

PALESTINIAN ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Country: Palestinian Territory

Established: 1995

Membership: 241

Website: www.pacpa.ps

The Palestinian Association of Certified Public Accountants (PACPA) is a professional association based in Ramallah that seeks the further professional development of its members, ensuring compliance with set rules of ethical behavior, and promotion of international standards to improve Palestine both locally and internationally. PACPA aims to:

- Develop the level of competence and professionalism of its members;
- Develop and document the spirit of cooperation between PACPA members and strengthen the independence of members;
- Maintain standards of ethics and behavior for the profession and its principles and traditions;
- Work on the application of international standards for financial reporting, auditing standards, and international rules and etiquette for profession behavior; and
- Coordination with the appropriate authority on preparation and holding of professional exams.

Q1. How has PACPA been able to attract donor organizations and support for its initiatives?

- Direct communication with donor organizations, explaining the needs for developing the accounting profession in Palestine.
- Participating and contributing in the major events and drafting laws and regulations made PACPA as a key organization in economic growth.

Q2. What has PACPA been working on recently to address quality assurance?

PACPA received a grant from the World Bank in 2012 for this purpose after the recommendation of the *Report on the Observance Standards and Codes*. PACPA contracted with local and international consultants to work hand in-hand in preparing Quality Assurance Guidelines.

The consultant was hired in August 2013 and PACPA has received the inception report and action plan for project activities. Also, as we received the no objection from the World Bank on that report, we expect that the assignment will be completed and closed in March 2014.

Q3. Does PACPA have any advice or lessons learned during the IFAC application process to share with other professional accountancy organizations (PAOs) looking to join IFAC?

- PACPA understood the elements of Statements of Membership Obligations (SMOs), which is very important for any PAO to develop its performance in accordance with the international standards and professional development.
- Preparing the SMO Action Plan forced us to comply with the self-assessment questionnaire and SMOs.

- Encouraging all the related parties to implement the international standards of accounting, auditing, and professional code of ethics.
- Direct communication with IFAC also helps in better understanding the membership requirements.
- Exchanging information with other IFAC member bodies.
- Improving PACPA knowledge and capacity.
- Representing the actual facts and statues, including weakness or gaps, help in working on minimizing the gaps and improving performance.
- IFAC membership is one of the tools to improve the profession In Palestine and not an objective by itself.

Q4. *What does joining IFAC mean or represent for your members? Why apply to become an associate?*

1. More reliability and credibility in audit reports.
2. Performing audit function for international agencies.