



IFAC News

A NEWS BRIEFING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

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IFAC Calls on G20 to Adopt Global Standards

IFAC has called upon the G20 leaders to step up initiatives promoting the adoption and implementation of global standards for accounting, auditing, and auditor independence in a letter submitted to the Group in advance of its Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Summit on the financial crisis in September.

In this submission, IFAC also called for the global adoption and implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards, vital for improving the transparency and accountability of governments as they conduct unprecedented takeovers, lending, guarantees, and bailouts of major market institutions, banks, and companies.

In addition, IFAC urges that further steps be taken to enhance the governance of the International Accounting Standards Board to ensure its legitimacy and ability to act independently, without inappropriate political interference, in its role as a standard setter.

The IFAC submission, which outlines in total eight recommendations to the G20 to foster financial stability, was developed during the G20 Accountancy Summit, held in London on July 23–24. More than 60 global accountancy leaders, representing professional accounting organizations in 17 of the G20 countries, attended the summit to achieve consensus on the profession's continued response to the financial crisis. The recommendations developed at this summit build on the previous submission provided by IFAC to the G20 in March 2009.

Other key recommendations outlined in the submission include the following:

- Developing measures to enhance corporate governance in the global marketplace
- Explicitly addressing the needs and realities of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the formulation and implementation of policies and reforms
- Committing to the long-term strengthening of the profession in developing and emerging countries
- Supporting the development of new tools and metrics for achieving global sustainability

The G20 letter, with the full list of recommendations, is available in the section of the IFAC website devoted to the global financial crisis at www.ifac.org/financial-crisis.

IFAC welcomes the opportunity to contribute through this submission and through future cooperation with the G20. The accountancy profession stands ready to assist global leaders by sharing its experience and knowledge in the building of global solutions to the economic downturn. ■

IAASB Takes Action to Support ISA Implementation

The staff of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) plans to release in early October its first six ISA Modules to help raise awareness and promote understanding of the clarified International Standards on Auditing (ISAs).

These modules are a new resource that combine brief videos explaining the key principles of, and major changes in, individual ISAs with slide presentations outlining further details of the standards. Taken together, the package will provide a set of useful tools for many constituencies, including those responsible for adopting and implementing the clarified ISAs, applying them in practice, and training practitioners.

To further support the implementation of the clarified ISAs, the staff of the IAASB has also released a question-and-answer publication explaining how the standards can be applied proportionately with the size and complexity of an entity.

In addition, the IAASB has begun to seek information about the experiences of those preparing to implement the clarified ISAs. This is the first step of a broader initiative aimed at developing a process for assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the clarified ISAs.

For an overview of these new IAASB resources and initiatives, please see page 2. ■

IAASB Resources for Clarity Adoption and Implementation

The Clarity Project, completed by the IAASB in March, resulted in the issuance of 36 International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1 in a new style that is easier to understand, translate, and implement. The clarified ISAs go into effect for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009. Systems of quality control in compliance with the clarified ISQC 1 are required to be established by December 15, 2009. The following are intended to help support effective adoption and implementation of these standards. More information on these can be found online in the IAASB Clarity Center at web.ifac.org/clarity-center/index.

ISA Modules

The IAASB believes that effective implementation of its clarified ISAs begins with an awareness of what has changed and why. The new ISA Modules, which focus mainly on those ISAs that have been substantively revised, are designed to assist in promoting such awareness.

Each module consists of two parts:

- A short video presentation that will explain the key principles of the ISA and the significant changes that can be expected in practice
- A set of presentation slides that will expand on the matters covered in the video presentation and explain the new provisions of the ISA in more detail

The first modules cover ISAs that address related parties, accounting estimates, including fair values, and communications with those charged with governance and management. There will also be a module explaining the implications of the new clarity conventions and matters relevant to the application of ISAs in the context of audits of small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs).

The ISA Modules will be available free of charge from the IAASB Clarity Center in early October. The IAASB encourages the reproduction, or translation and reproduction, of these modules. Interested parties are asked to contact permissions@ifac.org for terms and conditions. ■

Q&As on Applying ISAs

The IAASB staff's question-and-answer (Q&A) publication *Applying ISAs Proportionately with the Size and Complexity of an Entity* explains how the clarified ISAs have been designed to be applied in a manner proportionate to the specific characteristics of the entity under audit. It addresses questions regarding how the work effort in an SME audit might differ from that in a larger entity's

audit, and how the ISAs help guide auditors in applying the standards to SME audits. Just as importantly, it highlights the critical role of appropriate professional judgment in the proper conduct of an audit. It also explains how the ISAs encourage auditors to prepare meaningful audit documentation while fostering an

effective and efficient approach to it.

While the publication is relevant in the context of any audit, it will be of particular help to those who audit, or oversee the audits of, SMEs. The publication was released in August and is available in the Support and Guidance section of the IAASB Clarity Center. ■

ISA Implementation Monitoring Project

The IAASB has established a task force to gather information initially from certain national auditing standard setters (particularly those that are implementing the ISAs broadly in line with their effective date), IFAC member bodies, and audit firms about their experiences in preparing to implement the clarified ISAs. The IAASB is also planning at a later stage to obtain views and feedback from other

interested stakeholders regarding how the ISAs have been implemented in practice. This information will assist the IAASB in determining a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of the clarified ISAs, including whether there is any need to further refine the standards.

Information on this project, including updates on its progress, will be provided in the IAASB Clarity Center. ■

New Translations of IFAC Documents Available

Thanks to the contributions of member bodies and other outside parties, IFAC's Translations Department has recently posted translations of several key documents in Arabic, French, and Spanish on its online Translations Database at www.ifac.org/Translations/database.php.

Arabic translations

- IFAC's *Statements of Membership Obligations 1-7*, by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants
- 2009 *Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements*, by the Arab Society of Certified Accountants

French translations

- *Guide to Using International Standards on Auditing in the Audit of Small- and Medium-sized Entities* (ISA Guide), by Néjib Sfayhi of Audit & Systems – Tunisia, with a summary prepared by Hechmi Abdelwahed, member of the IFAC Small and Medium Practices Committee
- *Guide to Quality Control for Small- and Medium-sized Practices* (QC Guide), by CGA-Canada

Spanish translations

- *Guide to Using International Standards on Auditing in the Audit of Small- and Medium-sized Entities* (ISA Guide), by Samuel Mantilla with ECOE Ediciones
- *Guide to Quality Control for Small- and Medium-sized Practices* (QC Guide), by Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Públicos
- International Education Standards 1-8, by The World Bank

Translations of IFAC's publications, as well as more information on IFAC's policies on translation and reproduction, can be found on the IFAC website at www.ifac.org/Translations. ■

President's Message

Speaking Out, in One Voice, to World Leaders

In some corners of the world, summer is a quiet time, but not for IFAC. In fact, it has been a season of unprecedented activity for us.

One notable activity was our G20 Accountancy Summit in London during the last week of July, designed to ensure that our voice is heard as the world works its way through the global economic crisis—because we believe that the accountancy profession has an essential role to play in resolving the current crisis and in building a reformed international financial system. I'm pleased to report that the 60 leaders representing our G20 member bodies spoke as one on a number of important issues. We demonstrated how collaborative the IFAC member bodies can be, even though we may speak different languages and reside thousands of miles apart.

A Letter to the G20

We followed up the meeting, just one week later, with a letter directed to the G20 leaders, conveying the positions that we discussed at our summit.

We urged the political and financial leaders who are traveling to the United States for the September meeting of the G20 to take specific actions that would have broad consequences—and take them quickly—regarding the areas that we know best. We asked them to support adoption and implementation of global accounting, auditing, and auditor independence standards to improve the ability of capital markets to work globally.

We emphasized the importance of having a robust governance structure for the International Accounting Standards Board, to ensure that no one stakeholder group has undue

influence. We urged them to help “greatly improve government transparency and accountability in light of the unprecedented takeovers, loans, guarantees, and bailouts of major market institutions, banks, and companies,” through adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards in every country. We also called upon them to enhance the role of corporate governance by adopting and implementing (in letter as well as in spirit) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's *OECD Principles of Corporate Governance* as the standard frame-

It is important for the profession to find the important issues—the critical issues—that we can all agree on, where we can speak authoritatively, in a way that serves the public interest.

work for corporate governance and urging its adoption in every nation. We also asked the G20 to request that the OECD reconsider what constitutes appropriate governance in relation to the design of remuneration systems in light of current events.

Without hesitation, I can say that the G20 Accountancy Summit brought out the best in those attending. We found our common cause and learned that we can speak with a unified voice—and have an impact that 60 of us speaking separately cannot. Writing with urgency and insight, we spoke not only for the profession, but also for the public everywhere affected by the financial crisis.

Demonstrating Our Value

I know that many of our member bodies wish to demonstrate their value to their membership and communities with “thought leadership” and “public advocacy” on local or national concerns. I understand that network firms in the Forum of Firms have issues that they wish to pursue with regulators or governments. These messages may be about regional or parochial issues where we do not share common cause. But, if that is all we do, we run the risk of diffusing our messages on the important issues. Worse, we run the risk of being ignored, rather than being taken seriously. While IFAC is dedicated to collaborating with member bodies to create meaningful change in their own environments, it is also important for the profession to find the important issues—the critical issues—that we can all agree on, where we can speak authoritatively, in a way that serves the public interest.

The success of our London G20 Summit demonstrated that we can work as one on the major issues of the day and that, together, we are not a voice in the wilderness but a power to be reckoned with. ■



Robert Bunting

IFAC Collaborates with Prince of Wales Sustainability Project

Since December 2008, IFAC and 14 of its member bodies have participated in The Prince of Wales' Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) Project, which has a broad aim of achieving a common approach to accounting for sustainability across the accountancy profession.

Recently, IFAC and A4S have partnered to develop a community website that will allow A4S and IFAC members, as well as professional accountants and other experts, to collaborate in the area of sustainability. Providing interactive forums and wiki functionality, the website will let participants share ideas, experiences, and views on sustainability issues, as well as work together on a variety of different projects, including case studies, content development, and broader community outreach to stakeholders, such as investors, academics, and regulators.

The 14 IFAC member bodies contrib-

uting to the Prince of Wales project also serve on its Accounting for Sustainability Forum. (See www.accountingforsustainability.org for the full list of participants and the Forum's current projects.) The Forum conducts discussion workshops and other initiatives to develop concrete steps towards better accounting for sustainability. In July, the Forum's members endorsed the following set of five principles to guide their initiatives for promoting sustainability practices:

- Influence and inform
- Lead by example
- Drive thought leadership
- Collaborate through the Forum
- Incorporate accounting for sustainability within training and professional education

More information about the principles and a full list of all the signatories can be found at www.accountingforsustainability.org/output/Page182.asp. ■

PAIB Starts Projects On Governance, Risk, And Internal Control

The Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee has launched two projects directed at improving guidance in the areas of governance, risk, and internal control.

The first initiative will involve developing a reconciliation of the PAIB Committee's International Good Practice Guidance (IGPG) principles with the *OECD Principles of Corporate Governance*. This project follows IFAC's recent publication of the IGPG on *Evaluating and Improving Governance in Organizations* and IFAC's July submission to the G20 (See page 1), which identifies corporate governance as a priority for reform.

IFAC's IGPG on governance complements the OECD principles as its main purpose is to support PAIBs and to help their organizations evaluate and further improve their governance structures and systems. The IFAC principles help restore the balance between compliance and performance in organizations.

The PAIB Committee is also developing the IGPG, *Evaluating and Improving Internal Control in Organizations*. The goal will be to provide practical guidance that will focus on common pitfalls in the way current internal control systems are being deployed and what should be done to avoid these pitfalls. ■

New Guidance Issued for Evaluating and Improving Costing Approaches

The Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee has published new International Good Practice Guidance (IGPG) to assist professional accountants in making decisions about their approaches to costing. The IGPG, titled *Evaluating and Improving Internal Control in Organizations*, establishes six fundamental principles for evaluating and improving costing methods.

The guidance is targeted to professionals working in commerce, industry, as well as the public sector. It also recognizes the importance of distinguishing between the purposes and information needs of cost accounting to meet the demands of external reporting, cost measurement, and reporting for internal decision support in organizations.

A companion document for the guidance, titled *Evaluating the Costing Journey: A Costing Levels Maturity Model*, has also been published to help professional accountants decide upon the level of sophistication in the costing informa-

tion they will need to provide, given the requirements of their organizations and the needs of managers and employees. The model can help professional accountants

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Sustainability Framework Offers New Resources on Climate Change

The IFAC Sustainability Framework, a web-based tool that helps professional accountants integrate sustainability into the strategies and management of their organizations, now has a resources section related to developments in climate change policy. Carbon disclosures, cap and trade, and green legislative initiatives are among the issues addressed by these new links.

As of July 29, more than 12,000 visitors have accessed the framework, which focuses on sustainability from four business perspectives: strategy, internal management, financial investors, and that of other stakeholders. It provides guidance on key considerations for accountants and resources to promote sustainability leadership throughout the full management cycle within their organizations.

The framework can be found at web.ifac.org/sustainability-framework/splash and the resources related to climate change policy are at web.ifac.org/sustainability-framework/resources. ■

First Draft of SMP Practice Management Guide Complete

Work is well advanced on the *Guide to Practice Management for Use by Small- and Medium-sized Practices* (the PM Guide) being developed by CPA Australia. A first draft, comprising seven modules, has been reviewed, and CPA Australia is now making revisions based on comments from a panel of IFAC reviewers. The PM Guide, the third guide to be developed by the Small and Medium Practices (SMP) Committee, will share best practices on a range of practice management issues—managing people, using IT, client relationship management, etc.—to help make SMPs more successful. Publication of the first edition of the PM Guide is planned during the first half of 2010. Two IFAC member bodies, Consiglio Nazionale dei Dottori Commercialisti e degli Esperti Contabili and Certified General Account-

ants' Association of Canada, are helping to finance the project.

A variety of resources, including links to assorted web-based materials, are available at IFAC's International Center for Small and Medium Practices at www.ifac.org/SMP/index.php#Resources. ■

IFRS for SMEs Issued

Following a five-year development and consultative process, during which the SMP Committee helped IFAC provide significant input, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has issued the final *International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities* (IFRS for SMEs). See www.iasb.org/IFRS+for+SMEs/IFRS+for+SMEs.htm for more informa-

tion on the standard as well as other related IASB projects.

While IFAC welcomes the launch of the standard, the task of implementing this standard and ensuring that it remains current will be considerable. The International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation is currently developing training materials, expected to be available free of charge, to assist accountants with implementation. The SMP Committee sees a clear need for implementation support and is considering ways in which IFAC may assist in promoting implementation activities. ■

SMP Forum 2009 To Be Held In Beijing

The IFAC Small and Medium Practices Forum 2009 will be held on October 28, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt, Beijing. It will be hosted by IFAC and co-hosted by the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants. The one-day forum will bring together regional and national accountancy bodies, standard setters, and other interested parties to discuss how to address the challenges and opportunities facing SMPs and small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs), especially in Asia. More information on the Forum is available in the resources section of the online International Center for Small and Medium Practices: www.ifac.org/SMP/index.php#Resources. ■

New Project on Business Support for SMEs

The SMP Committee has started to develop an information paper titled *Role of SMPs in Providing Business Support to SME Clients*. This project will involve an extensive review of professional literature, as well as research into the business advice and related service functions that SMPs provide SMEs. The project is expected to produce an information paper in early 2010. ■

IFAC and FT Banker Magazine Launch Global SME Lenders Survey

IFAC has launched, in conjunction with the *Financial Times* magazine *The Banker*, a survey that explores the relationship between small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs) and the lending community.

In particular, the survey will provide IFAC and stakeholders with a better understanding of the following:

- The needs of lenders when serving SMEs
- The perceived challenges for SMEs in acquiring financing
- How the accountancy profession can best support SMEs and lenders

The results of the recently closed survey will be published in the October 2009 edition of *The Banker* and shared with IFAC member bodies.

The survey was prompted by widespread concerns over the difficulties SMEs face obtaining finance during the global downturn. Access to finance will be a key issue for policy makers and business leaders in the coming months, given the vital role that SMEs play as drivers of economic recovery. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), SMEs account for over

95% of the enterprises and up to 70% of employment in OECD countries. SMEs also account for the majority of Gross Domestic Product in these countries and are considered essential for job creation, social cohesion, innovation, and growth.

However, according to the OECD, access to lending is one of the most significant challenges impacting SMEs, which rely on bank finance to succeed. Banks appear to be lending less money and the money they do lend is done so with tighter conditions and higher rates of interest. As a result, SMEs may not be getting the financing they need to help pull the global economy out of recession.

IFAC sees a special role for professional accountants, such as small and medium practices (SMPs), when it comes to SME financing. Accountants can help SMEs determine what kind of finance best meets their needs, and then help them obtain this financing. For example, SMPs can mediate the relationship between SME clients and potential financiers, including banks, by providing introductions, information, and assurance on such information where necessary. The survey is intended to provide insights into this subject. ■

IPSASB and IMF Form Joint Task Force on Government Interventions in Financial Crisis

The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have formed a joint task force to learn more about various government interventions in response to the global financial crisis and the application of accounting standards for reporting such government actions. The IPSASB has enjoyed a strong relationship with the IMF having benefitted from the IMF's observations and insights through the agency's participation as an official observer at IPSASB meetings.

This is the first time the two organizations have worked together collaboratively on a joint task force.

The IPSASB has been discussing the impact of the current global financial crisis on governments at each of its meetings since October 2008. Moreover, the task force has held meetings so far with five governments on their financial crisis initiatives. The information garnered at the meetings will be used by the IPSASB to inform its conceptual framework project and by the IMF to inform its G20 submissions and other work.

The following are objectives of the joint IPSASB/IMF task force:

- To learn how governments are intending to deal with assets, obligations, and commitments acquired as a result of their actions in response to the financial crisis, and comment/contribute to the thinking of these

governments

- To learn how the existing accounting standards are used to report the variety of government actions in response to the financial crisis, and identify the need for any improvements
- To discuss the reporting and valuation approaches for these initiatives

The seeds for the task force were sown at the IPSASB's February meeting and, in May 2009, the IPSASB meeting was held at the IMF Headquarters in Washington D.C. where the terms of reference and oper-

ational procedures started to be addressed. The May meeting opened with an overview of the current crisis from the perspective of the IMF, including a speech by Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF. The transcript of this speech is available at www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2009/051809a.htm. In addition, Carlo Cottarelli, Director of Fiscal Affairs Department, and Lucie Laliberte, Deputy Director of Statistics Department, spoke on the global financial crisis and its impact on governments. ■

IESBA Promotes Implementation of Revised Code

The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) encourages member bodies and firms to develop plans for implementing the recently revised *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code). The revised Code will be effective on January 1, 2011.

The revised Code was issued by the IESBA in July following extensive consultation and the consideration and approval by the Public Interest Oversight Board of due process.

The revisions include the following changes to strengthen the Code's independence requirements:

- Extending the independence requirements for audits of listed entities to all public interest entities
- Requiring a cooling-off period before certain members of the firm can join public interest audit clients in certain specified positions
- Extending partner rotation requirements to all key audit partners
- Strengthening some of the provisions related to the provision of non-assurance services to audit clients
- Requiring a pre- or post-issuance review if total fees from a public interest audit client exceed 15% of the total fees of the firm for two consecutive years

In addition, the drafting conventions

used in the Code have been changed: the word "shall" will now be used to present the Code's requirements in clearer, more precise language.

Recognizing the effect these revisions will have on professional practice, the IESBA has developed some materials to support implementation.

Located at the Resources section of the IESBA website, the materials include:

- A high-level overview of the entire Code
- Detailed presentation slides and speaking notes addressing section 290 (the independence requirements) and the section's requirements for public interest entities
- Templates and other documents to help member bodies analyze differences between their jurisdiction's requirements and those of the revised Code
- Papers explaining the changes from the existing Code, as well as the Code's development process

Member bodies and firms are encouraged to take advantage of these materials in order to develop plans to ensure implementation by the effective date of January 1, 2011.

The full text of the revised Code can be accessed in the Ethics section of the IFAC online bookstore at www.ifac.org/Store. ■

New Guidance Issued for Evaluating and Improving Costing Approaches

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exercise professional judgment to assess their organization's existing costing capabilities. IFAC welcomes comments on this model, which is a beta version currently being tested by users for its effectiveness.

Both documents can be downloaded free of charge from the PAIB section of the IFAC online bookstore at www.ifac.org/Store. ■

Comments Requested for Proposed IAESB 2010–2012 Strategy and Work Plan

The International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) is seeking comments from IFAC member bodies, regulators, accounting firms, employers, the academic community, and others on the exposure draft (ED) of its *2010–2012 Strategy and Work Plan*. The proposed strategy focuses on developing International Education Standards (IESs) along with guidance to aid in the adoption and implementation of the standards. Through the projects and activities outlined in the proposed strategy and work plan, the IAESB aims to assist IFAC member bodies in increasing the capacity and capability of the global accountancy profession.

Three high-priority activities described in the ED include the following:

- Conduct a revision of the IESs based on the results of the drafting conventions project and recent developments in the accountancy profession

- Develop implementation guidance in areas of measurable implementation of the IESs, competency frameworks, and quality control measures for educators
- Promote a greater awareness among academics, regulators, and others of the IAESB's pronouncements and its role in advancing the international debate on issues related to the development and assessment of professional accountants

Organizations and individuals with an interest in accounting education are invited to comment on the IAESB's proposals by **October 5, 2009**. The exposure draft may be viewed by going to www.ifac.org/Guidance/EXD-Outstanding.php. Respondents are asked to send their comments electronically through the IFAC website, using the “**Submit a Comment**” link on the Exposure Drafts and Consultation Papers page. ■

IAESB Consultation Expands Scope of IES Framework

The International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) is currently developing a revised draft of the *Framework for International Education Standards* (Framework) as a result of its public consultation on proposed revisions to the document. The consultation was an important step of an ongoing project to revise the Framework conducted by the IAESB during the first two quarters of 2009.

Based on the review to date, the IAESB plans to expand the Framework by describing the various forms of learning and development that can be used in professional accounting education programs. The revision process will also improve the clarity of the Framework, update sections to reflect the IAESB's experience, and expand on the purpose of the IAESB's standards and guidance.

The Framework contains the concepts and principles upon which the IAESB's eight IESs are developed. The revision project reflects the IAESB's ongoing mis-

sion of serving the public interest and strengthening the profession by enhancing accounting education worldwide. Revising and clarifying the Framework document will enhance the relevance and consistency of the IESs, as well as their applicability to IFAC members and associates.

The proposed Framework explains the educational concepts of competence, initial professional development, continuing professional development, and measurement of the effectiveness of learning and development, which will be used by the IAESB when developing the IESs.

The IAESB will confer with its Consultative Advisory Group in the third quarter of 2009. Subject to these discussions, the IAESB expects to approve the Framework for publication in the fourth quarter of 2009.

For further information on this initiative, please visit the IAESB's project page on the IFAC website: www.ifac.org/Education/ProjectHistory.php?ProjID=0073. ■

Awareness Initiatives Launched for World Congress of Accountants 2010

Promotional initiatives for the World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) 2010 will be launched during the second half of 2009 to raise awareness of the event within the global accountancy community.

The WCOA 2010 is being jointly organized by the Malaysian Institute of Accountants and IFAC and will be held from November 8–11, 2010 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center. It will focus on the theme, “Accountants: Sustaining Value Creation,” and will feature over 30 topics by globally renowned speakers. These topics will include value creation, sustainable development, Islamic finance, and the impact of the G20's initiatives to address the global financial crisis. Other issues will include small and medium practices serving as trusted business advisors and global developments in corporate reporting. The sessions will feature keynote addresses, as well as plenary discussions.

The Congress will host over 6,000 delegates, including global finance and business leaders, corporate and financial planners, investors, entrepreneurs, policy and standard setters, as well as key government officials. Simultaneous translation into key languages will also be provided.

Over the past few months, WCOA 2010 organizers have met with a number of foreign and trade missions regarding incentives and possible global promotional and marketing channels for the event. These meetings included discussions with numerous ambassadors, high commissioners, and trade and economic counselors on partnership opportunities with the public and private sectors. Recognizing the importance of the WCOA 2010 for enhancing the global economy, all of the foreign officials committed to supporting and promoting the World Congress to government and business leaders in their respective countries. For more information about the Congress, please go to www.wcoa2010.kualalumpur.com. ■

IFAC Members Report on Progress with Action Plans

Since the publication of the first Action Plan a year ago, the Part 3, Action Plan phase of IFAC's Member Body Compliance Program has achieved notable progress—with over 60 plans now available on the IFAC website.

These Action Plans outline the concrete steps that each member, associate, and regional accountancy group plans to take to fulfill IFAC's Statements of Membership Obligations. Each plan identifies the tools, resources, and regulatory changes that will be undertaken in these initiatives. They represent a significant commitment on the part of each participating organization to promote global adoption of accounting standards and

strengthen the profession.

In order to be effective, accounting organizations continuously respond to national and international developments. For that same reason, maintaining Action Plans and reporting their progress must likewise be an ongoing process. IFAC members and associates are required to report on key developments and new challenges since their Action Plans were first published. All members will be required to conduct a formal review of their Action Plans one year after publication, to allow readers to follow their progress.

To support members with emerging issues, Compliance staff will also follow up with members every six months to

ensure critical developments are considered as they occur. To date, preliminary updates have been completed on fourteen bodies that were among the first to publish their Action Plans in 2008. The updates carried out with these fourteen members so far indicate that progress has been made in a number of areas, including environmental changes, convergence to international standards, and capacity building.

Developing these plans has led to a number of positive impacts for member bodies, such as:

- Linkage of Action Plans to requests for donor funding
- Successful lobbying for new legislation
- Advancing the development of external quality assurance programs
- Continued translation of international standards
- Expansion of education activities to support adoption and implementation of new and revised standards

Where planned action steps have been delayed, this was often due to changes in the regulatory environment, internal governance, staff changes, or other factors that caused a shift in priorities.

Recently Published Action Plans

1. **Armenia** – The Armenian Association of Accountants and Auditors
2. **Estonia** – Estonian Board of Auditors
3. **Germany** – Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer
4. **Germany** – Wirtschaftsprüferkammer
5. **Iran** – Iranian Association of Certified Public Accountants
6. **South Africa** – South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
7. **Sweden** – FAR SRS
8. **Tunisia** – Ordre des Experts Comptables de Tunisie
9. **United States** – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Action Plan Highlights

Germany – The two IFAC members in Germany, the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer and the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer, finalized their Action Plans that focus on their respective responsibilities and ongoing convergence with international standards. These include strong support for adoption of ISAs by the European Union.

Mexico – The Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Públicos reported that it uses the Action Plan process as part of its ongoing strategy and planning procedures. In addition to supporting ongoing convergence with international standards, the plan focuses on establishing an external quality review by mid-2010.

United States – The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants focuses in its Action Plan on recent initiatives and also provides details on its extensive project to support adoption of IFRSs in the United States, which includes the launch of the IFRS resource website at www.ifrs.com.

Zambia – The Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) reported that it has launched its Quality Assurance Review Program in partnership with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, coupled with capacity building within ZICA that includes training of relevant ZICA staff by the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors of South Africa.

Development Support

Croatia – Leadership of the newly established Croatian Chamber of Auditors (HRK) met with representatives of IFAC's Developing Nations Committee and the World Bank to discuss a roadmap for the HRK to join IFAC.

Ivory Coast – The Ordre des Experts-Comptables et Comptables Agréés de Côte d'Ivoire will benefit from the World Bank's funding to support execution of its Action Plan.

Malawi – After the recent World Bank ROSC review was completed in Malawi, the Society of Accountants in Malawi collaborated on drafting the Country Action Plan for Malawi, which also incorporates SOCAM's Part 3, Action Plan. ■



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