



## **PRESS CLIPPING**

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## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

# More companies besides the Big 4

**T**HE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Micpa) would like to help accounting undergraduates understand their employment and career options. There are numerous firms out there besides the Big 4, offering great opportunities for them to learn, grow and develop their skills and career.

Crowe Horwath and Russell Bedford Malaysia are of the 15 firms who are also the institute's approved training firm for the Micpa-ICAA programme and partners of the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP).

Crowe Horwath is the Malaysian member firm for Crowe Horwath International, one of the top 10 global accounting networks in the world. Ranked as the fifth largest accounting firm in Malaysia, Crowe Horwath has 13 offices nationwide and employs more than 950 staff offering audit, tax, corporate advisory and risk consulting services.

Crowe Horwath serves clients in many industries from middle to large companies that are privately owned, publicly listed or multinational firms.

The firm is registered with the Audit Oversight Board and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in the US.

Mok Wai Ling, a member of the managing board of partners and HR Partner at Crowe Horwath, wants graduates to understand that it is the simple things that count, like a culture that supports development, a friendly and welcoming environment, and the right blend of professional challenges with



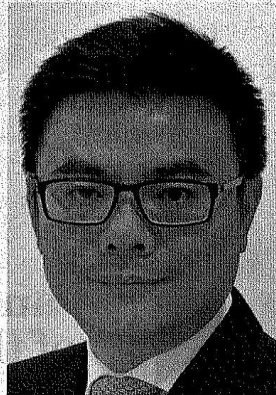
**Mok Wai Ling** says Crowe Horwath's employees will be exposed to entrepreneurs, opening new learning opportunities

rewards and recognition.

She said that due to the entrepreneurial and managed businesses, Crowe Horwath's employees will be exposed to these entrepreneurs, opening new learning opportunities.

Russell Bedford Malaysia started operations in 2003 and in February 2004 became a member of Russell Bedford International, a global network of independent firms of accountants, auditors, tax advisors and business consultants.

The firm established its Japanese



**Teoh Wuey Sze** says Russell Bedford Malaysia employees are given responsibility for more varied tasks

Services Group in 2007. Russell Bedford has 60 staff led by four partners. The firm's core service line consists of assurance services, tax services, advisory services, corporate recovery services and business support services. The firm and the audit partners are registered with the Audit Oversight Board.

Teoh Wuey Sze, a partner at Russell Bedford Malaysia, highlights the key differences and benefits of working at Russell Bedford: "Firstly, we provide a higher level of responsibility for fresh



**Micpa's Students Sponsorship Programme** advances the professional development of students in the Bachelor of Accountancy programme.

graduates to work in different business scales, profiles and sectors.

"We offer more variety and autonomy, with our employees given responsibility for more varied tasks, as well as the handling of clients from day one.

"At a medium-sized firm, employees will have more exposure to more clients at an early stage in their career.

"Another benefit is the conducive and close-knit working relationship between co-workers, managers and partners. This is due to a lesser hierarchical gap between colleagues."

In 2011, Micpa launched the Stu-

dents Sponsorship Programme, a tri-partite collaboration among the Institute, employers and universities to advance the professional development of students in the Bachelor of Accountancy programme.

Accounting undergraduates can opt to pursue the Micpa-ICAA Programme with Crowe Horwath or Russell Bedford as their employer via the SSP or they can choose to start the programme upon graduation and after gaining employment at the firm.

**For details, call 03-26989622, email [micpa@micpa.com.my](mailto:micpa@micpa.com.my) or visit [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my)**

## An Accounting Career Outside Of The Big 4

Most if not all accounting undergraduates aspire to be an accountant at one of the Big 4 accounting firms – Ernst & Young, PwC, KPMG or Deloitte. However, realistically speaking not everyone will be employed by the Big 4 and there are many other opportunities for accountants outside of the Big 4.

In this article, The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) would like to help all accounting undergraduates understand their employment and career options. There are numerous reputable firms out there besides the Big 4, offering excellent opportunities for them to learn, grow and develop their skills and career. MICPA speaks to Crowe Horwath and Russell Bedford Malaysia, 2 out of the 15 firms who are also the Institute's Approved Training Firm for the MICPA-ICAA Programme and partners of the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP).

Crowe Horwath is the Malaysian member firm for Crowe Horwath International, one of the top 10 global accounting networks in the world. Ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest accounting firm in Malaysia, Crowe Horwath has 13 offices nationwide and employs over 950 staff offering audit, tax, corporate advisory and risk consulting services. Crowe Horwath serves a variety of clients in many industries from mid to large companies that are privately-owned, publicly-listed or multinational entities. The firm is registered with the Audit Oversight Board and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in the US.

Ms Mok Wai Ling, a member of the Managing Board of Partners and HR Partner at Crowe Horwath wants graduates to understand that it is the simple things that count like a culture that supports development, a friendly and welcoming environment, and the right blend of professional challenges with rewards and recognition. She highlights that due to the numerous entrepreneurial and managed businesses, Crowe Horwath's employees will be exposed to these entrepreneurs, opening new learning opportunities.

“Thanks to our extensive international network, our employees also have the opportunity to participate in staff secondment programmes as well as to travel overseas on assignments,” said Ms Mok.

Russell Bedford Malaysia commenced operations in 2003 and in February 2004 became a member of Russell Bedford International, a global network of independent firms of accountants, auditors, tax advisors and business consultants. The firm established its Japanese Services Group in 2007. Currently, Russell Bedford has 60 dynamic, qualified and experienced staff led by 4 partners. The firm’s core service line consists of assurance services, tax services, advisory services, corporate recovery services and business support services. The firm and the audit partners are registered with the Audit Oversight Board.

Mr Teoh Wuey Sze, a Partner at Russell Bedford Malaysia highlights the key differences and benefits of working at Russell Bedford: “Firstly, we provide a higher level of responsibility for fresh graduates to work in different business scales, profiles and sectors. We offer more variety and autonomy with our employees being given responsibility for more varied tasks as well as the handling of clients from day one. At a medium sized firm, employees will have more exposure to more clients at an early stage in his or her career path.”

“Another strong benefit is the conducive and close knit working relationship between co-workers, managers and partners. This is due to a lesser hierarchical gap between colleagues. Russell Bedford is led by a group of passionate professionals with a belief and philosophy of providing personalised professional services,” he added.

Both firms agree that pursuing a professional accounting qualification is important as it equips them with a higher degree of knowledge, skills and expertise. Ms Mok highlighted that many university graduates have a very theoretical view of issues. A professional qualification helps to open their minds and provides a deeper understanding of the issues. Mr Teoh points out that a professional qualification will help them think out of the box and to translate their knowledge into real working life circumstance.

In 2011, MICPA launched the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP) which is essentially a tripartite collaboration among the Institute, employers and universities to advance the professional development of students enrolled in the Bachelor of Accountancy degree programme.

Under the SSP, employers will assess and interview eligible accountancy degree students from local universities accredited by MICPA, with the view of offering successful applicants a sponsorship grant to undertake the MICPA-ICAA Programme commencing in the final year of the student’s degree programme. In return, the students will serve the employers as interns for a period of 6 months and most importantly, continue to serve the employers after the completion of their degree programmes for a minimum period of at least 3 to 4 years.

Accounting undergraduates can opt to pursue the MICPA-ICAA Programme with Crowe Horwath or Russell Bedford as their employer via the SSP or they can choose to start the Programme upon graduation and after gaining employment at the firm. As an approved training employer for the MICPA-ICAA Programme, both Crowe Horwath and Russell Bedford offer financial support, study leave and mentorship.

“The benefits of the Programme for me are 3 pronged. Firstly, you only need to complete one examination and you will qualify for two qualifications – Certified Public Accountant (Malaysia) and Chartered Accountant (Australia) as well as memberships with MICPA and ICAA. Secondly, the Programme offers flexibility as candidates can complete the Programme at their own pace without the hassle of attending classes. Thirdly, as a graduate of the Programme, you will have access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) which is an alliance of 11 professional bodies globally - leading to greater mobility and global career opportunities,” shared Mr Teoh.

“The opportunity to obtain two qualifications after completing only five modules is truly beneficial. The self study option works well for working candidates as they are able to plan their studies according to their work commitments without unnecessarily overburdening themselves. The open-book concept will help candidates to sharpen their

aptitude in application rather than purely memorising concepts. You need to understand what it is you are looking for before you can refer to your books for guidance,” Ms Mok explains.

“Professional accounting qualifications are becoming increasingly popular in a wide range of industry sectors. In today’s competitive employment arena, pursuing a professional accounting qualification often increases your opportunity for career progression as well as fulfilling your expectation in terms of job prospect and financial rewards. A professional qualification also demonstrates that you have the skills to do your job well, and therefore enhances your employability both locally and internationally,” shared Mr Teoh.

“It is a competitive world out there. While employers do not just look at paper qualifications alone, those with a good professional qualification will stand a higher chance of being employed. A professional qualification like MICPA-ICAA will open your mind and provide you with an invaluable platform to obtain a deeper understanding of the business world. Crowe Horwath is a rich ground for upward progression and we are very committed to training and developing our people,” said Ms Mok.

**For more details on the Programme:**

Call +603-2698 9622

Email: [micpa@micpa.com.my](mailto:micpa@micpa.com.my) or visit: [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my)

**CPA MALAYSIA** | **Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia**

Get a headstart in your Accounting profession with the MICPA-ICAA Programme

Begin your professional journey in your 4th year with the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP):

- › Get an internship placement
- › Complete 2 out of 5 programme modules during internship
- › Secure a job offer

1 Examination = 2 Qualifications & Memberships (CPA (M) & CA (Aust.)) + ∞ Opportunities

Make the right move. Talk to us to find out more!

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) 3246-U  
Tel: 03-2698 9622 | E-Mail: [micpa@micpa.com.my](mailto:micpa@micpa.com.my) | Visit: [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my)