

IFAC Council Meeting – November 12-13, 2008, Rome, Italy

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2008
TO: COUNCIL
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SOUTH ASIAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS
SUBJECT: REPORT FROM SOUTH ASIAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1. South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), an Apex Body of SAARC was set up in 1984 for promoting the accounting profession in the countries in South Asia and internationally with a mission to bring the accounting bodies in the region together at a common forum and facilitate professional cooperation in the areas of education, training, technical and ethical standards. The SAFA comprises of the Chartered Accountancy and Cost and Management Accountancy Bodies in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan SAARC member countries representatives attend meetings as observers. China, Korea and Japan being observers of SAARC are invited and also given observer status.
- 1.2. This report outlines the activities of SAFA from 1st November 2007 to 10th October 2008 and future planned activities. During the period under report following events/meetings were held:
 - 3rd SAFA Board meeting on 13th-14th December 2007 at Mumbai, India
 - SAFA Committee meetings on 12th & 13th December 2007 at Mumbai, India namely:
 - Committee for Improvement in Transparency, Accountability and Governance
 - Committee on Education, Training and CPD
 - Committee on Quality Control
 - Committee on Professional Ethics and Independence
 - Best Presented Accounts Award & Corporate Governance Award Ceremony held on 12th January 2008 at New Delhi, India
 - Meeting of SAFA Committee for Improvement in Transparency, Accountability and Governance on 9th December 2007 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 - 66th SAFA Assembly meeting held through teleconferencing on 31st December 2007
 - Meeting of SAFA Committee on Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) held on 12th January 2008 at New Delhi, India.
 - 4th SAFA Board meeting on 4th April 2008 at Lahore, Pakistan.
 - 67th SAFA Assembly meeting on 8th May 2008 at Kathmandu, Nepal.
 - SAFA Nodal Officers' meeting on 9th May 2008 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

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- 5th SAFA Board meeting on 3rd July 2008 at New Delhi, India.
- SAFA Committee meetings on 2nd July 2008 at New Delhi, India namely:
 - Committee on Professional Accountants in Business
 - Committee on Education on Education, Training and CPD.
 - Committee for Improvement in Transparency, Accountability and Governance
- SAARC Apex body Conference (SAFA, SAARCLAW & SAARC Chamber of Commerce) on the theme ‘Enterprise, Governance and Social Responsibility’ held on 30th & 31st July 2008 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Inauguration of SAFA Silver Jubilee Celebrations on 22nd August 2008 at Colombo.
- Apart from above various teleconferencing were organized time to time to take stock of pending action points and to discuss future course of action.

Election of new Office Bearers of SAFA for 2008 and Resignation of Dr. Ashok Haldia as Permanent Secretary

1.3. SAFA Assembly, at its 66th meeting held on 31st December 2007 through teleconferencing has elected/appointed its office bearers for the year 2008 as under:

Mr Syed Md Shabbar Zaidi (President)

Mr Sheikh A. Hafiz (Vice-President)

Mr Indrajith Fernando (Advisor)

1.4. Dr. Ashok Haldia, Permanent Secretary SAFA has resigned from the office w.e.f. 12th August 2008 and in his place, till the appointment of new Permanent Secretary of SAFA, Mr Asif Iqbal has been appointed as the Acting Secretary of SAFA.

SAFA Silver Jubilee Celebrations

1.5. On 22nd August 2008, SAFA has entered into its silver jubilee year and to commemorate the silver jubilee celebrations, SAFA and its member bodies are organizing events throughout the year. The inaugural event was held on 22nd August 2008 at Colombo that would be followed by a series of events to be organized by SAFA member bodies.

Section 2 Activities in Support of IFAC’s Mission

Supporting IFAC’s Role as the International Standard Setter in the areas of Auditing, Education, Ethics and Governmental Financial Reporting

2.1. A comparative study on Quality Control Framework prevailing in SAFA member bodies has been prepared by SAFA Committee on Quality Control. Based on comparative study first draft of Model Quality Control Framework for SAFA member bodies has also been prepared. The draft of which would be considered and would be tabled before the Board by 21st November 2008.

2.2. A survey on code of conduct of professional accountants in business in SAFA Region has been conducted by SAFA Committee on Professional Accountants in Business based on

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code of conduct of PAIB of IFAC. The survey was based on 10 listed companies of four different industries, across five different Countries of SAFA Region with the help of member bodies. The survey has been extended and the final report would be presented before the Board in its next meeting scheduled to be held on 21st November 2008.

- 2.3. SAFA has sent a proposal to SAARC Secretariat for assisting it in introducing course curriculum in commerce and related areas at the graduate, postgraduate and doctorate level of SAARC University.

Actively support the adoption of, and assist in the implementation of, international standards

- 2.4. A model minimum common curriculum for chartered accountancy bodies in SAFA Region has been finalized based on IFAC Standards. Similar exercise, undertaken for cost and management accountancy bodies is in finalization stages.

Continually enhance the relevance of the profession

- 2.5. SAFA directly and through its member bodies have been in touch with Afghanistan, Maldives and Bhutan for the institutionalization of accountancy profession. The efforts of SAFA have lead to establishment of Certified Practicing Accountants (CPA) in Maldives
- 2.6. Two new committees have been set up namely:
- Task Force for Harmonization of Fiscal and Tariff Regimes
 - Small and Medium Practices (SMPs) Committee
- 2.1. A new award for Corporate Governance has been awarded for the first time with the help of an independent corporate governance-rating agency to promote and improve the awareness and implementation of Corporate Governance in South Asian Region. The evaluation of Best Presented Accounts Award Competition 2007 has also been finalised and BPA Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held on 15th November 2008 at Hyderabad, India.
- 2.7. SAFA is also planning to introduce a new award for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Be an influential voice for the global accountancy profession

- 2.8. SAFA has been mobilizing its member bodies to send comments on various Exposure Drafts issued by IFAC and its committees. Apart from that consolidated comments on issue specific, which are of the interest of SAFA Region as a whole has also been sent.
- 2.9. Mr. Indrajith Fernando the then President of SAFA had attended IFAC Regional Organization and Grouping meeting held November 2008 at Mexico in the month of November and gave valuable inputs.
- 2.10. Mr Kamlesh Vikamsey, a representative of SAFA Region has been elected as the President of CAPA. Apart from him four other members from SAFA Region are on CAPA Board.