

A MESSAGE FROM ABDUL HALIM MD LASSIM CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUNG CPA GROUP

The Young CPA Group was established by the Council of MICPA with the aim to encourage the younger members, who are below the age of 40 to take part in the Institute's work and activities. The Young CPA Group was launched on June 25, 2004.

- **As the newly appointed Chairman of the Young CPA Group, what are your aspirations for the Young CPA Group?**

Firstly, I would like to thank the MICPA President, YBhg Dato' Abdul Halim Mohyiddin and the MICPA Council for their trust and confidence in my appointment as the Chairman of the Young CPA Group. It is indeed a big pair of shoe for me to fill in. Also, my sincere tribute to the former Chairman, Mr Teh Chee Ghee for starting YCG off the blocks and his commendable effort and dedication to bring YCG to its current respectable position. It is pertinent to note that from my observation, only a small percentage of professional bodies have a special focus group that facilitates the interest of its younger members. This implies the foresight of the MICPA Council to ensure the continued existence and relevance of MICPA into the future through its Young CPAs.

Our aspiration of the Young CPA Group is rather simple. We support the mission of MICPA to enhance the value of the CPA Malaysia brand; to promote high standards of professional conduct and technical competence by providing professional education and training to give the necessary competitive edge to its members. In this context, we would like to create the human capital mould for the YCG and accelerate the realisation of MICPA's mission.

- **In what way does the Young CPA Group complement/ support the vision and objectives of the Institute?**

Our vision is to enable Young CPAs to achieve its fullest potential as trusted business professionals, well-rounded from all technical aspects inclusive of emotional and even spiritual intelligence. We need balanced business professionals and this will surely enhance the CPA Malaysia brand.

To do this, our focus areas comprises two perspectives or target groups, ie the current Young CPAs and also the future CPAs who includes students undertaking the CPA examinations and also potential students who are currently pursuing their academic studies. I believe we need to address the needs of these two groups independently for YCG to be more effective.

- **Can you share with us your experience as a Young CPA?**

The YCG has enabled me to sharpen myself as a well-rounded business professional. Our activities include both the technical areas as well as the soft areas. I believe with more members and active participation, we can double YCG efforts and achievements to the next level.

- **In your opinion, how does the Young CPA Group help the young business professionals of MICPA?**

If we read the contemporary ideas and focus on the new finance professionals, the direction for accounting professionals has evolved rapidly over the last few decades. In terms of technical competencies, financial reporting is leaving behind historical cost accounting towards fair value accounting and is now extensively disclosure based. There is a paradigm shift of the financial statements inclining towards the users as opposed to the preparers of the information. Management accounting is now more focused towards decision support and business process improvements leveraging on business intelligence tools and is closely linked to performance management and enterprise scorecards. Not to mention corporate governance, the delicate balance between conformance and performance. These are some of the issues that the profession is struggling to keep its members equipped and trained with.

I hope the Young CPA can create an awareness of these issues and assist MICPA to organise forums to deliberate on these evolutions to ensure that CPA Malaysia members are well equipped through its literature and training programmes.

- **What are some of the activities planned for the year?**

Our planned activities for 2007 include networking and training programmes on contemporary issues, management and leadership. We would also like to focus more attention on MICPA students and those at the universities who may well be our future members. In 2006, the YCG organised the inaugural Young CPA Symposium which was a resounding success. We are planning to continue this effort and make it an annual event for the YCG in the years to come.

Our challenge now is to register as many Young CPAs into the YCG. Our current database has 106 members and we are targeting at least 200 members by December 2007. To all CPA Malaysia members out there who are below 40, kindly visit our website at www.micpa.com.my to register in the Young CPA Group. We will contact you as soon as we can to organise beneficial events for the YCG. I believe we can have a mutually beneficial relationship, but we need to work on it in order to make it happen.

- **What advice would you like to give the members?**

I am not too sure I'm qualified to give any advice, I'm merely sharing my experiences as a young CPA Malaysia. Suffice to say that young CPA Malaysia members have demonstrated to the business community on the value of the CPA Malaysia brand. I believe that if we can pool ourselves together in the YCG and leverage on each others capabilities and experiences, one can only imagine the potential synergy.

On this score, again I urge the young CPA Malaysia members to be a part of the Young CPA Group. With more active participation, the journey and experience should be very interesting.

- **How far would you like to see the Group grow?**

In the next 3 years, I hope to see Young CPA Group membership grow to at least 500 members with wide-ranging activities to enhance the human capital growth of the young CPA Malaysia. I would love to see YCG as the recognised sub-brand of CPA Malaysia and become the reference point for issues pertaining to young business professionals, god willing. Only time will tell.

(Published in the Malaysian Accountant Journal, February 2007 issue)