



AFA ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ASEAN
Federation
of Accountants

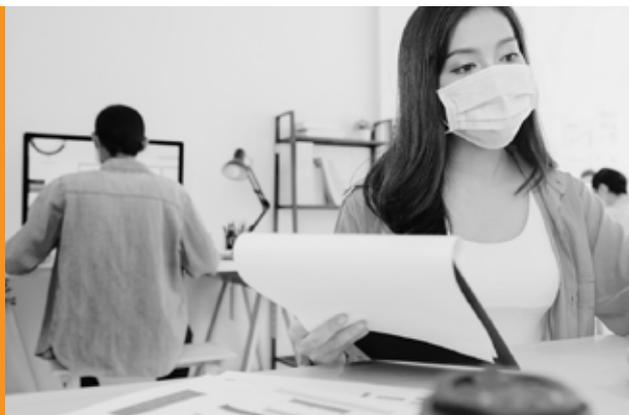
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➤ MESSAGE FROM AFA PRESIDENT



Taking over the leadership of AFA as a collective group of ASEAN Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs) is a challenging task. It is more difficult with the unexpected arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse impact on our region's socio and economic condition.

As we enter 2021, the pandemic continues to change the way businesses and organisations are operating, and at a personal level, the way we live. Our profession is not immune to these changes. From IFAC, as the global body for the profession based in New York, to the sole proprietor with a small office in the corner of Jakarta, every one of us has been affected by the pandemic.

Amid the adversities, the ASEAN camaraderie has proven once again to be the foundation for our rebuilding and refocusing efforts. This same spirit of togetherness is also shared by stakeholders of the ASEAN accountancy profession. Throughout the year, AFA worked even closer with our member organisations, partners, and stakeholders to provide ASEAN accountants with the latest update and information, opportunities for networking and professional development. Allow me to offer my reflection of our journey in 2020.

2020: A Year Like No Other

Numerous surveys and studies in 2020, including one from McKinsey have identified an acceleration in adoption of digital technologies by several years—and that many of these changes could be here for the long haul. Technology now becomes an inseparable part of our daily life, including AFA and our member organisations. For many stakeholders of the profession, 2020 was about transitioning our face-to-face activities to virtual platforms.

For AFA, technology provides us with a platform for networking and sharing that goes beyond geographical boundaries. This year, we co-organised 8 capacity building events and supported 16 events, with average attendance of 450, and participated in various stakeholders' activities. We are now more than ever, connected with a broader network of accountants and stakeholders from different corners of the world. This privilege allows us to work more efficiently towards our vision—to be globally recognised as the organisation that represents the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region.

The importance of technology is further highlighted in the AFA Strategic Plan for 2020-2023: *Leveraging Our ASEAN Connection, Strengthening the GLOBAL Network*. It is a strong driver for our second research publication—the AFA Research Report 2020: *ASEAN SMPs – A Report on Technological Competency Skills*, one that I am proud of and look forward to discussing with our stakeholders in 2021. The Report reflects our recognition of the important role of ASEAN SMPs in supporting our SMEs to reach their full economic potential.

Navigating through a Sea of Uncertainty, Together as One

2021 offers a new sense of hope. Together with our member organisations, I look forward to building on our progress in 2020 and focus on collaboration with our stakeholders. AFA recognises the importance of engaging with our stakeholders, to establish connections, explore potential for collaborations, and leverage on our collective resources. It is a realisation of our aspiration to provide ASEAN accountants with access to information and high-quality CPD activities on the latest topics relevant for the profession.

We need to remain vigilant, as we continue to deal with the impact of the pandemic, together as one ASEAN accountancy profession family.

We are in this together.

Thank you.

Wan Tin
President

Parts of this message was taken from an article in the AFA Connect Edition 06 (December 2020).

➤ MESSAGE FROM AFA DEPUTY PRESIDENT



2020 was an incredibly challenging year for all. As a global citizen, we continue to deal with events that radically change our very life. We continue to ask the question – “what is the next normal?”, as we adapt to our new surroundings.

Technology plays an even more vital role with the many restrictions that come with COVID-19. Almost all key success factors of businesses have been redefined, as technology is becoming a key part in every businesses’ strategies. This phenomenon inevitably affects everyone, including the accountancy profession.

AFA plays an important role and is responsible for continuing its efforts in supporting the ASEAN accountants and contributing to ASEAN’s initiatives in dealing with the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. As an academic, I recognise the importance for a regional body such as AFA to continue providing ASEAN accountants (and students) with access to the latest information, knowledge, and more importantly a platform for networking and sharing. I am pleased to see the many activities that AFA and/or our member organisations have conducted in 2020 for our young and aspiring accountants. This is an important part of our collective journey in preparing a future-ready ASEAN accountancy profession.

Under the leadership of President Wan Tin, I believe we have successfully transitioned our initial plan for 2020 into an agile, flexible, and technology-driven plan that will continue to be updated as we move forward into 2021. 2020 has been AFA’s most productive year in term of the number of activities and engagements. Most importantly, as a profession, we have collectively demonstrated our perseverance in dealing with the impact of the pandemic and contribute to relevant global aspirations such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I look forward to continuing this journey with my fellow Office Bearers and the member organisations, in realising our collective aspiration for a stronger ASEAN accountancy profession.

Thank you.

Assistant Prof. Teerachai Arunruangsirilert
Deputy President

➤ MESSAGE FROM AFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As with many organisations, 2020 has been a challenging and unprecedented year for AFA. With virtually almost no travelling and face-to-face interaction, we have to revisit our plan and identify the best direction to move forward with our member organisations.

We certainly did not let the pandemic define our year. Statistically, 2020 has been our busiest period in term of engagements, activities, and collaborations. Technology has in fact provided us with a platform to engage with a wider network, conduct more (virtual) activities, and collaborate with a larger group of stakeholders.

2020 in Retrospect

Together with our 19 member organisations, we co-organised 8 webinars with average attendance of 450, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on various aspects of our profession, and current topics such as Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Key Audit Matters. A highlight among these virtual events is our collaboration with ACCA on IFRS implementation opportunities and challenges in CLMV (i.e., Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam), with participation of the World Bank and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

We also partnered with ISCA on its PAIB Conference and Practitioners Conference and with IAI on its Aspiring Professional Accountants Festival 2020, recognising the importance of continuing our efforts to build the capacity of accountants in the region—present and future. More than 5,000 participants attended the events. AFA also participated in the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's webinar (more than 10,000 participants) and the 75th PICPA Annual National Convention (more than 4,000 participants).

In terms of publication, we are proud to publish our second research report in 2020. *AFA Research Report 2020: ASEAN SMPs – A Report on Technological Competency Skills* was published in December under the AFA Research Grant 2019 initiative. As part of the study, the research team has also published an article on *Assessing Technology Competency of Small and Medium Accounting Practitioners in Cambodia: A Qualitative Investigation* in the International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change (Volume 11, Issue 8, 2020).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our research team for their efforts in concluding the study and publishing the report despite the difficult circumstances.

What's Next?

As we conclude 2020 and embark on 2021, I look forward to continuing our journey with the AFA Office Bearers and member organisations, our partners and stakeholders, in working towards our objectives for 2021.

As highlighted in the AFA Strategic Plan 2020-2023: *Leveraging Our ASEAN Connection, Strengthening the GLOBAL Network*, we shall strive to achieve our aspiration to become the voice of the ASEAN accountancy profession, through collaboration and by leveraging technology.

As said by Dalai Lama XIV "To remain indifferent to the challenges we face is indefensible. If the goal is noble, whether or not it is realized within our lifetime is largely irrelevant. What we must do therefore is to strive and persevere and never give up".

Thank you.

Aucky Pratama

Executive Director

About AFA



AFA was organised on **March 12, 1977** to serve as the umbrella organisation for the recognised national Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states.



ASEAN CSO

AFA is an accredited Civil Society Organisation of the ASEAN, recognised under the ASEAN Charter since 1994.



IFAC Network Partner

AFA is a recognised IFAC Network Partner since 2019.



Vision

Globally recognised as the organisation that represents the accountancy profession in the ASEAN region.



Mission

Develop and promote the accountancy profession in the region in support of the socio-economic enhancement of the ASEAN member states.

AFA Council Members 2020



BICPA (Brunei Darussalam)

Dk Hj Siti Khadijah Pg Hj Moxin
Haji Shazali Bin Dato Hj Sulaiman
Adeline Lau Pik Wen



KICPAA (Cambodia)

Say Sokheng
Sim Chankiroth
Hong Piseth
Savuth Daly



IAI (Indonesia)

Prof. Sidharta Utama
Prof. Lindawati Gani
Dwi Setiawan Susanto
Elly Zarni Husin



LCPPA (Lao PDR)

Phirany Phissamay
Sonexay Silaphet



MIA (Malaysia)

Dr. Veerinderjeet Singh
Dr. Nurmazilah Dato' Mahzan



MICPA (Myanmar)

Moe Kyaw
Sein Win



PICPA (Philippine)

Lope L. Bato Jr.
Dr. Ferdinand A. Rodriguez



ISCA (Singapore)

Kon Yin Tong
Prof. Chan Yoke Kai



TFAC (Thailand)

Assistant Prof. Teerachai Arunruangsirilert
Dr. Payear Sangiumvibool



VAA (Vietnam)

Dr. Dang Van Thanh
Pham Ngoc Hoang Thanh
Trinh Duc Vinh
Dr. Nguyen Chi Trang

AFA Office Bearers 2020-2021



Wan Tin
President



Assistant Prof. Teerachai Arunruangsirilert
Deputy President



Prof. Chan Yoke Kai
Treasurer



Wan Tin is the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Managing Partner and Founder of JF Group.

During his tenure in MICPA and the Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC), he has played important roles in leading the development of the accountancy profession in Myanmar, including drafting of the new MAC Law, the new Myanmar Companies Law, and the new MICPA Constitution. He participated in establishment and implementation of the 5-year capacity building project undertaken by IFAC and ACCA with funding from the Department for International Development (DFID UK). Wan Tin played a crucial role in MICPA's successful application as an IFAC Associate in 2018.

Wan Tin serves as a member of the MICPA Access to Finance Working Committee and actively providing inputs to the updating of the Public Sector Development Framework and Action-Access to Finance in Myanmar.



Assistant Professor Teerachai Arunruangsirilert or Terry is the Vice President of the Federation of Accounting Professions (TFAC). He is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Accounting at the Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University.

Terry currently serves in various Committees with TFAC and various institutions in Thailand, having recently served as the Chairman of the ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountant Coordinating Committee (ACPACC) in 2017-2019. In his role as the Chairman of the ACPACC, Terry worked with representatives of the ASEAN Governments in implementation of the ASEAN MRA on Accountancy Services.



Professor Chan Yoke Kai held senior and management roles in various universities. He is currently an Adjunct Professor in the School of Business, Singapore University of Social Sciences.

Prof Chan is currently a Council Member of ISCA and a past President of CIMA (Singapore Branch). He had also been a faculty member of both the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University. He is currently a Board Member of the Global Research Board of CIMA and a Member of the ACCA Education Global Forum. Professor Chan is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)'s new International Panel on Accountancy Education (IPAE). He is among seven of the panel members from Asia Pacific and is the only representative from ASEAN.

Professor Chan is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (FCAS) and a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), Certified Public Accountant Australia (FCPA), Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA) and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (United Kingdom) (CGMA).

In recognition of Professor Chan's contribution to the accountancy profession, ISCA presented him with a Silver Medal Award in 2008.

AFA Primary Members

AFA Primary Members are the recognised national Professional Accountancy Organisation of the ASEAN member states created under a specific statute or regulation of that particular state, or in the absence thereof, the recognised national organisation of accounting professionals in said state.



Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam Institute of Certified Public Accountants (BICPA)

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Bandar Sri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
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Cambodia

Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors (KICPAA)

VTRUST Tower, 8th Floor
St. 169, Sangkat Veal Vong
Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
www.kicpaa.org.kh



Indonesia

Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (IAI) Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants

Grha Akuntan, Jl. Sindanglaya No. 1
Menteng, Jakarta 10310, Indonesia
www.iaiglobal.or.id



Lao PDR

Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA)

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Thongsangnang District
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
www.lcpaa.la



Malaysia

Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)

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Ahlone Township, Yangon 11121, Myanmar
www.oagmac.gov.mm



Philippines

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www.picpa.com.ph

ISCA Singapore

Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA)

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www.isca.org.sg



Thailand

Federation of Accounting Professions (TFAC)

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Thailand
www.tfac.or.th



Vietnam

Vietnamese Association of Accountants and Auditors (VAA)

192 Giai Phong Road, Thanh Xuan District
Hanoi, Vietnam
www.vaa.net.vn

AFA Associate Members

AFA Associate Members are the recognised bodies of accounting professionals of any ASEAN member states, or international recognised bodies of accounting professionals from other countries which are friendly to and supportive of the objectives of AFA – even though they may be outside the territorial jurisdiction of ASEAN.



The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)

140 Aldersgate Street
London, England EC1A 4HY
www.aat.org.uk



The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London, England WC2N 6AU
www.accaglobal.com



Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)

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Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia
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CPA Australia

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Southbank, VIC 3006, Australia
www.cpaaustralia.com.au



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Singapore 018960
www.icaew.com



Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

IMA Global Headquarters
10 Paragon Drive, Suite 1
Montvale, New Jersey 07645-1760, USA
www.imanet.org



The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA)

4-4-1 Kudanminami Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-8264, Japan
www.hp.jicpa.or.jp



The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)

No. 15, Jalan Medan Tuanku
Kuala Lumpur, 50300, Malaysia
www.micpa.com.my



REPORT from
the COUNCIL

➤ 130TH AFA COUNCIL MEETING

Virtual Meeting | December 5, 2020

Due to the pandemic, AFA was unable to host and conduct any face-to-face activities and events in 2020, including AFA Council meetings which were previously hosted by AFA member organisations in their respective countries.

With the use of technology, AFA successfully delivered events and activities online in 2020.



For the first time ever, the AFA Council meeting was conducted online. This was made possible with approval from Council to make the necessary amendments to the governance of meetings in the AFA Constitution & AFA By-Laws.

The meeting welcomed newly appointed Deputy President, Assistant Professor Teerachai Arunruangsirilert (TFAC), who took over from Supot Singhasaneh to continue Thailand's term as Deputy President until December 31, 2021. AFA also welcomed the new leadership of KICPAA, MIA, and PICPA, and congratulated MICPA for its successful admission as IFAC Associate.

The Council was pleased to note that AFA had collaborated with several member organisations to host online events and activities in 2020. There were 8 co-organised events, 16 partnered or supported events, 5 speaking engagements, and participation in 5 stakeholders' meetings. The use of technology had also helped to expand AFA's network and reach to collaborate with more stakeholders.

In line with its strategic plan for 2020-2023, AFA's activities for 2021 will continue to focus on collaboration on capacity building and development activities, engagement with stakeholders to communicate the voice of the ASEAN accountancy profession and build the AFA brand, and strengthening of AFA's organisational governance, capability, and financial stability.

One of the highlights of the Council meeting was a presentation from the researchers on the AFA Research Report 2020: *ASEAN SMPs – A Report on Technological Competency Skills*, completed under the AFA Research Grant 2019. The report was published in December 2020.

Report from the Council

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many organisations' plans for 2020, including AFA. All engagements, events and activities were conducted virtually over different technology-facilitated platforms. Challenges that posed by the pandemic presented an opportunity for AFA to leverage technology in conducting more events and activities, as well as engaging with a wider group of stakeholders.

Organised **8** events, attended by more than **3,500** participants

Supported **16** member organisations' events, with average attendance of **450**

Participated in **5** speaking engagements and **5** stakeholders' meeting, attended by more than **25,000** participants

AFA CO-ORGANISED EVENTS		
No	Events	Date
1	ICAEW-IAI-AFA Webinar Series 2020: The Financial Reporting Implications of COVID-19	May 6
2	ACCA-IAI-AFA Joint Webinar 2020: Valuation & Impairment Considerations Post COVID-19 Era	June 11
3	ICAEW-IAI-AFA Webinar Series 2020: Understanding IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts	June 17
4	CPA Australia-IAI-AFA Panel Discussion: Indonesia Small Business Guide to Navigate COVID-19	July 2
5	AFA-IAI-ISCA – Key Trends in 2020: The Do's and Don'ts of Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)	November 23
6	ACCA-AFA-IAI-IAPI Joint Webinar 2020: Key Audit Matters	November 25
7	CPA Australia-MIA-AFA Webinar: Improving Public Sector Governance and Performance Management through Improved Financial Reporting Practices	November 27
8	AFA & ACCA Webinar: The Bridge to International Trade – IFRS Implementation Opportunities and Challenges in CLMV	December 8

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & STAKEHOLDERS' EVENTS		
No	Events	Date
1	IFAC 2020 Chief Executives' Forum	February 24-25
2	ICAI Global Webinar: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Reporting and Assurance	April 13
3	ASEAN Secretariat Briefing on Outcomes of the 36th ASEAN Summit	July 7
4	ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on ASEAN Post-Pandemic Recovery	July 30
5	IAI APAFest 2020 Webinar Series: Road to Success with ASEAN CPA	October 5
6	4th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN	October 20
7	IFAC Council Meeting 2020	November 11-12
8	AFA-IAI-ISCA – Key Trends in 2020: The Do's and Don'ts of Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)	November 23
9	ACCA-AFA-IAI-IAPI Joint Webinar 2020: Key Audit Matters	November 25
10	75th PICPA Annual National Convention: Filipina CPAs Rising in Solidarity Amidst Challenging Times	November 26

AFA SUPPORTED EVENTS		
No	Events	Date
1	MIA Webinar Series: Worldview on Transfer Pricing Considerations in Building the New Norm for Global Business	June 11
2	MIA Integrated Reporting <IR> Webinar: A Vision for Better Corporate Reporting	June 24
3	MIA CFO Conference 2020: Future-Proofing CFOs for Sustainable Leadership	July 20-21
4	MIA Climate Change & Sustainability Conference 2020: Accountants – Changing the Course of Climate Change	July 29
5	Jeju Group Webinar: Comprehensive Review of IFRS for SMEs	July 31
6	MIA Public Sector Internal Audit Conference 2020: Meeting Rising Expectations in Internal Audit	August 13-14
7	ISCA PAIB Conference 2020: Gearing Up to Reboot in a New World (as a Strategic Partner)	August 25
8	IAI Aspiring Professional Accountants Festival 2020 (as a Strategic Partner)	September 12 – November 10
9	IAI Virtual International Tax Conference 2020: Current Updates International Taxation Development	October 6-7
10	ISCA Practitioners Conference 2020: Strategizing for a Resilient Tomorrow (as a Strategic Partner)	October 22
11	MIA Governance Symposium 2020: Driving Governance in the New Normal – The Future Begins Now	November 9-10
12	MIA SMP Forum 2020: Future-Proofing Your Practice in the New Normal	November 17-18
13	MIA Data Intelligence & Analytics 2.0 Conference	November 30
14	MIA Shariah Audit Conference 2020: Mainstreaming Shariah Audit in Islamic Finance	December 1-2
15	Jeju Group Webinar: Sustainability Reporting and PAOs Approach to Sustainability	December 2
16	MIA Integrated Reporting <IR> Webinar: A Vision for Better Corporate Reporting	December 14

Adoption and Implementation of International Standards: Audit and Financial Reporting Implications of COVID-19

The pandemic has led to uncertainties, including those impacting many aspects of audit and financial reporting such as valuation, impairment, audit documentation, and even going concern. As one of our priorities under the AFA Strategic Plan 2020-2023, AFA together with its member organisations continues to provide platform for discussion of current standard issues, with support from relevant stakeholders such as the IFRS Foundation and International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), World Bank, and practitioners in the region.

Majority of AFA's webinars in 2020 focused on standards, further highlighting the importance of its adoption and implementation for many of the ASEAN stakeholders. From high-level discussion on financial reporting implications of COVID-19, Key Audit Matters (KAMs), to discussions on improving public sector governance and performance management through improved financial reporting practices, the topics reflect different needs and priorities of the ASEAN stakeholders. AFA also supported two important discussions on the IFRS Foundation's comprehensive review of IFRS for SMEs and on sustainability reporting, providing the region's view on these relevant topics.

Recognising the different stages of IFRS adoption and implementation in the region, AFA together with ACCA co-organised a webinar tailored for the CLMV (i.e., Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam). The webinar served as a platform for sharing and was aimed to provide policy makers, business leaders and practitioners from the CLMV countries with a platform to share and learn from their peers on IFRS implementation opportunities and challenges. IASB Board Member, Rika Suzuki acknowledged the webinar as a great opportunity for the Board to engage with and hear from stakeholders in the CLMV and ASEAN region.

Future Skills and Competencies: Preparing Our ASEAN Accountancy Profession for the Future

ASEAN accountants are responding to emerging drivers of change that continue to reshape the way values are being created and delivered to clients and stakeholders. Acceleration in adoption of technology in particular has significantly changed our socio-economic environment, connecting more people than ever before. This poses a new set of challenges for ASEAN accountants, leading to demand for updated skillset and competencies.

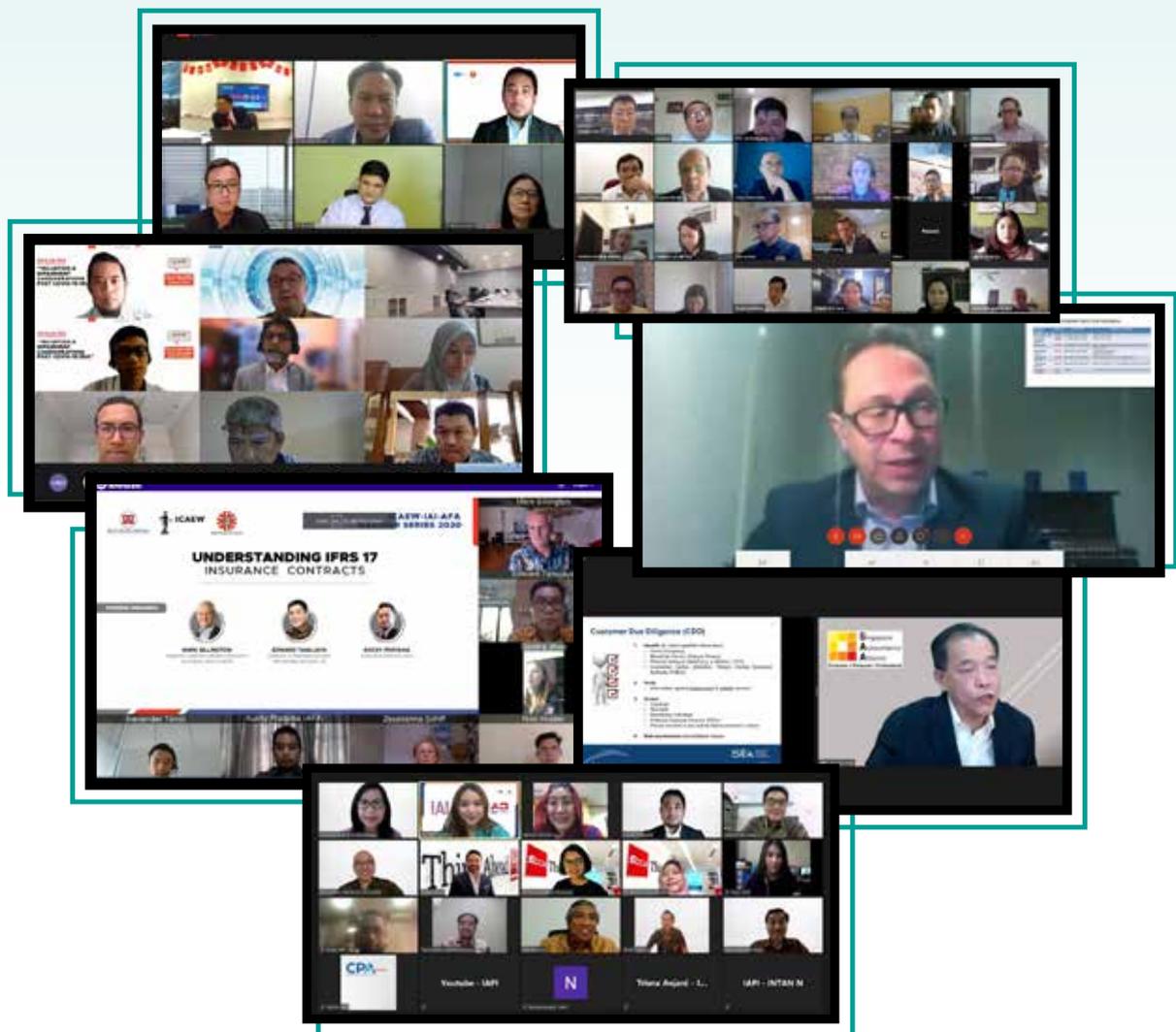
AFA in collaboration with its member organisations had organised a number of future-looking webinars and initiatives in 2020. The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) has been active in providing their members and accountants in the region with access to discussions on future proofing SMP practices in the new normal, data intelligence and analytics, and driving governance for the future. AFA as a strategic partner supported the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) Practitioners Conference and PAIB Conference, looking at strategies to prepare professional accountants and public accountants in dealing with issues of tomorrow in a post COVID-19 world.

Partnering the Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants' (IAI) Aspiring Professional Accountants Festival (APAFest) 2020 "*Scanning the Horizon, Embracing the Future*", AFA acknowledged the importance of equipping accountants of today and tomorrow with the latest skills and competencies, via accounting education curriculum and professional qualification programme. It is a key part of future-proofing the ASEAN accountancy profession for the future.

Current Issues: Building a Sustainable World for All

AFA and the ASEAN stakeholders also looked into current issues. With many developing economies in the region, money laundering and financing of terrorism continue to be relevant to ASEAN Governments' efforts in maintaining the socio-economic and political stability of the region. Together with IAI and ISCA, AFA conducted a webinar on Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) to build awareness and facilitate sharing of practices in Indonesia and Singapore. AML and CFT are areas where the global accountancy profession plays a critical role and accountants need to be highly aware of. Effective AML and CFT are essential to protect the integrity of markets and the global financial framework.

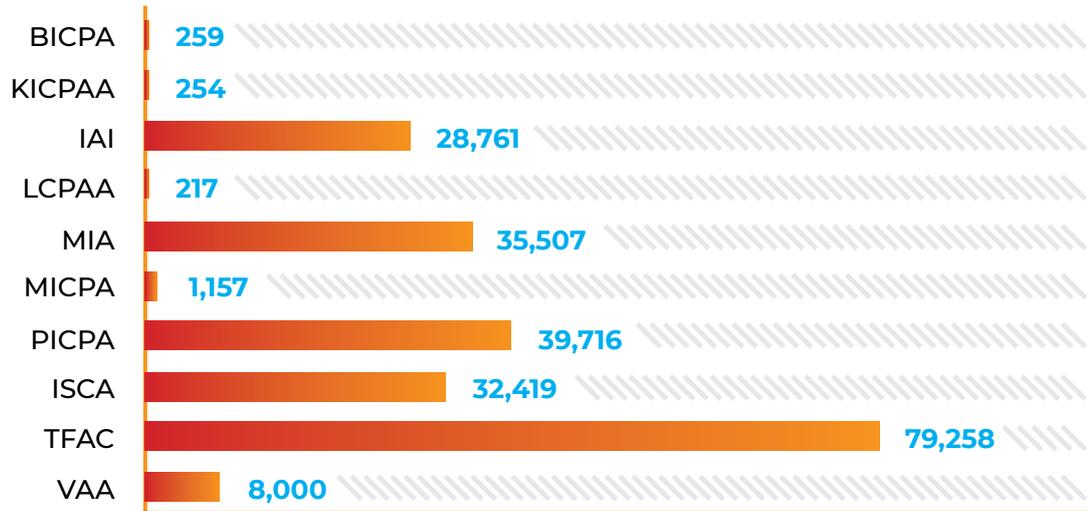
AFA also supported several discussions on sustainability issues in the region, looking at among others, climate change, integrated reporting and its contribution to sustainability. Moving forward, AFA will work on establishing stronger links with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its events and activities for 2021.



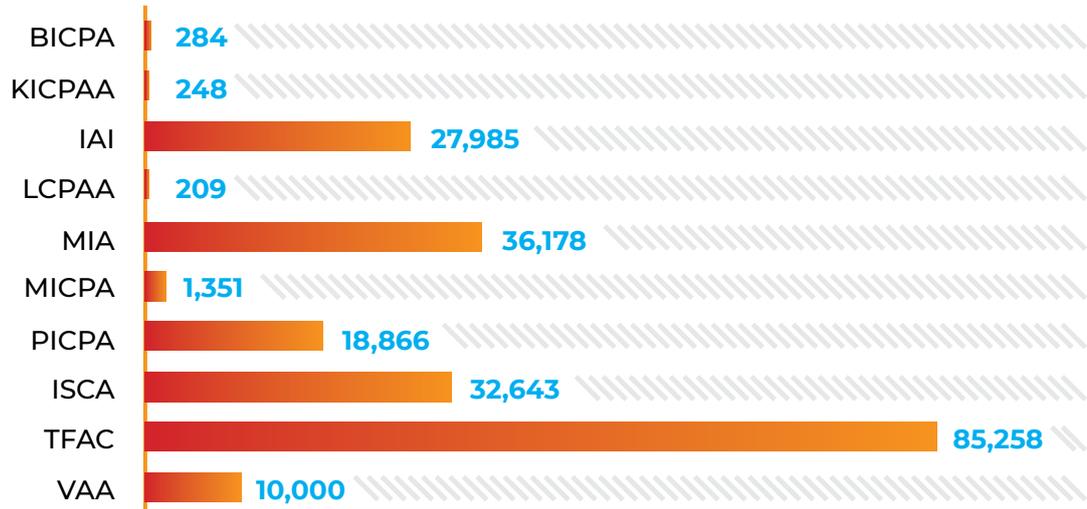
ASEAN ACCOUNTANTS

IN NUMBERS

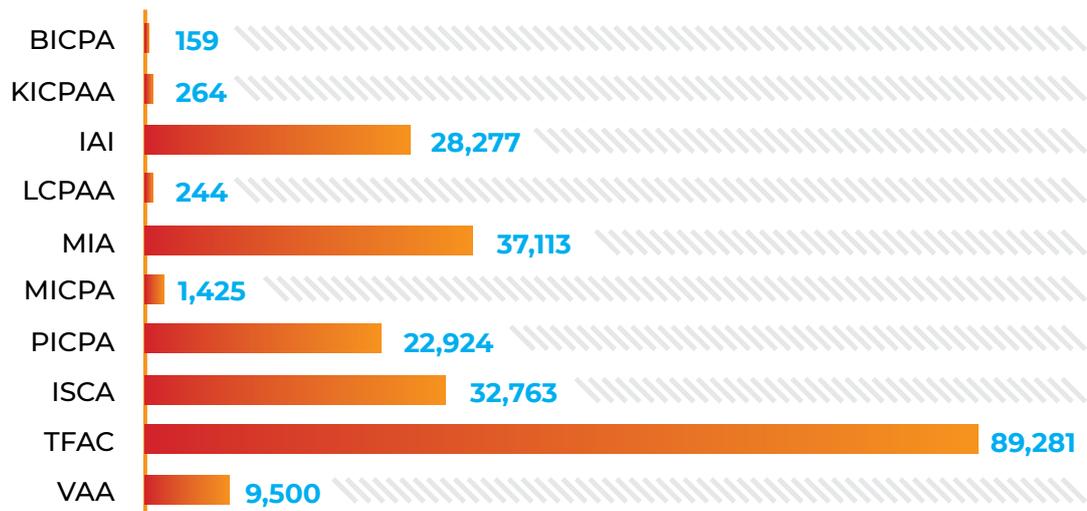
2018



2019



2020



17 GOALS to Create a BETTER WORLD for Our Future



Since its adoption in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continues to aspire many strategies and initiatives targeting different goals of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations' SDGs Report 2020 provides the latest overview of the world's implementation efforts to date, highlighting areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken.

ASEAN recognises the large undertaking needed to support and finance achievement of the SDGs in Southeast Asia, a diverse and rapidly changing region that is experiencing progress across many aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *The ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Baseline Report 2020* is a good indicator for baseline information of the SDGs being tracked and measured in the region, which will aid the monitoring of progress in achieving the global agenda as well as supporting relevant policy making at the national and regional levels.

With diverse finance landscapes, ASEAN countries face a range of challenges and opportunities to finance sustainable development. They recognise the importance of mobilising a greater volume and broader set of resources through integrated national

financing frameworks to contribute to national development priorities.

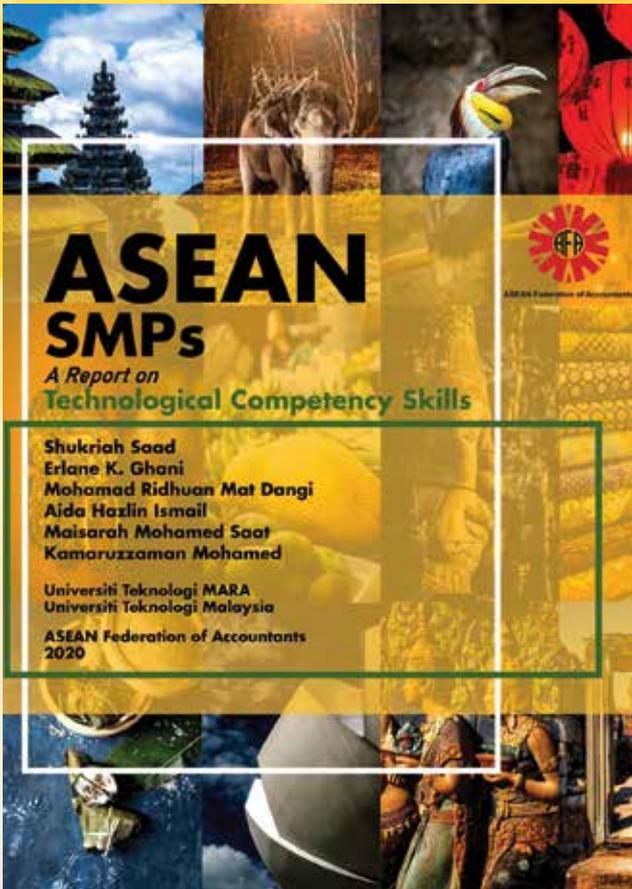
The *Financing the Sustainable Development Goals in ASEAN* report commissioned by UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific identifies recommendations about how countries could strengthen the policies and institutional structures that govern their approach to finance, as well as specific steps to mobilise and maximize the impact of finance on the SDGs. Many of the actions identified in the recommendations require the support of accountants and their expertise in different aspects of accountancy, business, and finance.

➤ AFA aspires to establish stronger linkages with achievement of the SDGs in the ASEAN region. As an umbrella body for the ASEAN Professional Accountancy Organisations, AFA provides a platform for discussion on issues relevant to the goals, promotes integration of financial system implementation of international standards, and supports activities on sustainability and climate change, innovation through technology, and improvement of public sector governance and reporting.



ASEAN SMPs – A Report on Technological Competency Skills

A publication of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants



Following the publication of the AFA Research Report 2018: *The Institutional Environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Roles for the Accounting Profession (ASEAN Perspectives)*, AFA published its second report in December 2020.

The study was conducted by recipients of the AFA Research Grant 2019 between November 2019 until June 2020. It was conducted through interviews, questionnaires and institutional surveys collected from 222 ASEAN SMPs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. The research aims to gauge ASEAN SMPs’ technological competency skills from three perspectives: technical capability, firm innovativeness and e-business practices.

From the findings, majority of SMPs interviewed possess only basic level of technological competency skills as these firms are more focused on surviving in the industry rather than improving their range of services. This issue will undoubtedly limit types and quality of services rendered by the SMPs.

AFA recognises the important role of ASEAN Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Practices (SMPs) in supporting the region’s economy. The AFA research initiative is a platform for the Federation to contribute to the region’s research capacity on issues relevant to the accountancy profession.

The report is supported by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) and Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA).



Figure 10: ASEAN-APICS Proposed ASEAN accounting professional technological competencies 2040s using IPAF framework

Download the AFA Research Report 2020: www.afa-accountants.org



NEWS from
Around the REGION



BICPA

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

 Members: **159**

 Leadership: **Dk Hj Siti Khadijah Pg Hj Moxsin (President)**

Some of BICPA's objectives include, among others, to provide an organisation for accountants to support and advance the status and interests of the accountancy profession, to provide a forum for accountants in Brunei Darussalam to join together and discuss mutual problems and to encourage the training and education of persons studying accountancy. BICPA via its Academy provides accounting courses. Today, the Academy is the leading education provider for ACCA, CAT and CPD courses in Brunei Darussalam.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CPD Event

BICPA conducted a 2-days CPD activity on The Brunei Darussalam Accounting Standards for Non-Public Interest Entities on December 14-15, 2020 by Dk Hj Siti Khadijah Pg Hj Moxsin, BICPA President, and Ms. Kong Ee Pin, BICPA Vice President. 19 participants attended the session held at Radisson Hotel, Brunei.



With effect from January 1, 2018, the Brunei Darussalam Accounting Standard Council has made it mandatory for Non-Public Interest Entities to adopt the Brunei Darussalam Accounting Standards. Accountants and auditors of the respective businesses have the responsibility to ensure BDAS requirements are complied with.

71 participants attended a three 3-full-days in-house workshops on Basic Accounting and three 3-full-days in-house workshops on Intermediate Accounting. These workshops were marketed through Life-Long Learning, Ministry of Education, and were funded by Manpower and Employability Council, Brunei. These workshops provide the participants a better understanding of both the methodology and the practical function of accounting.



The Academy

The Academy had its 1st roadshow event 2020 on January 23, 2020 at Maktab Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, a Sixth form college in Brunei. The roadshow was open to all the sixth form students to directly engage and explore different professions.

The BICPA Academy participated in the 2-day National Higher Education Expo on February 8-9, 2020. This Expo was organised by the Ministry of Education through the collaboration of the Higher Education Section, Brunei Technical Education Institute, IBTE, and Scholarship section. During the event, BICPA showcased the ACCA and CAT programs.

Before the gathering restriction due to the pandemic situation, the Academy managed to participate in the roadshow on March 7, 2020 at Sekolah Menengah Berakas, a secondary school.



Around the REGION



KICPAA

**KAMPUCHEA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS**



Members: **264**

Leadership: 1. Say Sokheng (President, 2020-2024)
2. Sim Chankirirot (Vice President, 2020-2024)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Events and Activities

CamEd Business School Launched the Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ)



On February 2, 2020, the CamEd Business School organised an opening ceremony for the Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ) program. This is part of their contribution to the development of the accountancy profession in Cambodia and to meet the need of today's market and society. This program was developed by the Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors (KICPAA), with technical support from ICAEW and was proudly funded by UNDP Cambodia.

Memorandum of Understanding

On February 7, 2020, KICPAA and the Cambodian Accounting Club (CAC) signed an MoU for the Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ) program to be made available and trained at CAC.

Reinforcement of Bookkeeping Workshop

Savuth Daly, Acting Executive Director of KICPAA was honored to participate as a speaker to share some of her views in the Reinforcement of Bookkeeping Workshop, organised by the General Department of Taxation of the Ministry of Economic and Finance at KHEMERA Hotel in Battambang Province.

Law on Accounting and Auditing Seminar

On February 26, KICPAA represented by Savuth Daly, joined a seminar on "Law on Accounting and Auditing", presided over by H.E Bou Tharin, Secretary General of National Accounting Council (NAC) as a honorable representative of H.E Ngy Tayi, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Chairman of NAC. The seminar was jointly organised by NAC and KICPAA, aimed to bring the awareness of the law on accounting and auditing to the students and related stakeholders.

Accounting Technician Qualification Program

KICPAA with consulting assistant from ICAEW visited the Build Bright University (BBU) and University South East Asia (USEA) in Siem Reap province to expand the Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ) program to various provinces of Cambodia. The ATQ program would improve the universities' facility courses in developing the capabilities of accounting and business students. This movement will produce qualified accountants both provincially and urbanely in Cambodia.

The Obligation of Accounting and Auditing and The Tax Regulations Workshop

KICPAA represented by Savuth Daly, participated in a seminar on "The Obligation of Accounting and Auditing" and "The Tax Regulations" presided over by H.E Bou Tharin, and had an honorable representative H.E Ngy Tayi. The seminar was participated by large number of taxpayer enterprises at Banteay Meanchey Province.

Delivery Committee and Implementing Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ) Program

KICPAA organised a meeting to look at implementation challenges of the ATQ, led by Heng Seida, President of KICPAA for the 5th Mandate, with participation from representatives of ICAEW, UNDP and partner institutions. Partner institutions appreciated the continuous support from KICPAA, ICAEW and UNDP in following up on their implementation progress. KICPAA and the partners are committed to further enhance the ATQ program.

Pannasastra University of Cambodia Launched the Accounting Technician Qualification (ATQ) Program

Pannasastra University of Cambodia launched the ATQ program on March 4, 2020. This marked the beginning of enrollment for the program at the university.

KICPAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020



KICPAA held its 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Google Meet. This meeting was presided over by His Excellency Ngy Tayi, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Chairman of the National Accounting Council and as the Royal Government Commissioner to KICPAA.

The AGM was held with the purpose of reporting to members about KICPAA's activities and achievements in 2019, seeking endorsement on audited financial statements for the year ended 2019, sharing the results of KICPAA's survey on "Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Members", and seeking approval on

the selection of the Institute's auditor for the next financial year 2020. In addition to this, the result of the new Governing Council elections for the 6th Mandate (2020 - 2024), conducted through online platform owing to the COVID-19 pandemic was officially announced to KICPAA members.

Heng Seida, President of KICPAA for the 5th Mandate (2017-2020) was pleased to share major achievements during her Mandate as the followings:

1. Developing Certified Public Accountants Program (CPA Cambodia);
2. Developing Accounting Technician Program (ATQ Program);
3. Monitoring audit quality and capacity building of members; and
4. Preparing the draft of KICPAA's Sub-Decree on the Establishment, Organizing and Functioning of Accountancy Body approved by the Royal Government in August 2019 and the new drafted By-Law to support the execution of the Law on Accounting and Auditing (2016).

H.E Ngy Tayi appreciated all the achievements of KICPAA in the 5th Mandate and shared that the Royal Government of Cambodia strongly support KICPAA by revising the criteria of membership registration and allowing to accept new membership categories through KICPAA's Sub-Decree on the Establishment, Organizing and Functioning of Accountancy Body by August 2019. The newly elected GC for the 6th Mandate (2020 - 2024) is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Say Sokheng | President |
| 2. Sim Chankiroth | Vice President |
| 3. Hong Piseth | Treasurer |
| 4. Hong Sophath Molyzana | Member |
| 5. Khav Hong | Member |
| 6. Khun Darith | Member |
| 7. Long Borint | Member |
| 8. Roeurn Bunheng | Member |
| 9. Song Kunthol | Member |
| 10. Sun Kimhin | Member |
| 11. Ung Kimsopheaktra | Member |
| 12. Dr. Yean Rithy | Member |

First Governing Council meeting in this 6th Mandate (June 2020 - June 2024)

KICPAA organised the first Governing Council meeting of the 6th Mandate (2020-2024). Elected members appreciated the progress made by the previous Mandate and set new directions and goals in leading KICPAA in the current 6th Mandate.

Newly elected President, Say Sokheng expressed his leadership model is based on the collective interest for the growth of KICPAA and the accountancy and auditing profession in Cambodia. With strong commitment from the Governing Council members, KICPAA will focus on increasing its membership and further improving the profession.

Fundraising Ceremony to Help Flooding Victims and Families via Royal Government of Cambodia

Due to the significant effects of the flooding disaster in Cambodia, KICPAA, represented by President Say Sokheng, together with H.E. Ngy Tayi, H.E. Bou Tharin, and the Governing Council members had the honor to submit the fund of 17,000 US dollars raised from KICPAA members and donors to the Office of Council of Ministers (OCM). H.E. Seng Teang, Secretary of Office Council of Ministers expressed his gratitude to H.E. Ngy Tayi, H.E. Bou Thain, Say Sokheng and all KICPAA Governing Council members for contributing the relief fund directly to OCM. He also thank KICPAA members and donors for their generosity.



IAI

INSTITUTE OF INDONESIA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Members: **28.277**

Leadership: **1. Prof. Mardiasmo (President, 2018-2022)**
2. Elly Zarni Husin (Executive Director)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

- IAI continues its collaboration with AFA, this time taking ISCA onboard to co-organise a webinar on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism. Close to 200 participants from around the region attended the session, delivered by experts from Singapore and Indonesia.
- In 2020, IAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of key stakeholders in the accounting profession in Indonesia, of which included the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia and Government of DKI Jakarta with the scope to increase the competence of human resources in public sector accounting. IAI also continued to extend the agreement with Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation – LPS, CPA Australia, and ICAEW.



Publications

- Recognising the need to work closer with its members and stakeholders, IAI published its statement on COVID-19 measure, highlighting the Institute's commitment to continue providing members and accountants in Indonesia with access to the latest CPD opportunities.
- IAI as part of a global profession will always take a leading position to guard the business and financial sector through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, IAI published a book entitled "IAI Cares for COVID-19: Accelerated Handling of COVID-19 from an Accountant's Perspective, Contribution to the Thought of Indonesian Accountants, Reflections on 63 Years of IAI (1957-2020)." This book contains a compilation of writings from 34 authors who are the core administrators of IAI organisations at the national and regional levels.
- The Indonesian Financial Accounting Standards Board issued an Exposure Draft and hosted a public hearing on the Indonesian Financial Accounting Standards for Private Entities. The draft is adopted from IFRS for SMEs (2015) and proposed to be effective January 1, 2025 (with early adoption permitted for financial year starting on or after January 1, 2022).



Others

1. **IAI Computer Based Examination**

In 2020, IAI successfully developed modules for online examinations, starting with our Examination for Certificate in Basic Accounting Expertise (USKAD). Other examinations including Chartered Accountants (CA) Indonesia are currently conducted as computer-based written examinations in our examination centre.



2.



SAK Online

A major initiative introduced by the Institute is SAK Online – an online application to access the Indonesian Financial Accounting Standards, a significant breakthrough not only for IAI, but also the accountancy profession in Indonesia.

3.



IAI Theme Song

On December 2020, IAI launched a theme song namely “Mars IAI”. The song is written and performed by IAI council member. IAI hopes to inspire and motivate the professional accountants in Indonesia to maintain their accountability.

Events and Activities

As with many PAOs, IAI’s plan for 2020 was severely impacted by COVID-19. Most of its face-to-face activities have been successfully hosted online, with increasing frequency and number of participants. IAI hosted in total 182 webinars, 150 online classes, and 26 online certification examinations in 2020.

- For the first time ever, IAI successfully hosted its annual flagship event for young accountants in Indonesia—Aspiring Professional Accountants Festival online in the period of September to November. More than 3,000 participants attended the 2-month series of events that was culminated in a joint session with the Finance & Business 2030 (FinBiz2030) of the Chartered Accountants Worldwide and One Young World.



2. IAI hosted the 1st Business, Finance, & Accounting Conference (BFA Conference) on 8 and 10 December 2020 as part of IAI's 63rd anniversary. BFA Conference was opened by the President of IAI, Prof. Mardiasmo and attended by the Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati as the keynote speaker. Prominent speakers invited to the seminar included the Coordinating Minister for the Economy of RI, Airlangga Hartarto, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority, Prof. Wimboh Santoso, Deputy Chairman of the Audit Board, Agus Joko Pramono, the Head of Financial and Development Supervisory Board, M. Yusuf Ateh, and many more.



IAI again hosted the International Tax Conference (ITC) 2020 (virtually), in cooperation with Bureau van Dijk and supported by AFA on October 6-7, 2020. The conference focused on current updates on international taxation development and addressed fiscal measures and instruments that Governments around the world introduced to navigate around economic challenges that come with COVID-19. Specifically, the

conference focused on challenges in digital economy, with sharing of practical industry know-how on evolving business models and jurisdiction-specific tax policies and administrations, and the latest development on OECD's discussion on taxation for digital industry and updates on the latest transfer pricing issues.

Around the REGION



LCPAA

LAO CHAMBER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS



Members: **244**

Leadership: **1. Phirany Phissamay (President, 2018-2022)**
2. Sonexay Silaphet (Vice President, 2018-2022)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

LCPAA signed an MoU with the Banking Institute to support the work of upgrading and maintaining the accountancy profession in Lao PDR, with trustworthy quality for the public interest.

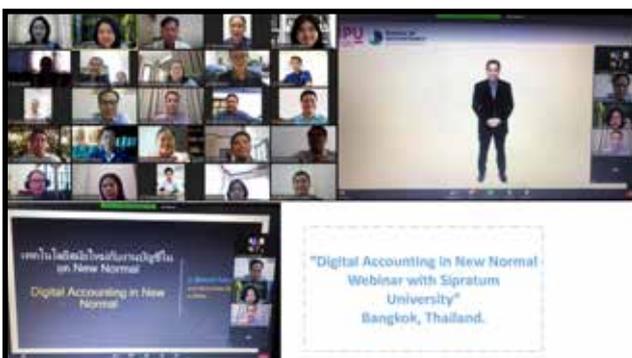
As part of the signing, a panel discussion looking at the important role of professional accountants in supporting the economic development was held. The discussion was delivered by a panel which consisted of the regulators, Chair of LCPAA Education Committee, Director General of Banking Institute, Commercial Bank, and a trainee from Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Professional Training Program.

Events and Activities

Lao PDR and LCPAA were adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The certified public accountant professional training program (IPD) had been suspended for several months in 2020, whilst other activities had been done virtually over various platforms.

LCPAA organised its Council meeting and formally celebrated being admitted as an IFAC Associate. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Finance and attended by more than 100 participants: members of LCPAA and representatives of the Lao PDR stakeholders.

Back-to-back with the meeting, LCPAA organised a panel discussion with the title of "The role and challenges of LCPAA as a new IFAC Associate and its impact on Professional Accountants in Lao PDR". Representatives of the Accounting Department of the Ministry of Finance, Individual and Legal Entity Ordinary Members of LCPAA, together with President and Vice President of LCPAA joined in a panel to share their respective views on how the profession can share and contribute to overcome different challenges in the country.



Around the REGION

LCPAA successfully hosted a webinar with its strategic partner—Sripatum University of Thailand on the topic of “Digital Accounting in New Normal”. More than 80 participants who are LCPAA members and those with interest in the topic attended the webinar.

LCPAA for the first time ever has completed its first batch of Initial Professional Training Program, implementing 3 models of Lao CPA qualification training program: Certificate of Completion of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Professional Training Program, CPA Practical Training and Professional Ethics model. The next batches are currently participating in ongoing training process, consisted of foundation and professional level subjects.



“Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors’ Annual Meeting”
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Around the REGION



MIA

MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF
ACCOUNTANTSMembers: **37.113**

Leadership: 1. Huang Shze Jiun (President, 2019-2020) /
Dr. Veerinderjeet Singh (President, 2020-present)
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zuraeda Ibrahim (Vice President, 2019-present)
3. Dr. Nurmazilah Dato' Mahzan (Chief Executive Officer)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) is pleased to share its 4th Integrated Report with the theme "Driving Sustainability Through Trust and Collaboration"¹.

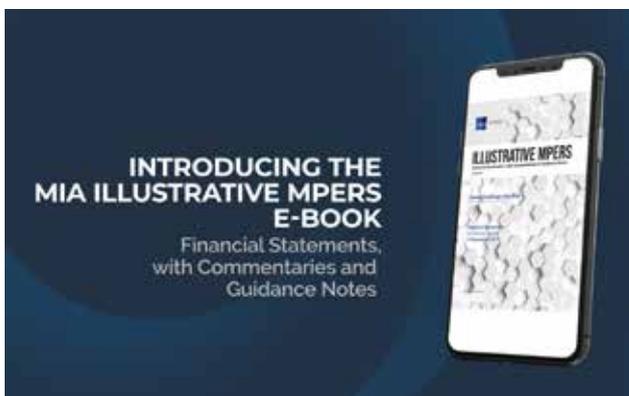
MIA's value creation initiatives are summarised for the AFA Annual Report as follows:

Ongoing Digital Transformation of the Profession



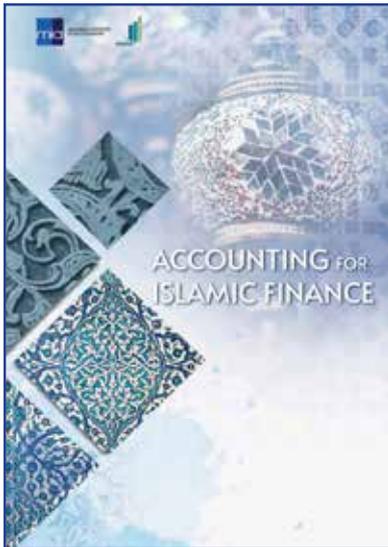
MIA continued to implement our Digital Transformation Blueprint to equip accountants and businesses, particularly SMPs and SMEs, for the digital economy.

A key initiative was the roll-out of the multi-stakeholder e-Bank Confirmation platform (econfirm.my), which aims to help practitioners' transition from time-consuming manual bank confirmations to more efficient and trusted automated confirmation processes.



MIA also released its first interactive e-book, entitled the Interactive E-Book of the MIA Illustrative MPERS Financial Statements, with Commentaries and Guidance Notes (MPERS Interactive E-Book). MPERS refers to the Malaysian Private Entities Reporting Standard. The e-book is easily accessible through Windows, Android and iOS and from laptops, smartphones and tablets, as well as through MIA's new e-library. MIA's e-library for members will host the Institute's archived Circulars and Publications, and the latest circulars and publications will be added in phases.

¹ https://www.mia.org.my/v2/downloads/resources/publications/integrated_annual_report/2020/MIA_Integrated_Annual_Report_2020.pdf



Excellence in Corporate and Financial Reporting

MIA continues to advocate for excellence in corporate and financial reporting aligned with global frameworks and standards to improve reporting transparency and market and investor confidence.

The aforementioned MPERs e-book assists entities applying MPERS, specifically SMEs, to improve financial reporting. The MPERs e-book also includes guidance on COVID-19 financial reporting implications and issues, which are highly relevant for the 2020 reporting cycle.

To improve the quality of accounting and financial reporting among Islamic finance institutions, MIA in collaboration with the Malaysian Accountancy Research and Education Foundation (MAREF) released its first textbook on the Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards (MFRS) guidance and application for Islamic finance institutions.

MIA also continued to advocate for the adoption and strengthening of integrated reporting among reporting entities, through the provision of training workshops and educational and market awareness webinars for directors and preparers.

COVID-19 Support

Like other sectors, the accountancy profession was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MIA offered several resources and collaborated with key stakeholders to provide the following resources to support members' wellbeing.

The Professional Liquidity Scheme (PLC) for MIA Practising Certificate Holders is specially designed for firms that face difficulty in collecting payments from their clients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme will assist member firms to fund salary expenses with advances obtained from unpaid invoices.

To assuage uncertainty, MIA maintained constant communications and engagement with members via a dedicated COVID-19 resource webpage featuring COVID-19 related guidance and articles, our social media channels and COVID-19-focused content on the e-AT platform.



Future Relevance of the Accountancy Profession

Amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 new normal, MIA continued to carry out our collaborative surveillance and enforcement programmes to protect the public interest and ensure the relevance of MIA as the national accountancy regulator.

MIA also transitioned swiftly to e-learning and organised webinars and online events as part of our commitment to continuing professional development. In total, 748 events and programmes, both virtual and physical, were held in 2020, benefiting 39,025 participants.

A key document that will guide the current and future training and development of accountants is the MIA Competency Framework. Completed in mid-2020, the Competency Framework defines baseline competencies required to become accountancy professionals in line with

international standards and responds to the Government's CSAP (Committee to Strengthen the Accountancy Profession) recommendations for future relevance of the profession.

International events and multi-stakeholder roundtables are an important platform for MIA to engage and advocate for the future relevance of the profession. MIA organised a panel discussion on the Future Relevance of the Accountancy Profession featuring Malaysia's top accountancy leaders at the AFA-IAI Aspiring Professional Accountants Festival 2020. MIA capped the year with a roundtable on Preparing Future Ready Accounting Graduates, which focused specifically on how accountancy educators can engage with employers and industry to integrate technology into accountancy education and expose graduates and students to accounting technology in practice.

To advocate for excellence in public financial management, MIA worked with the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) to document its experience in supporting the public sector in Malaysia. 'Case Study 2: Malaysia', the second instalment in CAPA's Public Sector Case Study Series, relates how MIA engaged with the Malaysian government to assist in introducing accrual accounting into the public sector and to strengthen the accounting cohort working in the public sector.

Prospects

Going into 2021, we will prioritise key initiatives that support our regulatory and development agenda for the benefit of the profession and members. As stated by our new President, Dr. Veerinderjeet Singh² who was elected for a two-year term effective 26 September 2020, a top priority is to reform the Accountants Act 1967 to strengthen MIA's effectiveness as the national accountancy regulator and to enable the profession to stand tall.

We will continue to emphasise on transformation, agility and resilience to prepare the profession and the Institute for 2021 and beyond.

² <https://www.at-mia.my/2020/10/15/message-from-the-new-mia-president-lets-focus-on-our-most-important-priorities/>

Around the REGION



MICPA

MYANMAR INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



Members: 1.425

Leadership: 1. Wan Tin (Chairman, 2020-2021)
2. Tin Shein (Chief Executive Officer)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations



MICPA has collaborated with IFAC and ACCA on undertaking the 5-year capacity building project with funding from the Department for International Development, aimed to provide technical support for admission of MICPA to the IFAC membership. MICPA has been successfully appointed as an IFAC Associate at the IFAC Council meeting in November 2020.

MICPA has renewed its MoU with Daiwa and JICPA, under which capital market training courses were provided for members and companies, with a view to developing the Stock Exchange market in Myanmar.

MICPA and the IFRS Foundation signed a license agreement for translation of IFRS into the Myanmar language with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), expected to be completed in 2021.

In addition, the Project for translation of IFRS for SMEs into the Myanmar language has been completed. The translation has been uploaded to the MICPA website and submitted to the IFRS.

Publications



MICPA publishes a quarterly magazine for their members online.¹

¹ https://micpamm-my.sharepoint.com/f:/g/personal/office_micpa_org_mm/Evi3sr0WjM1GoRxz7X3Ze0OBVKTZkRf5IR098zpVw6CO9g?e=mdlrWr

Others



One of MICPA's top achievements for 2020 is its successful admission as an IFAC Associate. The membership application was fully supported by ACCA and ISCA, with continuous coordination with AFA and IFAC.

Events and Activities



COVID-19 has jeopardised the routine operations of MICPA, particularly on providing members with access to face-to-face development activities. MICPA members must obtain 120 hours of CPD within a constitutive period of 3 years, and at least 40 CPD hours per year for renewal of their registration with MAC, the regulatory body for the accounting profession. However, MICPA has successfully transitioned into online workshops and webinars, ensuring continuity of their members' development and the Institute's financial stability.



MICPA conducted 14 online seminars and 3 workshops on a wide range of subjects such as IFRS and IAS, Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering of Financing of Terrorism (CFT), practical audit procedures, impact of COVID-19 on financial reporting, information security in digitalisation, winding up of companies under the new Myanmar Companies Law, functions of appellate tribunal, etc.

MICPA also continues with its internal activities throughout the year such as MICPA Board meeting, Translation Review Committee meeting, and meetings with key partners such as IFAC and PAOs in the region (e.g., ACCA).



PICPA

**PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, INC.**



Members: **22.924**

Leadership: **1. Lope L. Bato Jr (President, FY 2020-2021)**
2. Marydith Miguel (EVP, FY 2020-2021)

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) stands tall over most of the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, constantly and effectively steering the organisation into a technology and future-ready transformation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborative Programs

1. GRI – PICPA – SEC Tripartite Agreement. The Securities and Exchange Commissions and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) trained PICPA volunteers to review Sustainability Reports of Publicly Listed Corporations.
2. DTI – PICPA – PUP Tripartite Agreement – PICPA collaborated with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in training rural MSME entrepreneurs through an “Accounting for Non-Accountants” (AFNA) Program.
3. MoA between PICPA and SEC. Communication Advocacy and Network Initiative Project (CAN) is a collaborative series of training on the fundamentals of investing and financial literacy being undertaken by PICPA and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
4. MoA between PICPA and the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines, Inc. PICPA promoted to PICPAns the CIA® Challenge Exam to elevate their internal auditing practice.
5. CIMA-PICPA-PAMA Tripartite Agreement. PICPA has committed to campaign for the CIMA Professional Qualification in the country.
6. PICPA-ACCA-SunWAY Tes Agreement. The agreement is to entice PICPAns to become global CPAs by being certified by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) after completing a specialised accelerated program offered only to PICPAns in good standing. The online program curricula and materials were designed by another global partner, SunWAY TES of Malaysia.
7. PICPA in Partnership with Save the Children, Inc. on a USAID Funded Project “Capacitating Strategic Organisations to Strengthen the Civil Society Organisations of the Philippines). PICPA serves as one of the Learning Resource Organisations (LRO) that will build the capacity of certain Civil Society Organisations during a three-year period starting 2021.
8. MoA between PICPA and the Philippine Institute of Energy Management Professionals, INC. (PIEMPI). The goal is to promote Energy Management as a system to be embraced by businesses and industries for generation of savings for the company and more importantly, for environmental conservation.

Awards

PICPA won the Excellence in Technology & Innovation Award category of the 2020 APAC Association Awards by GlueUp on December 3, 2020.

Corporate Social Responsibility

PICPA's CSR Projects. PICPA extended financial assistance to communities affected by the series of natural calamities in 2020: the Taal volcano eruption and typhoons Ulysses and Rolly. The Institute released \$46,458.33 while PICPA Foundation doled out \$25,416.66 for this purpose.



PICPAnS with their masks on, pledging to rise in solidarity amidst the pandemic in serving the Institute, community and country, with utmost respect, sincerity and integrity.

PICPA further donated thousands of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the members of the local communities for protection against COVID-19.

Amidst the pandemic, PICPA also launched "Adopt-a-School" Program, donating laptops and school supplies to the country's needy public schools.

Other Events/Activities

1. Annual Planning Conference (APC). APC for FY July 2020 to June 2021 from June 22 -26, 2020 is PICPA's first event that used a full digital dashboard;
2. 2020 Accountancy Week Celebration (AWC). AWC 2020 is PICPA's first week-long online event from July 12-18, 2020;
3. Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The ABM on October 16, 2020 highlighted the President's and Treasurer's Reports that despite the negative financial effects of COVID-19, PICPA is still financially robust;
4. Annual National Convention (ANC). The theme of 2020 Virtual ANC on November 24-28, 2020 is "Filipino CPAs: Rising in Solidarity Amidst Challenging Times," apt with the current new normal.
5. Free Virtual CPD on the Net (Formerly CPD on the Road). Webinars focusing on professional skills of CPAs are now offered regularly for free to members in good standing.
6. Online PICPA National, Regional, GAO Summits and Conferences and Chapters' Webinars: PICPA National, GAOs and Regions jointly conducted summits and conferences in 2020. Chapters on the other hand, conducted a total of 63 face-to-face seminars before the pandemic and 384 webinars, with a total attendance of 47,111 members.



Online Annual Planning Conference on June 22-26, 2020 for FY 2020-2021 focusing on the theme "Rising in Solidarity Amidst Challenging Times" with PICPA's new President Lope L. Bato, Jr. It was PICPA's first event that used a full digital dashboard.



Publications

Accounting Times 2020-2021 for 1st Quarter was published online in the PICPA website (www.picpa.org.ph) in October 2020.

ISCA



**THE INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**



Members: **32.763**

Leadership: **1. Kon Yin Tong (President, 2020-2022)**
2. Lee Fook Chiew (Chief Executive Officer)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

1. ISCA signed an Addendum with Vietnam Association of Certified Public Accountant to translate, publish and distribute ISCA Audit Manual for Group Entity in Vietnam in August 2020.
2. ISCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Family Justice Courts in December 2020 to set up a panel of financial experts comprising of experienced ISCA members to provide financial valuation reports to the Family Justice Courts in complicated divorce cases.
3. ISCA formed a joint COVID-19 working group together with ACRA (the national regulator of businesses, public accountants and corporate service providers and issued 33 Frequently-Asked-Questions to address the challenges faced by the accountancy profession as a result of COVID-19.

Publications

1. ISCA completed a research study "Redefining the Finance Function with Job Redesign" which has earned positive reviews from both local and international audience.
2. ISCA issued the Financial Reporting Guidance 2 "Accounting for Cryptoassets: From a Holder's Perspective" to provide users with information on various cryptoassets and guidance on accounting, measurement and disclosure considerations.
3. ISCA revised EP 100, bringing it in line with the final pronouncements relating to the Restructured Code and Revisions to the Code Pertaining to the Offering and Accepting of Inducements issued by IESBA.
4. ISCA conducted a Non-Assurance Services survey and recommended the survey findings to IESBA in response to the Exposure Drafts on proposed revisions to Non-Assurance Services and fee-related provisions of the Code in June 2020. The survey findings received wide local media coverage.
5. COVID-19 Resources:
 - ISCA created a virtual COVID-19 Resource Centre to address the varied challenges faced by members and their organisations during the pandemic. This includes the ISCA COVID-19 Navigator, Technical Guidance and Advisories and Clarifications (FAQ).
 - ISCA published 5 Financial Reporting Bulletins (FRBs) to support the accountancy profession in addressing some of the challenges caused by COVID-19.
 - ISCA Journal published a three-part COVID-19 Special to equip members with timely insights from the business, tax and technical perspectives.



Awards

ISCA Journal received the Grand Award for Publication Excellence at the 32nd Annual Awards for Publication Excellence.

Others

1. Appointment of ISCA Financial Reporting Committee Chairman Reinhard Klemmer to SME Implementation Group for three years commencing 1 July 2020. SMEIG is the advisory body to the IASB on the IFRS for SMEs Standard.
2. ISCA partnered with Workforce Singapore (WSG) to host a dedicated career placement portal featuring job roles specific to the accountancy and finance community.

Events and Activities

1. ISCA held the following events under the Singapore Accountancy and Audit Convention Series:
 - Budget Update Seminar in March to provide information on the impact and tax implications of the Budget 2020 proposals and the economic outlook for Singapore.
 - PAIB Conference “Gearing Up to Reboot in a New World” in August focused on how finance professionals could reposition themselves for the emerging opportunities, and the changing roles of PAIBs in a post-COVID-19 future.
 - Practitioners Conference “Strategising for a Resilient Tomorrow” in October centred on helping audit firms find clarity amid the COVID-19 chaos, and to build resilience as they headed towards an uncertain 2021.
2. ISCA launched the Personal Data Protection Act Compliance (PDPA) certificate in August 2020. The course received positive feedback from participants.
3. ISCA collaborated with The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Singapore to offer ISCA members a fast route to become a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) Singapore.
4. ISCA and WSG co-organised the Virtual Career Fair for Accounting & Finance Professionals in May 2020 which attracted more than 11,000 visitors and more than 2,500 job applications.





TFAC

FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONS



Members: **89.281**

Leadership: **1. Voravit Janthanakul (President, 2020-2023)**
2. Pusana Chaemchaeng (Executive Director)

Amid an unprecedented crisis, TFAC elected Voravit Janthakul, a high profile business leader as the new President. Following his leadership, Assistant Professor Teerachai Arunruangsirilert was appointed as Vice President and a representative of Thailand to take the position of AFA Deputy President. The new TFAC board members expect to kick off several collaborations and projects during their term from 2020-2023.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

On April 22, 2020, The Ministry of Labor launched the official pronouncement in response to the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Accountancy Services to facilitate the mobility these services in member states. However, this pronouncement is subject to RFPA application policy of TFAC.

Publications

1. On August 5, 2020, TFAC's Ethics Standard Board for Accountants released an e-booklet; the Explanation of the Ethics of Professional Accountants B.E. 2561. The content encourages implementing TFAC's rules and the Code of Ethics for accounting professionals in Thailand. The Code defines main ethical concepts for accounting professions both in business and those who provide public accounting services.
2. TFAC's Journal of Federation of Accounting Professions (Year 2 Vol. 5 May-August 2020)
3. TFAC's Journal of Federation of Accounting Professions (Year 2 Vol. 6 September-December 2020)



Every month, TFAC issues newsletters and digitally shares them to the public. Everyone can access useful information and professional news via their devices for free.

Events and Activities

IFAC Council 2020

TFAC delegates led by Winid Silamongkol, the Chair of Professional Committee in Auditing Task Force attended the 2020 Ordinary Meeting of the IFAC Council via Zoom application on November 11-12, 2020.



The Diploma in Thai Financial Reporting



TFAC hosted the awarding ceremony for qualified participants of the Diploma in Thai Financial Reporting Project, to celebrate the achievement of 9 members at the TFAC Building in February 2020.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Since the first outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in Thailand, many of

CPD offerings have moved online. Although CPD obligations remained the same, TFAC introduced policies to ease the calculation of CPD, as well as provided more learning options. To support practitioners and auditors across Thailand, TFAC hosted Facebook Live sessions on various cutting-edge topics such as COVID-19 Financial Reporting and Auditing Considerations, Forensic Accounting: In-depth Data analysis and Application; TFRS 9 (IFRS 9) Determining Allowance for Doubtful Debt: The Simplified Approach, Roles of Management Accountants in Post-pandemic Era

These online sessions were overwhelmingly welcomed by TFAC members and the public.



Competition for Undergraduate Students in 2020



On January 25, 2020, TFAC hosted the Thailand Accounting Challenge 2020 (TAC 2020), a nationwide quiz competition for undergraduate accounting students to stimulate the potential and enhance the competency in accounting knowledge.

Moreover, on September 19, 2020, TFAC hosted the Thailand Accounting Case Competition 2020, enabling undergraduate students to strive for the best solution to an accounting-related case study. They can also develop their presentation and human skills to prepare themselves for their career.

VAA



VIETNAM ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

Members: **9.500**

Leadership:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Dr. Dang Van Thanh (President, 2009-2024) | 4. Trinh Duc Vinh (Vice President, 2019-2024) |
| 2. Vu Huu Nam (Vice President, 2019-2024) | 5. Dr. Nguyen Chi Trang (Vice President, 2019-2024) |
| 3. Dr. Nguyen Tuan Anh (Vice President, 2019-2024) | |

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

- VAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation relationship with ICAEW for the period of 2021-2022.
- Collaborate with MIA to organise a virtual conference with the topic: "IFRS Adoption – Sharing Experience in Malaysia and Vietnam", with more than 300 participants from both countries (November 2020).
- Coordinate with the National Assembly of Vietnam to implement professional activities, organise workshop: "Accounting and auditing effectively support the supervision of the National Assembly on the management of State Assets" (December 2020).
- Collaborate with the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and Universities to hold a workshop: "Using the achievements of industrial revolution 4.0 into accounting and auditing activities".
- Join with the Ministry of Finance in implementing IFRS and Internal Audit under the direction and decision of the Government. Coordinate with the State Securities Commission (SSC) to evaluate and award the annual report of 2020 for listed companies.
- Together with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Enterprise Development Institute implemented a program to assess corporate governance and competitiveness of Vietnamese enterprises in 2020.

Awards

VAA was awarded the following awards and recognitions in 2020:

- Certificate of Merit from the Ministry of Finance for Vietnam Association of Chartered Accountants VICA.
- Emulation Flag of Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA).
- VUSTA Certificate of Merit for VAA, VICA, National Club of Chief Accountants.

Events and Activities

- Organised the 3rd Council Committee Meeting of VAA in term VI, discussed and resolved many important issues about the action plan for the whole term and the action plan for 2020.
- Successfully organised the 7th National Congress of Chief Accountant Club (VAA's member organisation) term 2020-2025 and the 3rd Vietnam Association of Chartered Accountants (VICA - VAA's member organisation), term 2020 -2025.



3. Contributed opinions to the country's development platform for the period 2021-2030, vision 2045. Scientific consultation and social criticism on projects submitted to the National Assembly (Law on Enterprises, Law on Securities, Law on Tax Administration...), projects on development strategy of State audit to 2030, project on applying IFRS and standards of public accounting, providing comments on Government Decrees on Internal audit and tax policy.
4. Organized 8 courses to update knowledge for 700 accounting professionals, ensuring full 40 hours/person/year as required. Also, 12 training courses with chief accountant certificate for 500 members, 3 internal audit training courses for 120 members and many training courses to update skills on finance, tax, accounting, auditing and IFRS.
5. Successfully deployed and defended 1 (one) ministerial-level scientific research project, and carried out a State-assigned scientific research task.
6. Organised two international seminars (including cooperation with MIA) and 4 domestic scientific seminars (in collaboration with National Assembly, VUSTA and National Economics University) on accounting and auditing.



aat

AAT

ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIANSMembers: **45.290**

Leadership: 1. David Frederick (President, 2020-2021)
2. Mark Farrar (Chief Executive Officer)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

1. AAT continues to work with MICPA to recognise the growing numbers of Accounting Technicians in Myanmar.
2. AAT is collaborating with MIA in Malaysia on Technician level membership.

Events and Activities

As with many PAOs, AAT's plan for 2020 was severely impacted by COVID-19. Most of its face-to-face activities have been successfully hosted online.

1. AAT and MIA ran a successful 2 day "Train the trainer" session for Malaysian Polytechnic tutors about Accountancy.
2. AAT has successfully won tenders to deliver Peneraju-funded AAT qualifications to the local Malay population in Kuala Lumpur
3. Malaysian Training Provider System Skills has also been awarded funding to deliver AAT's Essentials finance course to 1,000 locals.
4. AAT is working with the British Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar on delivering finance training and courses.



ACCA

ACCA

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED
CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTSMembers: **227.000**

Leadership: 1. Helen Brand (Chief Executive)
2. Jenny Gu (President, Nov 2019-2020)
3. Mark Millar (President, Nov 2020-2021)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

ACCA continues to collaborate with organisations globally to support the profession and amplify impact of our work. Selected collaborations have been included in the succeeding sections.

Publications

- ACCA continues to provide industry-leading Professional Insights (PI) on a broad range of issues affecting business and the profession, from explaining what Explainable AI is about, to expounding what it means to be a Digital Accountant; from putting a spotlight on how economic crime has taken different forms in the digital age to exploring how organisations and individuals can drive diversity and inclusion; from looking at the important question of how public procurement can help governments tackle health and economic impacts of COVID-19, while working towards broader social and environmental goals to urging SMPs to become a powerful force for public good. Some of our PI work have been developed with partners like IFAC, CAANZ, IMA and accounting networks. They are made freely available to the public online¹ and on our award-winning app.
- ACCA's integrated report² 19/20.
- Produced a range of PI reports with an ASEAN focus, examples:
 - [May] Launched with SAC a national guide³ to help SMPs pivot from current services to more innovative services by identifying their 'personas' and utilising the 'progression pathways'.
 - [January] ACCA-MIA Business Outlook Report gathered viewpoints from 743 finance professionals who play key roles in supporting the growth and transformation of businesses in Malaysia.
 - In conjunction with International Women's Day, launched "Empowering the Advancement of Women in the workplace" in Malaysia, providing policy recommendations to support female professionals' career development and progression.

Awards

- PQ Awards 2020:
 - Accountancy body of the year.
 - Innovation in Accountancy award (for ACCA's student wellbeing hub).
- Marketing Star Gold award for Best Digital Strategy.

¹ <https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/professional-insights.html>

² <https://annualreport.accaglobal.com/>

³ https://www.accaglobal.com/sg/en/technical-activities/technical-resources-search/2020/may/ProfessionalServices_ProgressionPathways_SG.html

Others

1. [April] New five-year strategy to 2025. ACCA's purpose and values are captured⁴.
2. Introduced remote invigilation⁵ to ensure our students could continue with their studies and exams.
3. [December] Announced commitment to the UN SDGs.

Events and Activities

With COVID-19, most of ACCA's face-to-face activities were successfully migrated online, with increasing frequency and number of participants. Globally, ACCA hosted more than 700 webinars, with close to a million registrations and 0.6 million attendees. Selected highlights:

Global

1. Hosted our annual three-day "Accounting for the Future" conference in December with more than 14,000 attendees clocking up almost 113,000 hours of engagement.
2. 10th annual Public Sector Conference was held virtually in December with over 80,000 registrations. Virtual roundtables (IFAC co-organised) held after the conference focused on "Sustainable Public Finances During Times of Crisis" and "Role of Public Finance Profession in Achieving the SDGs".
3. Aligned to ACCA Careers, ACCA launched a global series of 12 virtual careers fairs, including Singapore and Malaysia, attended by over 20,000 attendees, showcasing close to 4,000 roles from over 400 different employers, generating 61,000 job views and 20,000 job applications.
4. Jointly organised webinar with IFAC to mark Climate Week [September] where Mark Carney said 'the accountancy profession is absolutely essential' to tackling climate change.

ASEAN ANZ and APAC

1. [January] 311 attendees from 13 countries representing 178 organisations attended our two-day in-person ASEAN ANZ conference "Jobs growth in an era of automation", focused on dispelling the misconception that accountants will be losing their jobs due to digitisation.
2. 6 Thought Leadership Forums in APAC on topics relevant to COVID-19 and the key roles accountants play, attracting 400-800 members at each forum.
3. [June] Joint event with UKABC "Digital Conversation on Southeast Asia Returns to Work" to discuss impact of COVID-19 and business resumption.



Country-level

Numerous virtual events from annual conferences (leveraging on technology for an interactive experience for the audience) to CPDs to a virtual "Global Run", an ACCA's 4-months global initiative covering 47km in total, enough to circumnavigate the Earth. Some other highlights:

1. "SMP100" launched in Malaysia to support SMPs in three major areas – growing customer base, improving operations and access to capital.
2. In conjunction with Global Ethics Day, co-organised with Singapore Film Society the annual Ethics Film Festival in October through Netflix, engaging over 400 participants from the region.
3. Launched events with Vietnam Ministry of Finance on IFRS roadmap to improve competitiveness and facilitate capital access. Over 800 companies participated.

⁴ <https://www.accaglobal.com/sg/en/about-us/our-purpose-and-values.html>

⁵ <https://www.ifac.org/knowledge-gateway/preparing-future-ready-professionals/discussion/acca-s-swift-introduction-remote-invigilation-covid-19>

Around the REGION



CA ANZ

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Members: **108.019**

Leadership: **1. Peter Rupp FCA (President, 2020)**
2. Dr Nives Botica Redmayne FCA (President, 2021)
3. Ainslie van Onselen (CEO)
4. Simon Grant FCA (Group Executive, Advocacy and International Development)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

AFA launched a strategic plan 2020-2023, key activities and budgets to continue to drive increased outcomes and focus. One of the key projects for the year has been a research project largely sponsored by CA ANZ, ACCA and JICPA "ASEAN SMPs – A report on Technological Competency Skills – level of competency and challenges of SMPs". This project has appointed two leading Malaysian Universities to work with AFA and the working Committee and has resulted in the publication of the AFA Research Report 2020. This should provide a great resource for these small practices as well as create wider stakeholder awareness. AFA has had a high level of dialogue regarding the ASEAN region and COVID-19 and CA ANZ will continue to support all AFA members through post pandemic and recovery.

Publications

The emphasis has been on COVID-19 across CA ANZ's advocacy during 2020 and how to support members with relevant information as it was being released by respective governments, be that within Australia, New Zealand or respective State Government packages. The technical information, tools and resources on the website COVID-19 Resources Hub has been a key focus across CA ANZ, responding to the need to support members, the profession and wider communities, through this very difficult time with the recovery phase still ahead. CA ANZ has also been instrumental in providing relevant COVID-19 content, training supports and articles available in COVID-19 resources from IFAC's Network.

Events and Activities



CA ANZ relevance and reach has never been greater, with the need to rapidly change our business models to digital/virtual, including our extensive education offerings, our Sharing Knowledge series with nearly 15,000 members having been reached through differing topics and needs. The tax, super, advice, assurance, business reform and offshore teams have worked together with the members team to deliver to members in a 'new way' during an extraordinary time.

CA ANZ offshore locations in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong hosted in total 30 online CPD, thought-leadership webinars/events that have increased capacity for members' attendance.

1. A joint event titled the "Phoenix and The Ashes" Winners and Losers of COVID-19 (Asian Regional Webinar) was held between Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore featuring experts sharing their views on the economic impact and recovery strategies for the benefit of members.
2. CA ANZ partnered with Asialink Business, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the AICD and The Sid and Fiona Myer Family Foundation and was delighted to be a part of the official launch of the findings and recommendations of a major thought leadership project, Winning in Asia: Creating long-term value. This project comes at an important time for Australian business and the wider economy and to date we have run a number of flag ship events which were extended to members within Asia.



Around the REGION

CPA AUSTRALIA



**CERTIFIED PRACTICING
ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA**

Members: **168.000**

Leadership: **1. Merran H. Kelsall (President, 2020-2023)**
2. Andrew Hunter (Chief Executive Officer)

CPA Australia's sphere of operations includes a clear footprint across Southeast Asia making AFA an important platform for us to develop our reach and influence on the people, the organisations and the profession. With our offices in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam joining the other offices globally to support more than 168,000 members, we continue to bring value to the accounting profession through our experience, innovation and contemporary relevance in business, education and the public sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Resources to Support Members

The outbreak of COVID-19 is having an overwhelming effect on individuals, businesses and communities. CPA Australia has been closely monitoring the situation and heeding government advice, with that a dedicated COVID-19 webpage was built to provide resources to members, including accounting and business resources to support members and their clients at every stage of the COVID-19 crisis.

Singapore

Accounting Innovation Challenge



Ng Thiam Hock and Winnie Low, first prize winners of Accounting Innovation Challenge

In collaboration with the Singapore Accountancy Commission on the third Accounting Innovation Challenge, this is the only accountancy hackathon in Singapore. The hackathon challenged participants comprising of students and working professionals to design solutions that would future-proof the accountancy sector.

Banking on Governance, Insuring Sustainability

CPA Australia collaborated with Associate Professor Mak Yuen Teen FCPA (Aust.) and Richard Tan of the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Business School to produce a report on Banking on Governance, Insuring Sustainability. The report studied the corporate governance and risk management practices of the 50 largest listed banks and 50 largest listed insurance companies by market cap in the Asia Pacific region. In conjunction with the launch of the report, a webinar attended by members in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China was held to discuss issues raised in the report while key findings relating to the Hong Kong market was discussed in a virtual meeting with Hong Kong Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau.

Corporate Governance Case Studies

CPA Australia continues to play a part in the journey towards a better corporate governance culture with the launch of Volume 9 of the Corporate Governance Case Studies in partnership with Associate Professor Mak Yuen Teen FCPA (Aust.) of the NUS Business School. The case studies are designed to encourage robust discussion and debate on key corporate governance issues and development and have been translated to the Chinese and Vietnamese languages to enable greater reach.

Malaysia

CPA Australia renews MoU with MIA



Chief Executive Officer of MIA, Dr. Nurmazilah Dato' Mahzan and Malaysia Division Country Head, Priya Terumalay FCPA (Aust).

CPA Australia has extended its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) on the special pathway program for MIA members for a three-year term. This MoU is a joint effort to increase the number of accountants with professional qualification.

Collaboration with AFA and MIA

CPA Australia hosted a webinar on 'Improving public sector governance through financial reporting', in a tripartite collaboration with AFA and the MIA. Participants from around the region tuned in to learn how adequate levels of transparency and accountability coupled with good financial and performance management are all hallmarks of a well-performing public sector with panellists from Malaysia, Vietnam, and Australia.



Indonesia

CPA Australia renews MPA with IAI

CPA Australia and the Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants (IAI) have renewed the Membership Pathway Agreement (MPA) collaboration until December 2023. Mark Chau, Regional General Manager, Business Development – International and Elly Zarni Husin, Executive Director, IAI virtually signed the agreement renewal.



Collaboration with AFA and IAI

This virtual panel discussion between CPA Australia, AFA and IAI on 'Indonesia Small Business Guide to Navigate COVID-19' garnered 350 participants that included CPA Australia members, members from other local and international professional bodies, accounting professionals and scholars. The session discussed the SMEs challenges and potential opportunities. Moreover,

participants gained insights on policy and regulation updates in preparing the financial reporting platform to navigate COVID-19.

Vietnam

Tax Update 2020 series

Both the webinar and workshop under this series were delivered by Mr. Nam Nguyen FCPA (Aust.), Managing Partner of Nam Nguyen Consulting, Chairperson of Advisory Committee of South Vietnam covering updates in Vietnam's tax legislation and practices, including COVID-19 tax relief and what may be on the taxman's next agenda.



Fintech global perspective & trends in Vietnam

This webinar delivered insights on Fintech trends not only in Vietnam but globally. It focussed on how the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of Fintech in Vietnam and reformed the banking sector.



IAPI

**INDONESIA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (IAPI)**
Members: **4.591**
 Leadership: **1. Tarkosunaryo (Chairman, 2017-2021)**
2. Deny Poerhadiyanto (Executive Director)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

- IAPI in collaboration with Financial Services Authority (OJK) conducted CPD on Engagement Quality Control Review (EQCR) in Capital Market. Besides, during the year 2020, IAPI also held various webinars on hot issues related to finance, accounting, auditing and taxes, respectively in collaboration with The Institute of Internal Auditors Indonesia (IIA), Indonesian Institute of Audit Committee/Ikatan Komite Audit Indonesia (IKAI), Indonesian Tax Consultants Association (ITCA)/Ikatan Konsultan Pajak Indonesia, Asia Research & Innovation Alliance Limited (ARIA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). The theme raised for the CPD are amongst others, (a) Key Audit Matters in the Context of the New Audit Regulation and (b) Key Audit Matters: From the Perspective of Financial Report Preparer.
- Webinar in CPA Days 2020: Supported by IFAC, IAPI organised a webinar on Future of Audit and Financial Reporting, attended by IAPI members, non-members, students, lecturers and accountants practitioners. The sessions were delivered by experts from IFAC.

OJK CPD – Jakarta, 13th February 2020

Publications

- Recognising the need to work closer with its members and stakeholders, IAPI published “Technical News Flash” its statement on COVID-19 measure, highlighting the Institute’s commitment to continue providing members and public accountants in Indonesia with access to the latest CPD opportunities.
 - February 2020: Interpretation of Financial Accounting Standards (ISAK) 34: Uncertainty in the Treatment of Income Taxes.
 - April 2020: Auditor’s Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
 - October 2020: Consideration of Alternative Procedures in Testing the Count and Observation of Inventory During the Covid-19 Pandemic.
 - Questions and answers (Q&A): Audit Reporting regarding the Implementation of Financial Services Authority Regulations (POJK) on periodic reports of pension funds.
- Conducted Research: Survey of the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Public Accountant Profession.

Awards

In an attempt to produce quality Public Accountants in all regions of Indonesia, IAPI needs to disseminate its superior programs to stakeholders, especially students. Students as young successors to the accounting profession are expected to have abilities, both related to academic (hard skills) and non-academics (soft skills) competences. IAPI together with Multimedia Nusantara University (UMN) and supported by the Finance Professions Supervisory Center (PPPK) - MoF held "CPA Days 2020" as an annually competition event in accounting and auditing for accounting students.

Others

1. On February 6th, 2020, IAPI welcome a visit from Christopher Arnold, Head of SME / SMP and Research IFAC. The visit was also attended by the Chairman of IAPI, Suhartono, Irhoan Tanudiredja, Handoko Tomo, IAPI's SMPs Committee, Esika Wahasri, Asep Rahmansyah and IAPI's executive management.

During the visit, IFAC & IAPI discussed on IFAC and the Small and Medium Practices Committee, how IFAC builds value (professionalism), how IFAC advances accounting education, as well as sharing ATLAS from IAPI and future plans.



Courtesy visit of CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD, Head of SME/SMP and Research – International Federation of Accountants, Jakarta, 6th February 2020

2. IAPI established the Eradication Team on Counterfeit Public Accountants/Auditor Reports/Public Accounting Firms (Tim Pemberantasan LAI/Akuntan Publi/KAP Palsu or TPAP). TPAP is formed because there are increasingly people who are not Public Accountants but they are acting as Public Accountants and / or on behalf of the Public Accounting Firm ("KAP"), and / or there is falsification of the Independent Auditor's Report. ("LAI") by certain individuals, and/or the use of counterfeit Audit Reports will be very detrimental to many parties including the public accounting profession.
3. In 2020, IAPI was concerned with the impact of the pandemic and the very few number of accounting graduates who have certification. IAPI through the Public Accountants Communication Forum (FORKAP) organized webinar through IAPI Goes to Campus (IGTC) program and it was carried out live through Zoom Webinar on 27th July 2020 – 3rd August 2020 attended by participants of accounting students from Universities all over Indonesia. This webinar aimed at introducing Accountant Profession, Code of Ethics for the Public Accountant Profession, Indonesia CPA Certification, Overview of Audit, Opportunity and Business Prospects for Public Accountants. It is hoped that the students can make preparation early for a good future.



ICAEW

**INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

Members: **157.800**

Leadership: **Michael Izza (Chief Executive, 2006-present)**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

MICPA-ICAEW Membership Pathway Virtual Agreement Signing in Malaysia.

The agreement enables MICPA members to join ICAEW via Pathways and ICAEW members to apply for membership with MICPA.

Publications

1. 18 ICAEW online communities are open to members of PAOs to join.
2. A business toolkit to tackle the coronavirus crisis

This article summarises a wide range of resources to give clarity to accountants on the implications to their work.



Awards

ICAEW won the Accounting Capacity Building Award at the Digital Accountancy Awards for the second year running.

Others

1. ICAEW outlines its commitment to become carbon-neutral, making it the first major professional body in the UK to declare carbon neutrality¹.
2. Climate change is an issue that is defining our time. Time for businesses to act is now. Find resources and information at ICAEW Climate Hub².

¹ <https://www.icaew.com/insights/viewpoints-on-the-news/2020/sep-2020/icaew-our-roadmap-for-carbon-neutrality?fromSearch=1>
² <https://www.icaew.com/technical/sustainability/climate-hub>

Events and Activities

Faced with an unprecedented health and economic crisis, ICAEW introduced initiatives from around the world and across different sectors to assist in recovery from the crisis caused by COVID-19.

- Regional Technical Webinar Series covers various key areas of businesses tackling business issues caused by the pandemic and climate change:
 - Climate change: the role of accountants and business
 - HR Strategy : Shaping the Workforce in the New Normal
 - The Internet of Things and Digital Transformation
- SME Webinar Series
The webinars were held to provide advisory and support to members in the SME sector during the COVID-19 period through topics like cashflow management, new business risks, IFRS, legal advisory, corporate governance, etc.
- ICAEW International Economic Forums
The three events held between Q2 and Q4 were streamed 'live' and drew high attendance from members of PAOs, CAW and AFA from across the globe.
- ICAEW Global Virtual Skills Training Conference
Over 3,400 undergraduates and young professionals from over 60 countries attended the 17 live virtual sessions over 3 days. Learning and getting insight from international panel of experts.
- ICAEW-IAI-AFA Joint Webinar Series, the first partnership with AFA in co-organising discussions on topics below:
 - The Financial Reporting Implications of COVID-19
 - Understanding IFRS 17 – Insurance Contracts
- Launching of the KPMG Ambassadorship Programme in Malaysia. ICAEW was invited to the launch of this Programme along with representative from MICPA. Students from selected universities in Kuala Lumpur will benefit from this one-year training programme with opportunity to be offered a permanent role at KPMG.
- Asia's Virtual Reality Graduation and New Member Ceremonies. Leading the way in technology adoption, ICAEW embarked on a ground-breaking approach by taking its members and students into a truly unique virtual reality environment where the annual graduation and new member welcome ceremonies were hosted.
- MoU signing with two leading universities in Vietnam.
 - Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology
 - Nguyen Tat Thanh University (NTTU)

The MoUs aim to enable ICAEW and both universities to improve the quality of the students, enhance knowledge of the universities' faculty, co-organise activities and conduct joint research.

This NTTU signing was witnessed by Deputy Minister of Ministry of Education and Training and Director of International Cooperation Department, who have committed to knowledge exchange with NTTU's faculty to raise the quality of student training to international standard.





IMA®

**INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTANTS**
Members: **136.831**Leadership: **Jeffrey C. Thomson, CMA (U.S.), CSCA, CAE, President and CEO**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

IMA continues to collaborate and partner with global organisations and universities to support and advance the profession. Our participation in these organisations gives us an opportunity to make a greater impact in the profession and in society, ensuring we safeguard the integrity of management accounting for the present and future. Some of the key collaborations are included in the subsequent segments.

Publications

IMA continues to provide a forum for research, practice development, knowledge sharing, and advocacy of the highest ethical and best business practices in management accounting and finance through its reports and white paper. Some of these reports were developed with global partners including ACCA, CalCPA, Deloitte, Shanghai National Accounting Institute (SNAI) and Workiva. Here are some of the key research reports which IMA released:

1. IMA continues its collaboration with ACCA and released its “CFO of the Future” report, which discusses the shifting CFO role. IMA and ACCA jointly carried out the largest quarterly economic survey of accountants around the world. The Global Economic Conditions Survey (GECS) is one of the most comprehensive surveys of its kind, both for its number of respondents and for the range of economic variables it monitors.
2. IMA published a report with Deloitte’s Center for Controllershship detailing how advanced technologies contribute to the constantly evolving finance function and what new skills finance professionals must gain to remain relevant and resilient.
3. IMA and SNAI published a joint report on the impact of COVID-19 on Chinese enterprises intended to help global businesses learn from their Chinese peers as they deal with the current pandemic.
4. IMA published a report, “Guidance for Small Business Planning During COVID-19,” which outlines the key steps small businesses should undertake to minimise the impact of the coronavirus on business operations.
5. Reports on the “Role of CFO in Sustainability,” which analyse the integration of finance professionals in sustainable business activities.
6. IMA’s Statement on Management Accounting (SMA), “Strategic Analysis—Methods for Achieving Superior and Sustainable Performance,” describes the key ways management accountants and CFOs can lead strategic analysis and planning processes to achieve superior and sustainable performance.
7. IMA published a report on the “Digital Transformation of Compliance and Business Reporting,” which advocated for a data revolution that would transform business reporting, oversight, auditing, and monitoring systems.
8. IMA published a report on “Transforming the Finance Function with RPA,” which explores RPA technology, including its capabilities and software, and explains its impact on the finance and accounting function, detailing RPA’s wide-reaching applicability to specific finance and accounting process areas.

9. Recognising the importance of working closely with AFA and its members to share industry insights and challenges, IMA's Senior Director of Southeast Asia & Australasia Dr. Josh Heniro's latest contribution on "How Management Accountants Can Protect Their Businesses – During COVID and Afterward" was published in AFA Connect 06 issue.

Events and Activities

Throughout the pandemic, we delivered engagement, education, and certification, and invested in the future of our members. We continued to deliver new products and services, new markets, new partners, and a new ad campaign as part of our commitment to investing in the accountancy profession.

IMA offered non-members 90-day free access to fee-based products. The free access was also extended to AFA members. IMA also expanded free limited time offers on products and we continue to be one of the few associations that continuously offer over 100 free Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits as part of our member benefit package, an 18 percent increase from FY 2019, and a total of 405,144 CPE hours achieved.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of IMA's events and activities were moved to a virtual format. Hundreds of virtual chapter events and educational webinars were held to provide support to the global accounting and finance profession. The following are some of the key highlights:

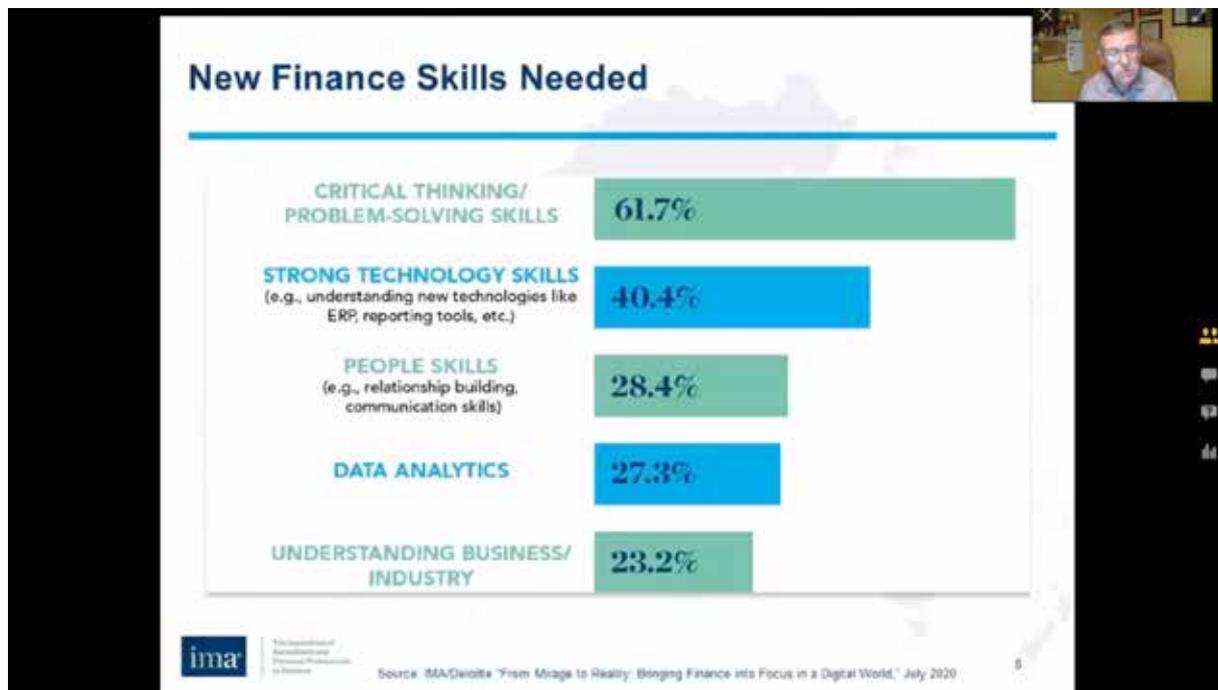
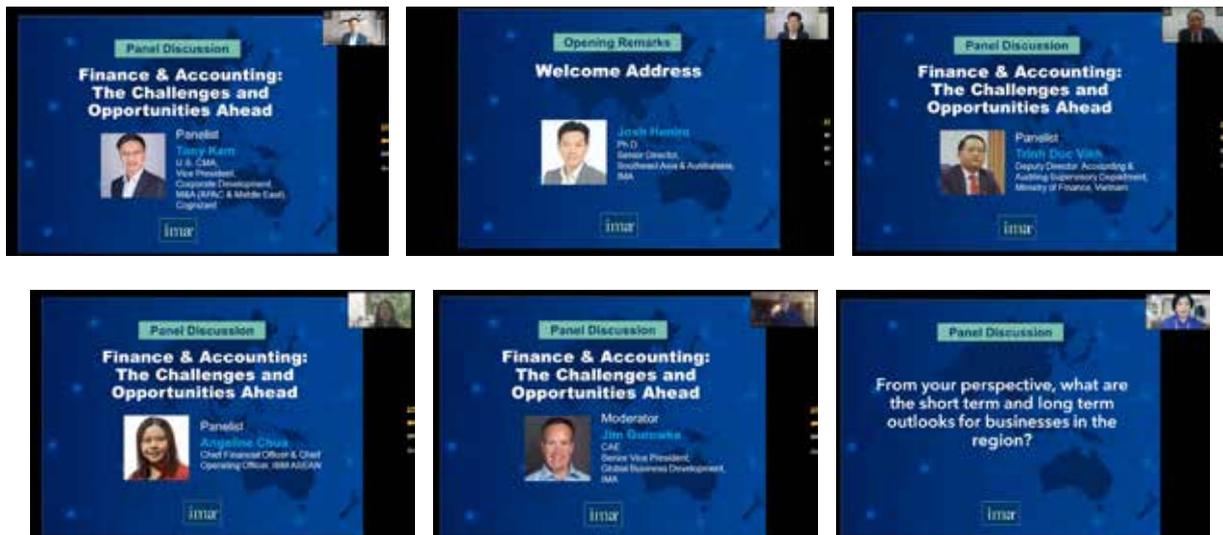
Global

1. Launched the Data Analytics & Visualization Fundamentals Certificate™ as part of an ongoing campaign to integrate knowledge and expertise in data analytics in the core skillset of the management accountant.
2. The University of Illinois' Gies College of Business and IMA collaborated to train professionals in the latest data analytics and visualization skills by offering a single online and self-study course.
3. Working with Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA) staff, the ICMA Board of Regents implemented an enhanced U.S. CMA exam that includes a new content domain, Technology and Analytics.
4. On June 20, 2020, IMA held its first-ever virtual Annual Meeting of Members. IMA members from around the world learned more about IMA's COVID-19 response and our strategy for the future.
5. The Virtual IMA Women's Leadership Summit held on October 9, 2020 had more than 500 professionals from across the globe participate.
6. IMA's virtual events were not just for professional members. The virtual 2020 Student Leadership Conference had more than 1,300 registrants from nearly 300 schools around the world gather virtually to gain insights on a wide range of topics.

ASEAN

1. IMA Southeast Asia hosted its first AsiaPac Conference, held virtually on October 17, 2020. Titled "Empowering Finance and Accounting Professionals," the conference attracted more than 650 participants from 38 countries. Attendees heard presentations from speakers located around the globe, including senior accounting and finance leaders and academic experts from the U.S., Singapore, Philippines, Japan, and Australia. Invitation was extended to AFA members.
2. IMA participated in the PICPA and PR BoA Accountancy Week Celebration 2020 and ACPACI Day as one of the keynote speakers on "Achieving Competitive Advantage on the Digital Age" which was attended by over 450 CPAs.
3. IMA took part in the PICPA Annual National Convention 2020 with its U.S. CMA holder as a keynote speaker on "Empowering Business Leaders: Control Measures in the Midst of Corporate Environment Mutations and Technological Innovations." Over 380 people attended the event.

4. IMA participated at the PICPA Metro Manila Ethics and Leadership Summit Joint Quarterly Membership Meeting and Professional Fair which a representative from IMA was a panellist for the panel discussion on “Balancing Business Leaderships and Building Resilience,” and one of IMA’s members delivered a webinar on “Building Resilience and Scepticism.” More than 265 people attended the event.
5. IMA was invited to deliver a webinar on “The Sustainability of the Accountant in the New Normal Era” at a joint event organized by IAI and Padjadjaran University which was attended by 387 people.





JICPA

THE JAPANESE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Members: **32,490**

Leadership: Masahiko Tezuka (Chairman and President, 2019-2022)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

1. Webinars held jointly with Korean Institute of CPAs (KICPA) and Institute of Singapore CAs (ISCA) Session 1 was held in July 2020 on IFRS for SMEs and Session 2 in December 2020 on IFRS Foundation Trustees' Consultation Paper on Sustainability and Initiatives for Sustainability in Japan, Korea and Singapore.
2. Training provided to delegates from Myanmar in line with MoU on providing professional development opportunities for Myanmar CPAs and strengthening functions of Myanmar Institute of CPAs. The training agenda included Japanese accounting and auditing systems, case study on accounting fraud, and Quality Control Review System of Japan. In February 2020, five delegates from Myanmar (consisting of three CPAs, one from the Office of the Auditor General of the Union and another one from a corporate sector) visited JICPA. In December 2020 after the renewal of the MoU, we held an online ceremony commemorating the renewal.



Publications



We published a brochure titled "CPAs' contribution to SDGs: Introducing CPAs playing pivotal role in diverse communities and fields," which was enclosed in the September 2020 Issue of Accounting & Audit Journal as its Appendix, to introduce activities undertaken by nine CPAs across Japan who dedicate themselves to achieving SDG targets.

Others

We have produced an SDGs badge to let public know that the accountancy profession will make further commitment to SDGs by raising awareness of CPAs and JICPA officers and staff on SDGs.

Events and Activities

Our events and activities during 2020 were significantly affected by COVID-19, forcing us to deliver most of our usual face-to-face activities online.

1. JICPA creates an environment for providing high quality audit service to companies seeking to IPO. In accordance with the report from the Liaison Council on the Appointment of Audit Firms for Initial Public Offering (IPO) Audits issued in March 2020, relevant parties including JICPA, audit firms, securities companies, venture capital providers and securities exchanges are striving to create an environment for providing high quality audit service to companies seeking for IPO based on the shared recognition of the current situation. The activities being undertaken by JICPA are as follows:
 - Prepare and publish a list of small-to medium-sized audit firms (other than Big 4 and the mid-tier firms), which are expected to become new providers of audit for IPO; Help those firms share the relevant expertise and know-how.
 - Establish a “forum for dialogue” among relevant parties including small- to medium audit firms, companies seeking to IPO, securities companies, venture capital providers.
 - Build a network of “freelance CPAs” who left the audit firm with a wealth of experience in audit for IPO; Revise a guidebook for companies seeking to IPO and disseminate it.

In November 2020, we held the online Forum on Financial Audit for IPO, which attracted more than 800 participants.
2. We undertook, or will undertake, the following activities to help small-to medium-sized audit firms digitalise their operations.
 - Forming an IT community for small-to medium-sized audit firms as a platform for networking and information exchange.
 - Strengthening training programs to utilize and leverage IT tools.
 - Developing a “shared infrastructure centre” concept to promote digitalisation of audit service to respond to digitalisation of corporate activities and improve quality and efficiency of audit service through the digitalisation.



MICPA



THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

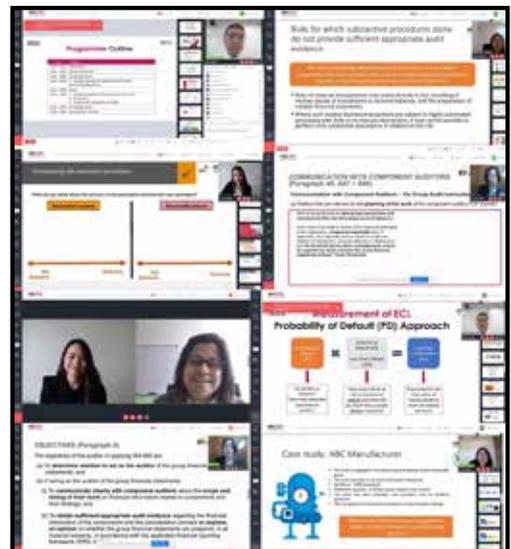
Members: **3.370**

Leadership: 1. Dr Veerinderjeet Singh (President, 2019-present)
2. Novie Tajuddin (CEO)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations

- MICPA was appointed by the Audit Oversight Board (AOB) as a training provider pursuant to the Securities Commission's announcement on March 24, 2020 to provide a training subsidy for AOB registrants with less than 10 audit partners, as part of the AOB's objective to foster high-quality independent auditing of Public Interest Entities (PIEs) and schedule funds in Malaysia.
- A Membership Pathway Agreement between MICPA and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) was signed at a virtual ceremony on September 13, 2020 to formalise the terms for eligible members to become members of the other, and encourage more joint initiatives.
- A Mutual Recognition Agreement between MICPA and Institute of Chartered Accountants India (ICAI) was formalised at a virtual ceremony on December 4, 2020 to recognise each other's qualifications and to forge stronger ties between the two bodies.



Publications

- A COVID-19 Resources** webpage was launched in March 2020 shortly after the Movement Control Order (MCO) was announced in Malaysia, to provide members with the latest regulatory updates affecting various industries.
- Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 – Learning Points**
MICPA and Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad (MARC) issued a joint press release titled 'Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19' which covers the GDP growth forecast and the fiscal stimulus packages by the Government.

3. MICPA-MARC Malaysia Economic Update & Outlook 2021

This joint publication by MICPA and MARC provides useful insights and timely intelligence on Malaysia's economic growth for the benefit of professional accountants and their clients.

4. Frequently Asked Questions on AML/CFT TFS for DNFBPs and NFIs Policy Document for Professional Accountants in Public Practice

This FAQ was issued by MICPA as guidance to professional accountants in public practice to fulfil their Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Financing of Terrorism ("AML/CFT") obligations as a Reporting Institutions ("RI") under the AML/CFT and Financial Reporting Standards ("FRS") for Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions ("DNFBPs") & Non-Bank Financial Institutions ("NBFIs") Policy Document.

5. Accounting Considerations due to the Impact of COVID-19

This publication aimed to highlight key accounting issues to be considered by entities when preparing financial statements.

Events and Activities

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the Malaysian Government declaring a Movement Control Order (MCO) on March 18, 2020, MICPA had to pivot into virtual interactions very quickly. In 2020, MICPA hosted 6 physical CPD sessions at the start of the year, 20 webinars, and 2 in-house training courses. The MICPA Programme examinations were conducted online in collaboration with Programme partner, Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand.

1. MICPA launched its new logo on July 26, 2020.
2. An outreach on 'Audit Evidence Information Gathering' was held on April 14, 2020, exploring issues relating to audit evidence in an audit of financial statements, identifying issues creating difficulties in practice, and addressing them in the context of IAASB's remit.
3. A forum entitled 'Technologically FutureFit Accountants' was held on September 30, 2020 to enhance practitioners' skillsets and knowledge in relation to technology advancements.
4. MICPA organised a series of forums addressing issues arising from COVID-19 impact:
 - 'Redefine Business Continuity' (July 21)
 - 'Tax Measures Introduced Due to COVID-19 Pandemic' (May 14)
 - 'Integrated Reporting: COVID-19 Best Practice' (May 8)
5. A major annual event for accounting students, the MICPA Accountancy Week 2020 was organised virtually for the first time.





AFA
Financial Statements
for 2020

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

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ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

FEDERATION PROFILE

Primary Members

Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam Institute of Certified Public Accountants (BICPA)
Cambodia	Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors (KICPAA)
Indonesia	Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia (IAI) / Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants
Laos	Lao Chamber of Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA)
Malaysia	Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)
Myanmar	Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)
Philippines	Philippines Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)
Singapore	Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA)
Thailand	Federation of Accounting Professions (TFAC)
Vietnam	Vietnam Association of Accountants and Auditors (VAA)

Associate Members

Australia	CPA Australia
Australia and New Zealand	Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)
Indonesia	Institut Akuntan Publik Indonesia (IAPI) / Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Japan	The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA)
Malaysia	The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)
United Kingdom	The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)
United Kingdom	The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
United Kingdom	The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
USA	The Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

Office bearers for the year ended 31 December 2020

AFA President	Mr Wan Tin (MICPA, Myanmar)
AFA Deputy President	Assistant Professor Teerachai Arunruangsirilert (TFAC)
AFA Treasurer	Professor Chan Yoke Kai (ISCA)

Office of the Federation

AFA Secretariat
Grha Akuntan
Jalan Sindanglaya No. 1
Menteng
Jakarta 10310
Indonesia

Independent auditor

Baker Tilly TFW LLP
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT BY COUNCIL

In the opinion of the Council:

- (i) the financial statements as set out on pages 6 to 16 are properly drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ASEAN Federation of Accountants (the "Federation") at 31 December 2020 and of the financial performance, changes in accumulated fund and cash flows of the Federation for the financial year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards; and
- (ii) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Federation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

On behalf of the Council



Wan Tin
President
(2020 - 2021)

27 April 2021



Chan Yoke Kai
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PRIMARY MEMBERS OF
ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS****Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements*****Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ASEAN Federation of Accountants (the "Federation") as set out on pages 6 to 16, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in accumulated fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federation as at 31 December 2020 and of the financial performance, changes in accumulated fund and cash flows of the Federation for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing ("SSAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Federation in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report comprises the information included in the Annual Report for the year 2020 but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PRIMARY MEMBERS OF ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS (cont'd)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Responsibilities of the Council for the Financial Statements

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council is responsible for assessing the Federation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Federation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities include overseeing the Federation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Federation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PRIMARY MEMBERS OF
ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS (cont'd)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Federation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Federation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BakerTillyTFW
Baker Tilly TFW LLP
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore

27 April 2021

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership fees	88,200	83,400
Interest income	5,526	6,429
Sponsorships from other bodies	11,500	11,000
Contribution from members	43	15,405
	<hr/>	
	105,269	116,234
	<hr/>	
Less expenditure		
AGM expenses/annual report printing	618	788
Auditor's remuneration	2,500	2,500
Bank charges	639	610
Foreign currency exchange loss	81	10
Meeting expenses	247	5,449
Postage & telecommunications	494	1,441
Professional/consultancy fee	–	15,700
Publications	510	169
Research activities and projects	16,500	11,000
Staff costs	97,153	73,513
Sundry expenses	546	809
Travelling expenses	2,556	8,234
Website expenses	2,920	2,723
	<hr/>	
	124,764	122,946
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Net deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year	(19,495)	(6,712)
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The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

BALANCE SHEET At 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current assets			
Other receivables	3	1,665	7,980
Cash and cash equivalents	4	468,022	464,667
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		469,687	472,647
Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	5	37,444	22,009
Contract liabilities	6	20,400	19,300
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		57,844	41,309
Net assets		<hr/>	<hr/>
		411,843	431,338
Accumulated Fund		<hr/>	<hr/>
		411,843	431,338

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND
For the financial year ended 31 December 2020**

	\$
Balance at 1 January 2019	438,050
Net deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year	(6,712)
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>431,338</u>
Net deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year	(19,495)
Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>411,843</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net deficit for the year		(19,495)	(6,712)
Adjustment for:			
Interest income		(5,526)	(6,429)
Operating deficit before movements in working capital		(25,021)	(13,141)
Other receivables		5,478	(5,581)
Payables and accruals		15,435	13,417
Contract liabilities		1,100	15,546
Cash (used in)/generated from operations		(3,008)	10,241
Interest received		6,363	5,962
Net cash generated from operating activities		3,355	16,203
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3,355	16,203
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		464,667	448,464
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4	468,022	464,667

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

ASEAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

1 Corporate information

The office of the Federation is at Jalan Sindanglaya No. 1, Menteng, Jakarta 10310, Indonesia.

The principal activity of the Federation is the advancement of the accounting profession in the ASEAN region. The Federation is an accredited Civil Society Organisation of ASEAN, recognised under the ASEAN Charter.

2 Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements, expressed in Singapore dollar (“\$”) which is the Federation’s functional currency, have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRSs”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as disclosed in the accounting policies below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of income and expenditure during the financial year. Although these estimates and assumptions are based on Council’s best knowledge of current events and actions and historical experiences and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates.

Use of estimates and judgements

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There were no significant judgements made in applying accounting policies and no estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, other current receivables and payables approximate their respective fair values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

New and revised standards

In the current financial year, the Federation has adopted all the new and revised IFRSs issued by the IASB and Interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (“IFRIC”) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current financial year.

2 Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

(a) Basis of preparation (cont'd)

New and revised standards (cont'd)

The adoption of these new/revised IFRS and IFRIC did not have any material effect on the financial results or position of the Federation.

New standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that have been issued at the balance sheet date but are not yet effective for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Federation.

(b) Financial assets

Recognition and derecognition

Financial assets are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets (other than financial assets at fair value through profit or loss) are added to the fair value of the financial assets on initial recognition. Transaction costs directly attributable to acquisition of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognised immediately in profit or loss. Trade receivables without a significant financing component is initially measured at transaction prices.

Classification and measurement

All financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

The Federation classifies its financial assets in the amortised cost measurement category.

The classification is based on the entity's business model for managing the financial asset and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

The Federation reclassifies financial assets when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

Subsequent measurement

Debt instruments include cash and cash equivalents and receivables. The subsequent measurement category is depending on the Federation's business model for managing the asset and cash flow characteristics of the asset:

Amortised cost

The Federation measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specific dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest rate (EIR) method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

Interest income from these financial assets is included in interest income using the EIR method.

2 Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

(b) Financial assets (cont'd)

Impairment

The Federation recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (“ECLs”) for financial assets carried at amortised cost. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Federation expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate.

The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12-months (a 12-month ECL).

For those credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default (a lifetime ECL).

For receivables that do not have a significant financing component, the Federation applies a simplified approach to recognise a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at balance sheet date. The Federation has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted as appropriate for current conditions and forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

If the Federation has measured the loss allowance for a financial asset at an amount equal to lifetime ECL in the previous reporting period, but determines at the current reporting date that the conditions for lifetime ECL are no longer met, the Federation measures the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month ECL at the current reporting date.

The Federation recognises an impairment gain or loss in profit or expenditure for all financial assets with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account.

(c) Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities, which comprise other payables and accruals are recognised on the balance sheet when, and only when, the Federation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value of consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expired. Gains and losses are recognised in income or expenditure when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

(d) Cash and cash equivalents in the statements of cash flows

For the purpose of presentation on the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and fixed deposits, that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

2 Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

(e) Functional and foreign currencies

Functional currency

Items included in the financial statements are measured using the currency that best reflects the economic environment substance of the underlying events and circumstances ('the functional currency').

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated into the functional currency at the rates ruling at that date. All exchange differences are taken to income or expenditure.

(f) Income taxes

The Federation's income from its principal activities is exempt from income tax under Section 11(2) of the Income Tax Act because the Federation is deemed not to be a carrying on a business in Singapore.

(g) Income recognition

Revenue is recognised when the Federation satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to the customer, which is when the customer obtains control of the good or service. A performance obligation may be satisfied at a point in time or over time. The amount of revenue recognised is the amount allocated to the satisfied performance obligation.

The Federation recognises membership fees as a performance obligation satisfied over time. Membership fees are recognised as income in the year to which the membership fees relates. Unearned income relating to future year is included in contract liabilities. Interest income is recognised as the interest accrues based on effective interest method.

Contribution from members relate to fees and proceeds received from seminars and events. Revenue is recognised upon completion of the event and when the Federation has no remaining obligations to perform.

(h) Grants

Grants are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with. Where the grant relates to an asset, the fair value is recognised as deferred capital grant on the balance sheet and is amortised to income or expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset by equal annual instalments.

When the grant relates to an expenditure item, it is recognised in income or expenditure over the period necessary to match them on a systematic basis to the costs that it is intended to compensate.

(i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Federation has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount can be made. Where the Federation expects a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

3 Other receivables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Other receivables	103	5,581
Interest receivables	1,562	2,399
	1,665	7,980

4 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Fixed deposits	379,254	372,890
Cash and bank balances	88,768	91,777
	468,022	464,667

Fixed deposits bear interest rates ranging from 0.30% to 1.55% (2019: 1.60% to 1.90%) per annum and mature between 2 and 10 months (2019: 2 and 10 months) from the balance sheet date.

5 Payables and accruals

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Accrued operating expenses	37,444	22,009

6 Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities comprise membership fees and sponsorship fees advance consideration received from members and professional bodies. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue as (or when) the Federation satisfies the performance obligations under its contracts.

The following table provides information about contract liabilities from contracts with customers:

	2020	2019	1.1.2019
	\$	\$	\$
Contract liabilities	20,400	19,300	3,754

Contract liabilities have increased due to advance receipt by the Federation from membership fees for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.

7 Related party transactions

In addition to information disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements, the following transactions took place between the Federation and related parties during the financial year on terms agreed by the parties concerned:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Membership fees	45,000	45,000
Share of conference proceeds	43	15,405
Staff costs	97,153	–

Related parties refer to the primary members of the Federation.

8 Financial instruments

a) Categories of financial instruments

Financial instruments at their carrying amounts at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<i>Financial assets</i>		
At amortised cost	469,687	472,647
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
At amortised cost	37,444	22,009

b) Financial risk management

The main risks arising from the Federation's financial management are credit risk, interest rate risk and liquidity risk. The Federation reviews and agrees on policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below:

Credit risk

The Federation's exposure to credit risk arises from the failure of a counterparty to settle its financial and contractual obligations to the Federation, as and when they fall due. The Federation manages this risk by monitoring credit ratings and limiting the aggregate financial exposure to any individual counterparty.

The Federation places its cash and fixed deposits with the established banks in Singapore.

At balance sheet date, there is no significant concentration of credit risk, except for cash and cash equivalents. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each class of financial instruments on the balance sheet.

The Federation has credit policies and procedures in place to minimise and mitigate its credit risk exposures.

8 Financial instruments (cont'd)

b) Financial risk management (cont'd)

Credit risk (cont'd)

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets at amortised cost include other receivables and cash and cash equivalents.

Credit risk exposure in relation to financial assets at amortised cost as at 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2019 is insignificant, and accordingly no credit loss is recognised as at 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2019.

Interest rate risk

The Federation is exposed to interest rate risk through the impact of rate changes on its interest-bearing fixed deposits. The Federation's policy is to review the terms of these deposits to take advantage of the best market rates in order to optimise the income received from these deposits. The sensitivity analysis for changes in interest rate is not disclosed as the effect in income and expenditure is considered not significant.

Liquidity risk

In the management of liquidity risk, the Federation monitors and maintains a level of cash and cash equivalents deemed adequate by the Council to finance the Federation's operations and mitigate the effects of fluctuations in cash flows.

9 Fair values

The carrying amounts of the financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements of the Federation approximate their fair values.

10 Fund management

The Federation's objectives when managing its funds are to safeguard and maintain adequate working capital. The Council considers the accumulated fund as the capital of the Federation and no changes were made to the Federation's fund management objectives during the financial years ended 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2019.

11 Authorisation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Federation for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Council dated 27 April 2021.



ASEAN Federation of Accountants

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