



## **PRESS CLIPPING**

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## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



**Thong Foo Vung, a MICPA member, is a**



**Jacinta Au Yong is at the World Bank**

partner at KPMG.

## An accounting diploma gets you far in life

It sometimes appears that you can further your career only if you have a degree. However, the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) dispels that myth with two inspiring examples of MICPA members who were diploma holders when they first started out and now have successful careers in global organisations.

One of the members, Thong Foo Vung, began his career in accounting at Politeknik Ungku Omar where he graduated with a Diploma in Accountancy after three years.

During that time, he underwent a six-month internship with Ernst & Young.

"My internship experience exposed me to the various routes that were available for me to achieve my ambition of becoming a professional accountant.

"I decided to pursue the MICPA programme for three years. I left the company as an audit manager."

After three years of commercial experience, he ventured into professional practice at KPMG.

He was seconded to the Audit and Assurance Service Centre in New Jersey, the United States.

Upon his return, he was promoted to director and subsequently made partner at KPMG.

"I am proof that you can have a successful career as a diploma holder. I urge diploma holders who will not be pursuing their degree to consider this route towards a professional qualification. You have nothing to lose but much to gain."

As a professional accountant, even if your tertiary qualification is a diploma, there are many career opportunities that await you.

You can opt to be a practising accountant like Thong or a non-practising accountant in commerce and industry, like another successful MICPA member, Jacinta Au Yong.

Au Yong completed her Diploma in Accounting at Politeknik Ungku Omar in 1985.

She went on to pursue the MICPA Professional

Stage examination while fulfilling her work requirement with KPMG.

She moved on to senior roles in other firms and commercial organisations.

In 2004, she went to the US to take up a finance position at the World Bank.

"I may have started out with only a diploma but through the MICPA programme, I was able to qualify as a professional accountant from a Malaysian institute highly respected in the global arena.

"My career at the World Bank is a testament to the fact that the MICPA qualification is globally recognised. Besides that, anyone carrying the Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia qualification can have an international career," she said.

MICPA offers the Professional Stage Examination to Diploma in Accounting holders from accredited polytechnics and colleges.

Upon completion, they can move on to pursue the Advanced Stage Examination, which is a joint programme between MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ).

Known as the MICPA-CAANZ Programme, candidates will qualify as a Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia and New Zealand.

They will also have access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), providing them with reciprocal membership support from 10 premier accounting bodies across the globe.

Soon, candidates who complete the MICPA Professional Stage Examination have the option to qualify as an accounting technician.

They will need to complete just one additional module, Professional Ethics, and complete two years of approved practical experience to qualify and become a MICPA member.

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

## A PROFESSIONAL PATHWAY FOR DIPLOMA HOLDERS

It sometimes appears that you can go further in your career only if you hold a degree. Well, that is not entirely true. The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) dispels that myth with two inspiring examples of MICPA members who were Diploma holders when they first started out and now have very successful careers in reputable global organisations.

Mr Thong Foo Vung, started his journey in accounting at Politeknik Ungku Omar, Ipoh after completing his SPM. He graduated with a Diploma in Accountancy after 3 years and during that time had undergone a six-month internship with Ernst & Young.

“My internship experience exposed me to the various routes that were available for me to achieve my ambition of becoming a professional accountant. That was when I made the critical decision to pursue the MICPA Programme,” shared Mr Thong.

Upon graduating, Mr Thong took up employment with Ernst & Young as an article clerk to fulfil the work experience requirement of the MICPA Programme. He completed the Programme within 3 years.

After 5 years, Mr Thong left the firm as Audit Manager and spent 3 years gaining commercial experience before deciding to venture back into professional practice in audit at KPMG. Within 2 years, he was promoted to head an Audit Department and was seconded for two and a half years to the Audit and Assurance Service Centre (AASC) in New Jersey, USA under KPMG’s Global Mobility Programme. Whilst there, he was involved in the development of KPMG’s audit methodology and managed several other complementary projects.

“When I returned to Malaysia, I was promoted to the position of Director and in 2008 was accepted as a Partner of KPMG. I am now serving a portfolio of clients in various industries while heading the Professional Practice Department (PPD) of KPMG Malaysia,” added Mr Thong.

“I am a MICPA Council Member, member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), board member of various committees and I continue with my work of improving the accounting profession. I am truly thankful and glad that I had pursued the MICPA Programme,” he shared.

As a professional accountant even if your tertiary qualification is a Diploma, there are a host of career opportunities that await you. You can opt to be a practicing accountant like Mr Thong or a non-practicing accountant in commerce and industry like our next highly successful MICPA member - Ms Jacinta Au Yong.

Ms Au Yong too completed her Diploma in Accounting at Politeknik Ungku Omar in 1985 and went on to pursue the MICPA Professional Stage examination in 1987 whilst fulfilling her work requirement with KPMG, then known as Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. She then moved on to other senior roles in other firms and in commercial organisations. In 2004, Ms Au Yong moved to the US to take up a finance position in the World Bank, where she continues to work.

“I may have started out with only a Diploma but through the MICPA Programme I was able to qualify as a professional accountant from a Malaysian Institute that is highly respected in the global arena,” Ms Au Yong shared.

“My career at the World Bank is testament to the fact that the MICPA qualification is globally recognised and anyone carrying the Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia qualification can have a truly international career,” she advised.

MICPA currently offers the MICPA Professional Stage Examination to Diploma in Accounting holders from accredited polytechnics and colleges. Candidates will have to complete four modules on either a full-time or part-time basis before they can move on to pursue the Advanced Stage Examination, which is a joint Programme between MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) or better known as the MICPA-CAANZ Programme.

The MICPA-CAANZ Programme comprises 5 modules which need to be completed while concurrently fulfilling 3 years of work experience with an Approved Training Employer (ATE). Candidates who successfully complete the MICPA-CAANZ Programme will qualify as a Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia and New Zealand. This is significant because doing one set of exams allows graduates entry into two highly-regarded professional accounting bodies – MICPA and CAANZ. This in turn will grant them access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), providing them with reciprocal membership support from 10 premier accounting bodies across the globe.

Alternatively, candidates who complete the MICPA Professional Stage Examination will have the option to qualify with the soon to be launched ‘Accounting Technician’ title. After graduating with their Diploma in Accountancy, candidates will need to complete just one additional module – Professional Ethics, and complete 2 years of approved practical experience to qualify as an Accounting Technician and become a MICPA member.

“I am proof that you can have a very successful career as a Diploma holder. MICPA offers the Professional Stage Programme for Diploma in Accountancy holders and I urge all diploma holders who will not be pursuing their degree to consider this route towards a professional qualification. You have nothing to lose but much to gain,” Mr Thong advised.

**For more details on the MICPA Professional Stage Exam and MICPA-CAANZ Programme:**

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