IASB and the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) to consider financial reporting issues arising from the global financial crisis. The group comprises of recognised leaders from the fields of business and government with a broad range of experience in international financial markets. The IASB and FASB announced the group membership on December 30, 2008. Recommendations from the advisory group will be jointly considered by the two boards. Any decisions to act upon the recommendations will be subject to appropriate and thorough due process. For further information, please visit www.iasb.org

IASC Foundation Publishes IFRS Taxonomy 2009 for Public Comment

In a press release dated January 12, 2009, the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) Foundation announced the release of the near final version of the IFRS Taxonomy 2009 for public comment. The IFRS Taxonomy 2009 is a translation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued at December 31, 2008 into XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language), a language that is used to communicate information between businesses and other users of financial information.

The specific characteristics of XBRL allow companies, regulators, investors, analysts and others using the IFRS Taxonomy 2009 with easier filing, access to and comparison of financial data.

XBRL is rapidly becoming the format of choice for the electronic filing of financial information – particularly within jurisdictions reporting under IFRSs. In addition, on 4 March 2008 the recent US SEC rule that allows non-US companies listed in the US to file their financial reports according to IFRSs as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) became effective. According to this rule non-US companies that choose to submit their financial reports in IFRS electronically will have to do so using the IFRS Taxonomy 2009.

For further information, please visit www.iasb.org

News from Universities

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang

Job Career Fair

The School of Management and Accounting Society of Universiti Sains Malaysia is organising a **Job Career Fair** with the *theme Accounting Success Towards Your Dream* which will be held on February 10-11, 2009 at Dewan Budaya and Dataran Merah, USM.

The MICPA is a bronze sponsor of the event and will also be participating in the exhibition being held in conjunction with the Fair.

Multimedia University, Melaka

Inter-Varsity Quiz (IVAQ) 2009

The Accounting Club of Multimedia University, Melaka Campus in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), Melaka Branch will be organising the ***Intervarsity Accounting Quiz (IVAQ) 2009*** to be held on March 7, 2009.

The MICPA is a bronze sponsor for the event and will also be participating in the exhibition being held in conjunction with the IVAQ Quiz road-show from February 17-19, 2009.

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam

APAcS Annual Dinner 2009

The Association of Professional Accounting Students of UiTM, Shah Alam is organising the *APAcS Annual Dinner 2009* on Friday, March 21, 2009 to be held at the Sime Darby Convention Centre.

The MICPA is a Silver sponsor for the event.

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Pulau Pinang

International Conference on Languages

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Pulau Pinang is organising the International Conference on Languages to be held on May 27 – 28, 2009 at Bayview Hotel, Georgetown, Penang.

The MICPA is a Bronze sponsor for the conference.

Down Memory Lane

Did You Know That?

In March 2003, the Public Practice Committee of the Institute organised a Practitioners Forum cum Study Tour to Ho Chih Minh City, Vietnam.

In April, 2003, a Fund-Raising Task Force was appointed to raise funds for the MACPA ETF. Mr Ho Heng Chuan, the then a Council Member of the Institute was Chairman of the task force.

In June 2003, *Anugerah Presiden* was presented to YBhg Datuk Abu Hassan Kendut, a past president of the Institute during the Institute's Annual Dinner.

During the annual dinner, fund raising activities was held to raise fund for the MACPA Educational Trust Fund (ETF). A total of RM55,500 was raised.

Thought for the Day

Seize the Day

Don't be too concerned with what was and what will be. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present.

Around Town

Winter Warmers Coffee & Tea House (Halal)

Patterned after an English café, it would be a very nice place to chill out. The collection of tea pots, floral prints on the tablecloth, traditional wallpaper does give the place a warm and comfortable feel. Set meals range from RM15.90 to RM19.90. Each set comes with a plate of salad and a pot of black tea. There are 6 choices of black tea to choose from.

The afternoon tea is truly English style and served with three tier plates. The luxurious afternoon tea is specially designed for customers who want to have the short rest during tea time. The customers can enjoy the sandwiches, cakes, scones, dessert and fresh fruit, and a pot of tea by ordering the afternoon tea.

Their specialty has to do with the selection of teas & coffee that they offer as well as the cheesecakes. For example, they have chocolate mint or lavender coffee, so I would suggest that's what one should try out.

Check out the café at G-85, Asian Courtyard, The Curve @ Mutiara Damansara, 47800 Petaling Jaya. Tel: 03-7725 0848



CPA Students eCommunicator is prepared by MICPA's Public Affairs & Communications Department. Kindly contact Ms Vicky Rajaretnam at Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: vic.pr@micpa.com.my for further information.

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