

MONGOLIAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Country: Mongolia

Established: 1996

Membership: 2,300

Website: <http://monicpa.mn/>

The Mongolian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MonICPA) celebrated its 15th anniversary in June 2011 and in those 15 years the organization has grown to over 2,300 members across the country.

MonICPA's overall mission is to build a profession in Mongolia that is in compliance with international standards. MonICPA uses its best endeavors to encourage, and actively drive, the adoption and implementation of international standards on accounting, auditing and ethics in Mongolia.

The Institute has chapters and representative offices in every province and district in Mongolia, as well as the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. MonICPA joined the IFAC Recognized Regional Organization the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) in 2000, and became an associate member of IFAC in November 2003.

Q1. *What have been the most significant success factors in the 15 ears since MonICPA was established?*

First of all, the country had just possessed freedom both economically and politically when MonICPA put [down] its founding stones. Everything was new to accountants and the community in a more broader case, so they were so curious for knowing and learning new things, such as international standards on auditing and accounting, audit firms, CPAs, etc. at that early stage of the country's development.

Direct acceptance of international standards both on accounting and auditing in the Accounting Law and Auditing Law did serve as acceleration of the process of adoption and implementation of international standards which were and still have been core initiative of MonICPA. As promulgated by the Audit law, MonICPA is the only professional body accepted in the area of accounting.

Additionally, MonICPA has implemented various projects to strengthen capacity and competence of its staff. Also, MonICPA has structured its governance in line with international good practice. It is very important to study structure, organizational charts, governance, and key activities of accounting bodies in more developed countries as a model, and consider importing those arrangements if they really fit to your country context.

Q2. *What are the next large initiatives MonICPA is working on?*

MonICPA has been developing newly updated training program consistent with International Education Standards. We also have been discussing implementation of an ACCA program in Mongolia concurrently with own CPA program. MonICPA is also working toward implementation of computer-based CPA examination.

Q3. What do you see as the value of being a member of IFAC?

MonICPA is the only professional body in Mongolia that has membership at Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) regionally and IFAC globally. We see many good values as being a member of IFAC and CAPA as well. It will serve for our members as the bridge to enter the international arena, to represent national professional body in IFAC. We will also benefit from the opportunity to sign Memorandums of Understanding with other IFAC member organizations. We also plan to actively participate in projects and programs to be implemented with support from donor agencies, with the advantage of being an IFAC member.

Q4. What are some of the most significant challenges in Mongolia for development of the profession?

The following are the most significant challenges we currently face:

- Language barrier (time lag between translation and then access to the translated standards/ documents by our members when any new or updated international standards are issued);
- Lack of awareness of international standards, and importance of fair presentation of FSs both at high level of the government and the community (MonICPA is required to make more efforts to raise awareness of importance of international standards among decision makers and the community);
- Financial constraints of the country;
- Poor supply of qualified and skilled accounting professionals and teachers; and
- Discrepancy between general purpose accounting under IAS/ IFRS and accounting for taxation purposes.