



PRESS RELEASE (June 2021)

AFA collaborates with partners to discuss digitalisation of SMP in Indonesia

SMPs expect improved efficiency as the greatest value of technology

JAKARTA, June 24, 2021 – Collaboration once again becomes a foundation for AFA and its member organisations in presenting accountants in the region with a platform for mutual learning and sharing. AFA collaborated with the CPA Australia, the Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants, and the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants and discussed an important topic of the impact, challenges, and opportunities of digitalisation to SMPs, during and after the pandemic.

The focus towards SMP is one of AFA's key priorities---to contribute to the region's research capacity, through thought leaderships and discussions on topics relevant to ASEAN SMPs and also SMEs. AFA published the [AFA Research Report 2018](#) on the ASEAN perspective of Institutional Environment for Small and Medium Enterprises and Roles for the Accounting Profession and [AFA Research Report 2020](#) on ASEAN SMP Technological Competency Skills. As a follow up to the 2020 report, AFA introduced the ASEAN SMP Webinar Series in April 2021, focusing on current issues relevant to ASEAN SMPs and their solutions.

Attended by around 388 participants (via Zoom and YouTube), the webinar focused on sharing from Keddie Waller, Head of Public Practice and SME at CPA Australia on some the key findings from CPA Australia's My Firm, My Future Report 2019 and IFAC Practice Transformation Action Plan, Syaiful Ali, Member of the Certification Board of Professional Accountants of the Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants on SMP digital transformation during the pandemic, and Handoko Tomo, Chairman of SMPs Committee of the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants on SMP (auditor) and SME (auditee) relationship in Indonesia.

Moderated by ED Pratama, speakers discussed some of the critical factors for accounting firms as they respond to the forces reshaping the profession such as by leveraging technology to do better business and introduce more efficient practice. Speakers also recognised key challenges such as cost and limited skills and capacity that particularly SMPs in Indonesia are dealing with in their digital transformation journey. It is important for stakeholders such as Government and the PAOs to provide support, to ensure SMPs are better prepared to deal with the anticipated significant changes from the impact of technology, including on traditional accounting and finance roles, as well as managing cyber and IT security risks.



About AFA (ASEAN Federation of Accountants)

AFA (www.afa-accountants.org) 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. Through its ten Primary Members, AFA has a regional network of more than 200,000 accountants in the ASEAN region, supported by a global network of Associate Members with close to 3 million members worldwide. AFA is an accredited Civil Society Organisation of the ASEAN recognised under the ASEAN Charter and an IFAC Network Partner.

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