

March 2008

The CPA e-Newsline is a monthly electronic newsletter designed to provide members, and the public with quick updates on recent developments at the Institute and in the business environment.

Announcements/Activities

Appointment of Council Member

We are pleased to inform that YBhg Dato' Gan Ah Tee has been appointed to the Council of MICPA with effect from March 15, 2008. He will also represent the Institute in the Education & Training, Insolvency Practice and Membership Affairs Committees. Dato' Gan is a Managing Partner of BDO Binder.

Schedule of MICPA Events for 2008

We are pleased to inform members that the schedule of events for 2008 has been identified and has been made available on the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my under Events/CPD in the Homepage.

50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1958 – 2008)

We wish to inform members that on July 26, 2008 the MICPA will turn 50 years old and this will mark the Institute's Golden Jubilee. We will be organising events to befit this historic moment and look to the support of members' and member firms' participation in the events.

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 young CPA members' who would like to support and participate in these activities. For further information, please contact Ms Jenny Chua, Education and Research Manager on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: jenny.edu@micpa.com.my

Career Talks at Secondary Schools:

Accountancy has become one of the more popular courses being pursued by young Malaysians. The Institute is always seeking opportunities to foster closer relationship with the secondary schools, to promote accountancy as a career and in particular to create awareness of the CPA Malaysia qualification. In this regard, a series of scheduled career talks at secondary schools to Forms 4, 5 and 6 students undertaking the accounting subjects has been planned for February – July 2008 in the Klang Valley. The Institute has presented a talk on *A Career in Accountancy* to 120 students of SMK Bandar Sunway on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 and to 60 students of SMK Bandar Sri Damansara I on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

Collaboration with Universities:

As part of the Institute's efforts to foster closer collaboration with the 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 and strengthen the CPA Malaysia brand name, the CPA and CFIA qualifications to university students.

To date the Institute has made visits to UPM, UKM, USM, UiTM (Shah Alam, Sri Iskandar & Arau), UNITEN and Politeknik Ungku Omar.

The Institute has also sponsored a number of student activities organised by the accounting clubs of the various public universities. For January – April, 2008, the Institute has sponsored various activities organised by UiTM, USM, UKM, UM, UTAR and UNITEN.

Universiti Tenaga Nasional: Financial Reporting Symposium

The final year Bachelor of Accounting students of Universiti Tenaga Nasional has recently organised the *Financial Reporting Symposium 2008* with the theme *Financial Reporting in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges*. The event was held on March 12, 2008 at UNITEN, Campus Sultan Hj Ahmad Shah in Pahang. The objective of the symposium was to give an overview of the adoption of new standards, highlight the issues and challenges of adopting the new standards and to discuss contemporary issues and complexities in financial reporting for specialised industries in Malaysia.

Mr Foo Yoke Pin, Executive Director of the Institute presented a paper titled *Issues and Challenges in Adopting New Standards* at the symposium. The MICPA was also a sponsor for the symposium.

Public Practice Forum

The Institute is always looking for opportunities and welcomes the exchange of information between fellow accountancy bodies to strengthen professional relationship and understanding of the current developments in the accountancy profession and the business environment. The Public Practice Committees of ACCA and MICPA jointly organised a *Public Practice Forum* with the theme *Growing Profits through Service Diversification* on March 19, 2008. Joint Forums such as this is a means of further enhancing the synergistic partnership which already exists between both bodies.

Members Update

Issues Relating to National Budget 2009 for Submission to Ministry of Finance

The Institute is in the process of preparing a memorandum for submission to the Ministry of Finance in relation to the National Budget 2009 with the theme *Enhancing Resilience for Sustainable Growth and Shared Prosperity*. Members are invited to submit to the Institute any issues/ proposals for inclusion in the memorandum. Kindly forward your submissions in writing attention to the Secretary of the Institute latest by April 1, 2008.

Minutes of Meeting on Submission of Tax Returns for Year of Assessment 2007

Members are informed that the Institute was invited by the Inland Revenue Board to attend a meeting held on February 4, 2008 to discuss matters relating to the submission of tax returns for year of assessment 2007. The meeting was chaired by YBhg Dato' Hasmah bt Abdullah, CEO/ Director General of IRB Malaysia and was also attended by MIA, MIT, MATA, MAICSA and MACS. The Minutes of the meeting is available on the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

Minutes of Post Budget 2008 Dialogue

A dialogue between the Technical Department of IRB and representatives of MICPA, MIA, MIT, MAICSA, MATA and MACS was held on December 14, 2007. The Minutes of the dialogue, setting out the issues discussed and the comments/clarifications provided by the IRB have been posted on the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

Amendments to the Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad in Relation to Corporate Governance and Other Areas

Members are informed that pursuant to Section 9 of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007, amendments have been made to the Listing Requirements (LR) of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad (Bursa Securities) in relation to corporate governance (CG Amendments) and other areas. The CG amendments are aimed at raising the corporate governance standards amongst listed issuers and increasing investor confidence. The CG Amendments are in line with the revised Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance released by the Securities Commission on October 1, 2007.

The CG Amendments and Other Amendments took effect from January 31, 2008. Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/009/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

The amendments and the list of Questions and Answers are also available for reference on the Bursa Malaysia's website www.bursamalaysia.com

Amendments to the Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad for the MESDAQ Market in Relation to Corporate Governance and Other Areas

Members are informed that pursuant to Section 9 of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007, amendments have been made to the Listing Requirements (LR) of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad (Bursa Securities) for the MESDAQ Market (MMLR) in relation to corporate governance (CG Amendments) and other areas.

The CG Amendments are aimed at raising the corporate governance standards amongst listed companies and increasing investor confidence. The CG amendments are in line with the revised Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance released by the Securities Commission on October 1, 2007.

The CG Amendments and Other Amendments took effect from January 31, 2008. Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/010/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

The amendments and the list of Questions and Answers are also available for reference on the Bursa Malaysia's website www.bursamalaysia.com

Amendments to the Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad in Relation to the Introduction of the Capital Markets and Services (Price Stabilisation Mechanism) Regulations 2008

Members are informed that pursuant to the Capital Markets and Services (Price Stabilisation Mechanism) Regulations 2008 (Regulations), amendments have been made to the Listing Requirements (LR) of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad (Bursa Securities) to facilitate the implementation of this mechanism.

The key amendments are in the following respects:

- Requiring an applicant to submit to the Exchange a notification of the appointment of a stabilising manager; and
- Specifying the information that must be maintained by the stabilising manager in the register required under the Regulations. Such information, includes amongst others, the total shares purchased (highest, lowest and the average) on a daily basis.

The amendments took effect from February 25, 2008. Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/011/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the Members' area.

The amendments are also available for reference on Bursa Malaysia's website www.bursamalaysia.com

Corporate Practice Consultative Forum (1/2008)

Members are informed that the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) is inviting the Institute to submit issues for discussion at the Corporate Practice Consultative Forum (CPCF) to be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. The CPCF aims to provide a platform for professional bodies and other selected organisations to deliberate on matters pertaining to the Companies Act 1965 and related corporate practice issues.

The Minutes of the Corporate Practice Consultative Forum (1/2007) held on June 26, 2007 is available on the Institute's website at www.micpa.com.my in the member's area.

Members' Handbook

We are pleased to inform members that the following Supplement to the Members' Handbook has been posted on the MICPA website:

- ***Supplement No. 108 issued in December 2007 – Approved Standards on Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance and Related Services***

The Supplement is now available for members to view/download at the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my under "Members' Handbook" in the members' area. A new CD-Rom would be sent to members containing the full set of the above standards, Auditing Technical Release (ATR) 2 and ATR 5 in due course.

CPD On-Line Record

Effective January 1, 2007, it is mandatory for all members to complete at least 120 hours of relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity in each rolling three-year period, of which 60 hours should be verifiable. Members are required to submit an annual declaration as to compliance with the CPD requirements prescribed in the CPD Statement.

A CPD On-Line Record functionality has been added to the MICPA website, which facilitates members to update their CPD records on-line in the format provided. Please visit the MICPA website at www.micpa.com.my, login as a Member, click on Members Update on the Left-hand Menu and go to Section F to update your CPD records.

For further information, please contact Mr Joseph Leong, Training Manager at 03-2698 9622 or E-mail: joseph.edu@micpa.com.my

Young CPA Group

As members are aware, 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 can play an important role in identifying the professional needs of its members and provide valuable feedback, suggestions and recommendations to the Institute. If you are a CPA below the age of 40, please register yourself online at www.micpa.com.my

Be Different by joining the Young CPA Group Today!

MICPA Practising Certificate

The Membership Affairs Committee of the Institute in considering applications for practising certificate has frequently come across cases where a member has commenced public practice before he is issued with a practising certificate by the Institute. The Committee would like to remind members that in accordance with **bye-law 56 of the Institute's bye-laws**, a member shall be entitled to engage in public practice in Malaysia only if he holds a practising certificate issued by the Institute. If members need clarification on the above requirement, you may forward your inquiry to Cik Adzlyn Aladzimy at membership@micpa.com.my or Cik Ruhaizah at ri.stud@micpa.com.my or call 03-2698 9622.

Change of Correspondence and E-mail Address

Members and 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 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. You may also send an e-mail to membership@micpa.com.my for the change of correspondence and e-mail address.

Upcoming Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programmes

Evening Talk on Key Amendments to the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance

The Public Practice Committee of the Institute is organising an Evening Talk cum Hi-Tea on *Key Amendments to the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance*. The talk will be held on March 28, 2008 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The evening talk is intended to inform participants of the key amendments to the Code which are aimed at strengthening the board of directors and audit committees, and ensuring that the board of directors and audit committees discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively. For further information on the evening talk, please click [here](#)

Understanding Deferred Taxation (FRS 112)

A one-day Workshop on *Understanding Deferred Taxation* will be held on April 4, 2008 at the Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Deferred tax can significantly affect the financial results and position of an entity. The workshop aims to provide basic understanding of the complex rules contained in FRS 112 by using easy to understand charts and illustrations. A case study will be used to highlight and provide a systematic approach to the computation of deferred tax assets and liabilities. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

IS Auditing – Introductory Level

A two-day Workshop on *IS Auditing – Introductory Level* will be held on April 9 – 10, 2008 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. As more and more businesses use computer systems to run their operations and automate their processes, it becomes inevitable for auditors and accountants to understand and appreciate how computer systems carry out these tasks. The workshop will equip participants with sufficient skills to enable them to audit and evaluate systems and processes and to appreciate the new risks. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

Taxation for Property Developers and Contractors

A one-day Workshop on *Taxation for Property Developers and Contractors* will be held on April 16, 2008 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. There has been a lot of development in the form of the issuance of a Public Ruling in 2006 as well as legislative provisions being introduced in recent times to deal with the taxation of property developers and contractors. The workshop leader, Mr Harvindar Singh will share with participants his invaluable experience in dealing with the typical issues identified in tax audit which are related to property developers and construction contractors. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

A Practical Guide to Auditing

A two-day Workshop on *A Practical Guide to Auditing* will be held at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on May 14 – 15, 2008. 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. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

Briefing on E-Lodgement Services

The Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) launched the e-Lodgement services on January 22, 2008 to enable the lodgement or filing of company and business statutory documents via the internet. As part of the continuing effort to educate and create awareness on e-lodgement, the Institute has organised a briefing session on e-Lodgement services. The briefing session will be held on May 21, 2008 at Best Western Premier Seri Pacific Hotel Kuala Lumpur and will be led by a team of SSM trainers. For further information on the briefing, please click [here](#)

Evening Talk on Wealth Management: Can Wealth Last 3 Generations? Succession Planning for Business Owners

The Commerce & Industry Committee (CAIC) of the Institute is organising an Evening Talk cum Hi-Tea on *Wealth Management: Can Wealth Last 3 Generations? Succession Planning for Business Owners* on May 23, 2008 at the Legend Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the talk is to update participants of the various options available in wealth management and its benefits. The talk will also assist participants to map out a course to help them achieve the income they need in their life and to develop actionable strategies for wealth management. For further information on the talk, please contact Mr Joseph Leong, Training Manager on Tel: 03-2698 9622 or e-mail: joseph.edu@micpa.com.my

Business Combinations and Issues in Consolidated Financial Statements (FRS 3 and FRS 127)

A one-day Workshop on *Business Combinations and Issues in Consolidated Financial Statements* will be held on May 29, 2008 at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The workshop is organised with the primary aim of assisting participants master the technique of preparing consolidated financial statements and providing a forum for discussing controversial issues in the preparation of consolidated financial statements. For further information on the workshop, please click [here](#)

Updates from Regulatory Bodies

SECURITIES COMMISSION (SC)

SC Issues Guidelines to Boost Unit Trust Industry

The Securities Commission on March 3, 2008 issued a set of revised and new guidelines to facilitate continued growth and enhance competitiveness of the unit trust industry. The guidelines are a follow-up on the announcement by the SC Chairman, YBhg Dato' Zarinah Anwar on February 26, 2008 to promote a more vibrant unit trust industry, which recorded a 39 per cent growth in NAV and 26 per cent growth in the number of funds in 2007. In addition to the Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds (UTF Guidelines) which has been revised to streamline with international standards, the SC also issued a new guidelines to enhance disclosure requirements of unit trust prospectuses to enable investors to make informed investment decisions. Both guidelines came into effect on March 3, 2008 and is available at SC's website www.sc.com.my

The 2nd Financial Leaders Forum

We are pleased to inform members that the Securities Commission, Malaysia in collaboration with the International Institute for Management (IMD), Lausanne, Switzerland will be organising the 2nd Financial Leaders Forum: Advanced Business

Management Programme (ABMP) for Senior Leaders in the Capital Markets. This programme is specially designed for members of the senior management team of market intermediaries, financial institutions, PLCs, GLCs and regulators. For further information on the programme and registrations details, please visit www.sc.com.my

BURSA MALAYSIA BERHAD

Bursa Malaysia Announces Appointment of Shariah Advisor

In a press release dated March 10, 2008, Bursa Malaysia announced the appointment of Professor Dr Aznan Hasan as its Shariah Advisor. Professor Dr. Aznan will be responsible in providing Shariah advisory services on matters relating to strategic product development and innovation in the Islamic Capital Market. Apart from assisting Bursa Malaysia, Professor Dr. Aznan will also be working very closely with the relevant industry players and authorities to position and profile the Exchange within the global Islamic Capital Market.

Professor Dr. Aznan is highly regarded for his wealth of knowledge and vast experience in serving both the local and international Islamic finance industry. He is currently serving as an assistant professor at the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws of the International Islamic University Malaysia. Professor Dr. Aznan has served as a Shariah Advisor to several organisations and is also a member of Bank Negara's Shariah Advisory Counsel. His knowledge and experiences are of great value to Bursa Malaysia which boasts the world's largest Shariah-compliant market.

Bursa Malaysia's Electronic Trading Platform to Boost Transparency and Liquidity of Bond Market

Bursa Malaysia on March 10, 2008 introduced the Electronic Trading Platform (ETP) for the Malaysian bond market. This new platform will boost transparency and liquidity as well as increase efficiency in bond trading. The launch is in line with the Exchange's ongoing commitment to further improve market accessibility and increase trading efficiencies via infrastructure enhancement initiatives.

This new platform, which is developed and customised based on the Korea Exchange's bond trading system, allows dealers to easily match bids with offers, negotiate deals and access historical data through a common computerised network. By using world-class technology, ETP immediately puts Bursa Malaysia in the forefront of electronic bond trading in the ASEAN region. ETP, seamlessly offers investors a real-time price quotation, allowing financial institutions and money brokers to benefit from transparent dealing.

For further information and details on ETP, please contact Bursa Malaysia via email: sreekumar@bursamalaysia.com

BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA

Establishment of International Shariah Research Academy for Islamic Finance (ISRA)

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) on March 26, 2008 announced the establishment of International Shariah Research Academy for Islamic Finance (ISRA).

The establishment of ISRA is to promote applied research in the area of Shariah and Islamic finance. It will also act as a repository of knowledge for Shariah views or fatwas and undertake studies on contemporary issues in Islamic financial industry. ISRA will contribute towards strengthening human capital development in the areas of Shariah and provide platform for greater engagement amongst practitioners, scholars, regulators, academicians via research and dialogues, both in the domestic and international environment. Through pioneering research and rigorous intellectual dialogue, ISRA aims to promote innovation and dynamism into new boundaries of Islamic finance. It is envisioned that with greater research and dialogues, mutual respect and recognition would emerge within Islamic financial industry global community. For further information, please visit www.bnm.gov.my

BNM Guidelines & Circulars

Bank Negara Malaysia's Guidelines and Circulars are now available for public viewing. For further information, please visit www.bnm.gov.my

INLAND REVENUE BOARD (IRB)

Programme for Submission of Year 2007 Income Tax Return Forms

Members are informed that a copy of the programme for submission of year 2007 income tax return forms has been issued by the IRB. Members are advised to take note and comply with the due dates for the filing of income tax return forms for the various categories of taxpayers. All income tax return forms should be submitted to Pusat Pemrosesan of the IRB in Pandan Indah, Kuala Lumpur.

The programme and due dates can be downloaded from the IRB's website www.hasil.org.my

Format of Dividend Voucher

Further to Circular No. TEC/002-01/2008W issued to members, the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) has advised that the following amendments have been made to the sample dividend voucher, which was issued in January 2008:

- "For year ended" column – the date has been amended from January 31, 2008 to June 30, 2008;
- "For shares registered on" column – the date has been amended from October 30, 2007 to April 30, 2008;
- "Single Tier Exempt Dividend" – the word "Exempt" has been removed

Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/007/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

Borang Nyata B, BE and P in Excel Format

The IRB has advised that it will not be issuing any Borang Nyata B, BE and P in Excel format for year of assessment 2007. This is due to the fact that the number of users was small and not feasible to maintain it. In addition, the IRB provides e-filing service for tax agents to file returns for their clients.

Exemption of Stamp Duty Under Section 15 and Section 15A of Stamp Act 1949

With effect from January 1, 2008, applications for Exemption of Stamp Duty under Section 15 and Section 15A of the Stamp Act should be submitted to the respective State Directors' offices of the IRB.

Borang CP55 [1/2008] – Authority to File Return Electronically Under Section 152A of Income Tax Act 1967

Members are informed that Borang CP55 [1/2008] is the prescribed form under Section 152A of the Income Tax Act 1967 in relation to authority given by the taxpayer to the tax agent to file return electronically. Borang CP55 [1/2008] is available on the IRB website www.hasil.org.my

Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/005/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

E-Filing

The IRB will provide e-filing services for Borang Nyata B, BE, M, P, TP, TF and TJ for year of assessment 2007 and Borang E in respect of remuneration for year 2007. The guidelines for users and related procedures for e-filing will be issued from time to time. Further information can be obtained from Circular No. TEC/005/02/2008/W posted in the MICPA website www.micpa.com.my in the members' area.

COMPANIES COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SSM)

SSM e-Lodgement Services

e-Lodgement is a facility offered by SSM to enable the lodgement or filing of company and business statutory documents electronically. Steps to use the SSM e-Lodgement include:

- User must have e-mail address, mykad and internet line
- Go to website www.gov.my or www.ssm.com.my and click e-Lodgement icon
- Click "Register" for registration as a PSP (Public Service Portal) /myGovernment Portal user
- Follow e-mail instruction from PSP (admin@portal.gov.my) to activate user ID and Password
- Register as a SSM Subscriber
- Please follow the instruction shown on the screen according to service required
- Click "myHome" to check on submission status
- Application result will be notified via e-mail

For further information, please visit www.ssm.com.my

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS (IFAC)

New Report Examines Improvements to the Financial Reporting Supply Chain and Areas for Future Action

A new report commissioned by the IFAC, *Financial Reporting Supply Chain: Current Perspectives and Directions*, emphasises that significant efforts to strengthen financial reporting in recent years have resulted in improvements in three key areas: corporate governance, the process of preparing financial reports, and the audit of financial reports. However, despite improvements to the financial reporting process, the report points out that the understandability of financial reports has not improved.

Among the key findings, the survey found that corporate governance has improved, fueled by an increased focus on corporate governance and changes to company codes and standards. In commenting on improvements to the financial reporting process, survey participants indicated that convergence to international standards, enhanced regulations governing financial reporting, and improved internal control over financial reporting systems all contributed to enhancing the reliability and relevance of the reports. Improvements to audit standards and practices and strengthened independence rules were seen as having contributed to enhanced audit quality.

The full report can be downloaded from the IFAC website at <http://www.ifac.org/frsc>. IFAC welcomes comments and feedback on the report, which can be submitted at the above web address or by emailing FRSC@ifac.org.

IFAC Invites Responses to Survey on Performance Measurement in the Public Sector

The IFAC is inviting professional accountants and others who work in the public sector to complete an *online survey* on the ways in which public sector entities set objectives, measure performance, and report on results. Currently, there is little information available about public sector performance measurement structures around the world. This global survey is designed to identify similarities and differences in performance measurement structures and the extent to which these structures help public sector entities meet their objectives. The survey also seeks examples of strengths and weaknesses of performance measurement structures and what can be done to further improve the assessment, monitoring and reporting of financial and non-financial performance in the public sector.

The survey is part of a project to help professional accountants in business and others in evaluating and improving performance measurement systems. The results will also assist IFAC's Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee in considering specific public sector aspects when developing its principles-based guidance.

The survey, which takes 10-15 minutes to complete, can be accessed online at www.ifac.org/publicsectorperformancesurvey. Responses are requested by **April 30, 2008**. For more information on the work of IFAC's PAIB Committee, visit www.ifac.org/paib

IAASB Reports on Progress in Achieving Clarity and Convergence

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), an independent standard-setting board under the auspices of the IFAC has released its 2007 *annual report* which highlights its work in enhancing the clarity of international standards and notes progress in achieving global convergence to international auditing standards. The report also details the IAASB's consultation and outreach program and offers a preview of its proposed future strategy.

A central part of the IAASB's work program over the past year has been the redrafting of its international standards to make them clearer and to promote their adoption and translation. During 2007, the IAASB approved seven final International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and 21 exposure drafts as part of its clarity project. It also announced that the effective date for all final redrafted ISAs will be for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009. The IAASB plans to complete the redrafting of all ISAs by the end of 2008. For further information, please visit www.ifac.org

IFAC Releases 2008 Handbook of Auditing, Assurance and Ethics Pronouncements

The IFAC has released its 2008 *Handbook of International Auditing, Assurance, and Ethics Pronouncements*. The handbook can be downloaded free-of-charge in PDF format from the IFAC online bookstore (<http://www.ifac.org/store>), and print copies can be ordered now for shipment in mid-March. In addition, the 2008 *Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements* is currently being finalised and will be available for download from the IFAC bookstore later in March. For further information, please visit www.ifac.org

IFAC's IPSASB Launches Project on Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability; Proposes New Requirements for Governments To Report on Social Benefit Programmes

For many governments and public sector entities, social benefit programs - such as social security, the provision of healthcare and unemployment benefits - comprise a highly significant part of their operations. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), an independent standard-setting board within the IFAC, has launched a project on the long-term fiscal sustainability of these programs. The IPSASB is also seeking comments on proposed new requirements designed to improve consistency and transparency in the reporting of certain government social benefits and has issued a consultation paper on related issues, particularly liability recognition. For further information, please visit www.ifac.org

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (IASB)

Three Trustees Appointed

The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) Foundation announced on March 11, 2008 the appointment of three trustees. The appointments mark the completion of an international search and carry the support of the Trustee Appointments Advisory Group. For further information on the appointments, please visit www.iasb.org

IASB Publishes a Discussion Paper as First Step Towards Reducing Complexity in Reporting Financial Instruments

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) on March 19, 2008, published for public comment a discussion paper *Reducing Complexity in Reporting Financial Instruments*. The existing requirements for the reporting of financial instruments are widely regarded as difficult to understand, interpret and apply and constituents have urged the IASB to develop standards that are principle-based and less complex. The document is the first stage in a project which aims to replace IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

The discussion paper analyses the main causes of complexity in reporting financial instruments and proposes possible intermediate approaches to address some of them. Those approaches seek to improve and simplify measurement and hedge accounting by amending or replacing the existing requirements.

The publication of the discussion paper also fulfils the commitment set out in the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the IASB and the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) *A Roadmap for Convergence between IFRSs and US GAAP- 2006-2008*. The discussion paper will be considered for publication by the FASB for comment by its constituents.

The IASB invites comments on the discussion paper by September 19, 2008. For further information, please visit www.iasb.org

MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

Regional Conference 2008

The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) will be organising its Regional Conference 2008 on August 18-19, 2008 at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort, Kota Kinabalu. The main objective of the conference is to showcase the latest business trends and opportunities, regional economic developments, management best practices and standards, professional development aspects and other value added information, while providing an excellence platform for networking and socialising. For further information on the conference, please visit www.mia.org.my

THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SECRETARIES AND ADMINISTRATORS

MAICSA Annual Conference 2008

MAICSA will be organising its *Annual Conference 2008* with the theme *Corporate and Regulatory Updates 2008* on July 7 & 8, 2008 at Nikko Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The MICPA is a supporting organisation of the Conference and MICPA members who register for the Conference will be able to enjoy a preferential rate of registration fee of RM1,180 for the two day conference and early birds who register and pay before May 31, 2008 will enjoy a registration fee of RM1,060. For further information on the conference, please contact Ms Syahida Ahmad Imran, Training Manager at MAICSA on Tel: 03-2282 9276 Ext 606 or e-mail: syahida@maicsa.org.my

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

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