

**MICPA 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Speech by Mr Ken Pushpanathan**  
**President of The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)**  
**June 20, 2014**

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Yang Berhormat Senator Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar  
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Abdul Rauf Rashid  
Vice-President, MICPA

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Robert Yong  
Chairman, Public Affairs Committee, MICPA

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri- Puan Sri, Datuk-Datuk and Datin-Datin

Heads of our Fellow Professional Bodies and Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming all of you to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants. May I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Senator Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar for taking time out from his busy schedule to be here with us tonight. I am given to understand that he has another conflicting engagement this evening and has given priority to our event. Thank you Dato Sri' .

MICPA was incorporated in 1958 and through the 56 years of our existence we have been recognised as a premier accountancy body in Malaysia with countless achievements in thought leadership initiatives and contributions to legislative and professional changes. This is also acknowledged by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) where the Institute is a founder member. A number of our senior members have served in various IFAC Committees including the Board of IFAC. I am proud to be at the helm of such an established, principled and respected organisation over the past two years. 2013 was another fruitful year for the Institute, where we grew in strength in our quest to build and strengthen the Accounting profession.

Since our collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia (ICAA) in 2009, we've seen good growth in the number of graduates pursuing our revised joint Professional Programme and the recognition of our new professional members by the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) which

comprises the 11 premier global professional bodies. Later this year, ICAA will be officially merged with the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA) to form the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand. This bodes well for us at MICPA as we will see a marked expansion and reach in our global network and community of discerning accounting professionals. This will mean even stronger recognition of our qualification and that of the Institute at large.

In line with our objective of being a strong professional body and cornerstone in the Malaysian accounting and regulatory scene, the Institute continues to work closely with the Government and regulators. One of the Government's key initiatives in 2013 was the setting up of a high level Committee to Strengthen the Accounting Profession in Malaysia (CSAP). CSAP was formed to review the state of the accounting profession in Malaysia and to recommend initiatives that need to be taken to develop a strong profession, in keeping with the country's aspirations of becoming a developed nation by the year 2020. The Institute welcomes these initiatives to develop a strong profession in the country and has been supportive of the various initiatives and proposals to date. We look forward to seeing the final CSAP reports soon.

MICPA has been actively supporting the government's initiative in developing Malaysia's human capital talent especially amongst women and Bumiputeras. We are proud to say that our present membership includes 39% women and 13% Bumiputera members. Of our present student registrations, we have 48% Bumiputeras and 64% women. The trend is very encouraging, as amongst the new provisional and full membership admissions to the Institute in 2013, 41% were Bumiputeras and 66% were women.

From an education standpoint we've collaborated with Talent Corporation Malaysia (TalentCorp) via its upskilling programme that helps equip graduates with commercially useful skills and experiences that help enhance their employment opportunities. Known as the PAR Excellence Programme it aims to encourage high quality young graduates to pursue our MICPA-ICAA Programme and eventually qualify as a professional accountant.

We've also been working closely with Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera (PENERAJU), an initiative under the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department. Our work with Peneraju is aimed at attracting Bumiputera accounting degree holders to pursue our MICPA-ICAA Programme with the ultimate aim of significantly increasing the number of qualified Bumiputera professional accountants by the year 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have seen some great success stories from our flagship Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP) since its launch in 2011. The SSP is a tripartite collaboration between the Institute, participating employers and universities wherein eligible students will be offered an internship placement as part of the compulsory industrial training that is a requirement of their degree program, a full-time job offer upon graduation, and most importantly, sponsorship to begin the MICPA-ICAA Programme early – ie. whilst the students are still in their final year of their degree program. Apart from giving these candidates a

headstart in their professional journey, it allows employers to identify and employ strong discerning talent before they even graduate.

Our pioneer batches of SSP students have done very well – with several of them winning Gold Medals in the examinations. This is a great testament to the calibre and quality of our discerning young accounting graduates in Malaysia and bodes well for our future generation of accounting professionals. The average pass rate amongst SSP candidates has reached 77.6% and most importantly they have even achieved a 100% pass rate in one of the sittings for the final module of the Programme.

The Institute has had several exemplary candidates who have gone on to complete the Programme well within their training contracts and with remarkable results. I would like to congratulate all our new graduate members of the Institute and look forward to their active participation in the Institute's activities.

Annually, the Institute celebrates the graduation and achievements of all our graduate members at an "Excellence Awards Ceremony". This ceremony is normally held at the latter part of the calendar year, to coincide with our professional examination results. Moving forward from this year, we would be also acknowledging at our Annual Dinners, our most recent Gold Medal winners and Most Outstanding CPA of the year. I am pleased to note that our 2013 winners are amongst us tonight.

I would like to acknowledge

- **Drew Siow Yi Huan** from PwC who won the *Ernst & Young Gold Medal* for the **Audit and Assurance module** in **Term 1, 2014 exams** and the **Datuk Oh Chong Peng Gold Medal** for the **Financial Accounting and Reporting module** in **Term 3, 2013 examinations**.
- **Dwee Lin Inn** and **Claire Ng Lee Juan**, both from Ernst & Young, who were the co-winners of the **Folks DFK & Co./Azman, Wong, Salleh & Co. Gold Medal** for the **Management Accounting and Applied Finance module** for their **Term 3, 2013 exams**.
- **Dwee Lin Inn** also won the **BDO Gold Medal** for **Taxation** in her **Term 2, 2013 examinations**.
- **Chee Heng Luen** from Ernst & Young who won the **Ernst & Young Gold Medal** for the **Audit and Assurance** in his **Term 2, 2013 exams**., and
- **Tah Eve Lynn** from PwC who won the **PricewaterhouseCoopers Gold Medal** for the **Ethics and Business Application module** in her **Term 2, 2013 exams**.

I would also like to acknowledge the achievements of Ms Tara Ong, our 2012 Most Outstanding CPA. Tara received her award at our 2013 Excellence Awards ceremony. She is one of MICPA's valued ambassadors and is currently attached to PwC where she continues to excel in her career aspirations. Please join me in congratulating Tara and all our Gold Medal winners.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tonight, we will be honouring our newest Anugerah Presiden recipient. The Anugerah Presiden was introduced in 2002 and is presented to a MICPA member in recognition of the recipient's exceptional contributions to the accounting profession, the Institute and society. I will be announcing this year's recipient later tonight.

On a different note, MICPA has always relied on a lean dedicated staff force that has been a treasured backbone for all our activities. We have many long serving staff and this evening, I am proud to announce that one of our employees, Puan Ruhaizah Ibrahim, who is our Student Affairs Executive, celebrates her 30 years of service with the Institute. She is here tonight and was amongst the Secretariat staff receiving you as you arrived earlier in the evening. Ruhaizah, on behalf of the Institute I thank you for your dedication, loyalty and hard work over the years you've spent with the Institute. Your contributions have certainly added to the growth and success of the Institute today. Please join me in giving Ruhaizah a round of applause for her invaluable service to MICPA.

At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Institute's Executive Director, Mr Foo Yoke Pin and his team at MICPA for their dedication, support and hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the Institute as well as their achievement of the various goals set out by the Institute. We still have much to do and I look forward to seeing the Institute grow even stronger and achieve its vision of being the premier accounting qualification in Malaysia which is comparable to the best in the world.

Finally, to all present here tonight, thank you for your continuous support – we are honoured to have you in our midst to celebrate the Institute's milestones. Do enjoy the dinner and entertainment that we have lined up for you and have a pleasant evening.

Thank you.