

CAYMAN ISLANDS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Country: Cayman Islands

Established: 1970

Membership: Approximately 1,000

Website: www.cispa.ky

The Cayman Island Society of Professional Accountants (CISPA) was established in 1970 as a social club for the Islands' professional accountants. In 2007, the Public Accountants Law and its associated Regulations came into effect, inaugurating a new era of regulatory oversight of the accounting profession on the Island. Under this regime, CISPA took on the responsibility of licensing accounting practitioners in the Cayman Islands, significantly increasing its regulatory responsibilities. CISPA is now the largest professional society in the Cayman Islands.

Q1. How does CISPA approach building institutional capacity?

CISPA has been successful for many years operating with key volunteer Council and committee members supported by their own staff along with skilled and expert contractors to handle key and on-going CISPA functions. However, in 2012 CISPA decided to appoint a CEO by the end of 2013. In February 2013 a consultant to CISPA was engaged to discharge CEO functions on a 0.5 FTE basis until 2014 when a dedicated CEO will be appointed. This step, which will provide greater consistency and continuity to CISPA's capacity, will be funded as a result of cost-saving measures and increased revenue by establishing flexibility in CISPA's fee charging structure.

Q2. As the Cayman Islands follows UK and EU accounting regulations, what role has CISPA taken in promoting international standards?

CISPA has promoted and supported its members in the use of international standards for many years. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) training has been regularly provided and CISPA continues to include the promotion of standards on the agenda of meetings with other regulators and Government. CISPA's Quality Assurance Review System uses International Standard on Quality Control 1 (ISQC1) as the basis for reviews and in June 2013, CISPA adopted a Policy on the Use of ISAs.

Q3. What has CISPA been working on recently to address quality assurance?

CISPA recently launched its Quality Assurance Review System (QARS), with the first inspections taking place in July 2013. Training was previously provided in the fall of 2012 following the adoption of a position statement and consultation in early 2012. CISPA also issued a *Guide to Visits* and has received a good deal of assistance from the review body appointed to conduct the reviews on its behalf. For the future, further work will entail updating the position statement and providing further detail to firms about the CISPA procedures and the visit methodology.

Q4. *How is CISPA working with other IFAC members to handle quality assurance, given many of your members are also members of other accountancy organizations and/or originally qualified with other organizations?*

CISPA's QARS is independent from other professional accountancy organizations (PAO); however, the review body appointed by CISPA to conduct the reviews is also the PAO for 15% of CISPA's current members. New legislation will open up the channels of communication with other PAOs as at present this is only provided for in the event of referrals to disciplinary proceedings.