

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



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From left are MICPA-CAANZ Programme graduates - Noor Zalza, Lee, Tee and Tiow.

# Diverse careers in accounting

MANY presume accounting graduates kick off their career in audit, but in reality, that is not accurate. Accountants have diverse career paths to choose from.

Four young accountants who took different pathways and learnt they shared a common professional qualification that they completed in the early stages of their career - the MICPA-CAANZ Programme.

This programme is a collaboration between The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CAANZ), which provides its graduates with two memberships and two titles - Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia, or CPA(M) and Chartered Accountant, Australia and New Zealand.

## Audit

Tee G-Mun is an audit manager with a "Big Four" firm who completed the programme while working.

Through his experience in audit and knowledge gained from the programme, he gained a deeper understanding of technical accounting areas, and honed his soft skills through having to work in teams and dealing with senior, key client personnel and regulators. The audit experience is valuable as it provides a clear view of an organisation from the inside out.

He learnt business strategy, operations, compliance, regulatory requirements and more. It required him to develop his professional judgement and scepticism in order to form professional opinions.

Though many think auditors work long hours, he testifies that achieving a work-life balance and taking up a professional qualification while working is possible with good time management.

## Advisory

Graduate from Monash University Malaysia Lee Huey Chin started her career in the advisory division of a "Big Four" firm.

Her experience covered internal audit and enterprise risk management where she works closely with clients across various industries to identify risks and provide recommendations

on how to manage those risks. It has given her invaluable insights into how companies in different industries operate.

She recently completed the MICPA-CAANZ Programme in 2016, and enjoyed the experience, especially the final Capstone module, which provided a practical approach to learning business strategy. It also incorporated soft skill elements, such as presentation skills and teamwork necessary in real life, while widening her professional network.

## Commercial

Noor Zalza Yahya started out her career in audit but later went on to hold several commercial roles in MNCs within their finance functions. There she expanded her capability, knowledge and experience beyond financial reporting.

She was involved in commercial negotiation, tender and contract review, treasury, financing arrangements, legal, corporate tax, project management, insurance, and even HR matters.

She eventually became the chief financial officer of an oil and gas company. She is now self-employed doing financial advisory work.

## Entrepreneur

Co-founder of several business ventures, Tiow Wei Sheng is a successful CPA and winner of MICPA's Most Outstanding CPA Award in 2008. He qualified while working in a commercial organisation, but eventually became an entrepreneur.

His latest venture is in the development of a new beverage that has recently hit the shelves of Malaysian supermarkets and export markets worldwide.

With such diverse career paths from just four individuals, there is no wonder that accounting is a popular course of choice among young undergraduates today.

But what sets them apart and ahead in their respective careers is the MICPA-CAANZ Programme that provided them with the tools they needed to excel and succeed.

■ For more info on the MICPA-CAANZ Programme, contact the marketing department at 03-2698 9622 or visit [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my).

## **Diverse Careers in Accounting**

Many people assume accounting graduates would definitely kick off their career in audit. However, that is not quite accurate in reality. Accountants actually have diverse career paths to choose from. We spoke to 4 young accountants who took very different pathways to learn more about what a career in accounting looks like for them, and learned that the one thing they have in common is the professional qualification that they completed in the early stages of their career – the MICPA-CAANZ Programme. This Programme is a collaboration between The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CAANZ), which provides its graduates with two memberships and two titles - *Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia, or CPA(M)*, and *Chartered Accountant, Australia & New Zealand or CA(ANZ)*.

### **Audit**

Tee G-Mun is an Audit Manager with a Big 4 firm who completed the Programme whilst working. Through his experience in audit and knowledge gained from the Programme, he has gained a deeper understanding of technical accounting areas, and honed his soft skills through having to work in teams and deal with senior and key client personnel as well as regulators. The audit experience is valuable as it provides a clear view of an organisation from the inside out, where he learned about business strategy, operations, compliance, regulatory requirements and more. It required him to develop his professional judgement and skepticism in order to form professional opinions. Though many are of the view that auditors have to work long hours, he testifies that achieving a work-life balance and taking up a professional qualification whilst working is possible with good time management and prioritizing, and the ability to relate and integrate theoretical knowledge to real life work experiences.

### **Advisory**

Lee Huey Chin, a graduate from Monash University Malaysia started off her career in the Advisory division of a Big 4 firm. Her experience has covered internal audit and enterprise risk management where she works closely with clients across various industries to identify risks and provide recommendations on how to manage those risks. It has given her invaluable insights into how companies in different industries operate. She recently completed the MICPA-CAANZ Programme in 2016, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the final Capstone module which provides a practical approach to learning about business strategy and incorporates soft skill elements such as presentation skills and teamwork which is very necessary in real life, whilst widening her professional network. The open book exam concept also simulates real life where resources are available at your fingertips but what is really tested is your application skills and understanding.

### **Commercial**

Pn Noor Zaliza Yahya started out her career in audit but later went on to hold several commercial roles in MNCs within their finance functions where she was able to expand her capability, knowledge and experience beyond financial reporting. She was involved in commercial negotiation, tender and contract review, treasury, financing arrangements, legal, corporate tax including tax planning and tax investigation, project management, insurance, and even HR matters. She eventually became the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of an Oil & Gas company. The MICPA qualification helped her achieve her ultimate career goal of becoming a CFO, as it is recognised and widely-accepted commercially. She is now self-employed doing consulting and financial advisory work, which allows her to focus on her children and to contribute more towards community service.

### **Entrepreneur**

Co-founder of several business ventures, Tiow Wei Sheng is a successful CPA and winner of MICPA's Most Outstanding CPA Award in 2008. He qualified whilst working in a commercial organisation, but eventually decided to become an entrepreneur, being someone who has many dreams and ideas. His

objective was to challenge himself to turn his dreams to reality for that sense of achievement and fulfilment. His latest venture is in the development of a new beverage that has recently hit the shelves of Malaysian supermarkets and export markets worldwide. Wei Sheng shared that the knowledge he obtained through the Programme equipped him with the skills to instinctively know what steps to take to start a business, from strategy, to financial management and operations. Understanding the rationale of accounting standards and the technical aspects of accounting enabled him to better appreciate the drivers of business. In his opinion, an entrepreneur has to have strong problem-solving skills, determination and the endurance to withstand stress.

With such diverse career paths from just four individuals, it's no wonder that accounting is such a popular course of choice amongst young undergraduates today – but what sets them apart and ahead in their respective careers is the MICPA-CAANZ Programme that provided them with the tools they needed to excel and succeed.

***For more info on the MICPA-CAANZ Programme, please contact the Marketing Department (Tel: 03-2698 9622) or visit our website at [www.micpa.com.my](http://www.micpa.com.my).***

# ACCOUNTING IS FOR EVERYONE



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PROGRAMME

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Non-Accounting  
Degree

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Accounting Degree

ACCOUNTING  
TECHNICIAN

Diploma  
in Accounting