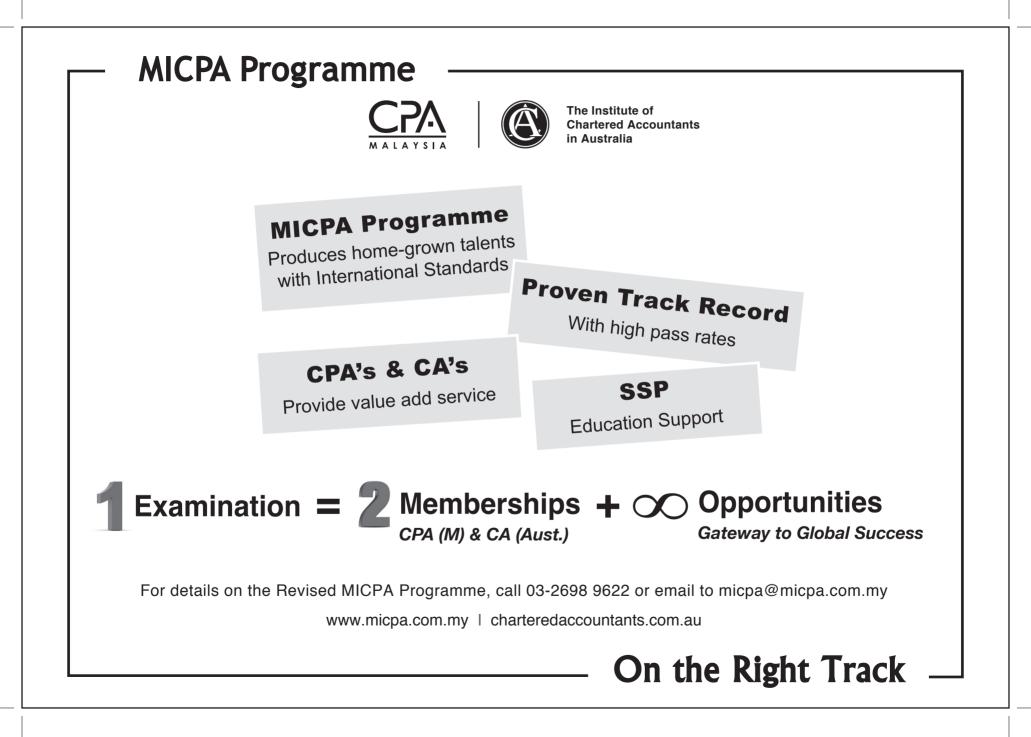
THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (INSTITUT AKAUNTAN AWAM BERTAULIAH MALAYSIA)



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QUALITY education and training is a critical driver for our transformation from a middle-to-high income nation. As such the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) to remain at the forefront in producing home grown talents who can compete against the best.

MICPA, a pioneer for the training of professional accountants in Malaysia was the first local professional body in Malaysia to conduct professional examinations in accountancy. As an International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) member, its education standards meet and exceed the highest international education standards for professional accountancy programmes

Students who register for the MICPA programme will be required to undertake examinations that comprise five modules – Financial Accounting & Reporting, Management Accounting & Analysis, Audit & Assurance, Taxation, and Ethics & Business Applications. Upon satisfactory completion, they will be eligible to be members of MICPA and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA.)

According to MICPA executive director Foo Yoke Pin, "the Institute's partnership with ICAA is an important stepping stone – enabling both Institutes to grow and support the profession across the Asian region.

It also represents a valuable opportunity to take the highly regarded Chartered Accountants Programme offered in Australia locally but the programme is adapted to meet local needs in Malaysia.

The taxation module of the MICPA programme reflects Malaysian taxation regulations so that the learning and development provides greater relevance for careers in Malaysia".

He further adds that the programme attracts top candidates in Malaysia with

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enrolments increasing significantly. The revised MICPA programme has attracted over 500 enrolments, with local candidates performing above the national pass rate across the majority of modules. The results of the MICPA programme are impressive with consistent high pass rates in the four Technical Modules being offered in the three terms since the programme was launched – 93% for Financial Accounting & Reporting, 88% for Management Accounting & Analysis, 87% for Taxation and 71% for Audit & Assurance.

The first batch of students of the joint programme set the ultimate benchmark, completing the final module – Ethics and Business Application (EBA) with a 100% pass rate. They received their examination certificates recently. This outstanding track record proves that the programme provides students with excellent academic preparation and gives them a competitive edge.

Students will find that the MICPA programme provides a unique blend of technical knowledge, communication skills and commercial awareness. It will enhance the students' understanding on the function of different types of businesses and the application of professional knowledge. It will also develop their interpersonal skills and role as a team player.

All potential CPAs and CAs are also required to obtain not less than three years of approved practical experience. Upon completing their three-years of practical experience, the students will be eligible to apply for membership of both MICPA and ICAA and use the prestigious designation CPA (M) and CA (Austr).

An additional touch of tradition of the Institute is to give recognition to students who have achieved outstanding performance in their pursuit of an accountancy qualification. Towards this end, the MICPA Excellence Awards was launched in 1992 to give recognition to those accountancy students who have excelled in their academic studies as well as personal and career development. The awards also aim to instill in students a sense of competitiveness and desire to excel in their undertakings. The criteria for the awards include academic achievements, involvement in extra-curricular activities, personal attributes and career development.

There are two categories of awards namely the Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding CPA Student – This award is bestowed on the best all-round CPA student who has recently completed the MICPA professional examinations and Excellence Awards for Best Accounting Graduates – This award is presented to the top accounting graduate from each of the local universities that offer the Bachelor of Accountancy.

Many recipients of the Most Outstanding CPA Student Award have built successful careers in commerce and industry and in accounting firms. Gaining the CPA (M) and CA (Aust) designation is guaranteed to shape your future and be an important part of your success.

It is also part of MICPA's education and training commitment to help young talents go further by extending and improving the education support. In this regard, the MICPA has launched the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP) jointly with Approved Training Employers – both approved accounting firms and approved training organisations (ATOs)".

The MICPA is currently working with vari-

ous accredited public and private universities in Malaysia to identify suitable candidates who are interested in pursuing the Advanced Stage Examination of the MICPA Programme, whilst pursuing their final year of an accredited four-year Bachelor of Accountancy degree programme.

Under the SSP, the approved accounting firms or approved training organisations will sponsor students who are interested in pursuing two modules of the Advanced Stage Examination (ASE) - Taxation and Financial Reporting modules of the MICPA programme.

In return, the students will be required to work for the approved accounting firms or approved training organisations during their six-months internship as well as upon completion of their Bachelor of Accountancy degree programme for a period of not less than three years. This is an added advantage to young talents to nurture and grow in terms of employment opportunities and gaining the relevant practical training experience, both while studying and upon graduation.

The internship allows students to work in an environment that is invigorating and facilitates learning and development and the practical application of skills in a dynamic setting – hone their accounting skills in real life situations and build contacts with business leaders. Their advice to potential students – "If you know you're going for the long-haul in the career of your choice, there is no better way than to equip yourself with the qualification that's going to give you the strategic advantage – the MICPA programme will put you on the right track.

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