



PRESS RELEASE (July 2021)

AFA supports discussion on diversity, inclusion, and equality in the ASEAN accountancy profession

Equal opportunities: Accountancy as a diverse and inclusive profession

JAKARTA, July 30, 2021 – ACCA's Leading Inclusion [Report](#) discussed the important subjects of diversity, inclusion, and equity from the perspective of the accountancy and finance profession. Based on responses from 10,049 ACCA members, affiliates and future members, the report highlighted how 73% of the respondents think that accountancy is an inclusive profession, with 65% consider that there is a strong link between inclusivity and organisational success.

“Referring to our founder’s (Arthur Priddle) statement, the ideal was to give everyone who intended to take up the profession, and could prove by examination their fitness and experience, an opportunity of joining an Association which would provide them with a qualification they could use. This statement rings true even today” said Hani Karunia, Head of ACCA Indonesia.

Together with ACCA and the Institute of Indonesia Chartered Accountants, AFA organised a webinar to discuss this from the perspectives of prominent female accountants in leadership positions from Indonesia and ASEAN. A panel consisted of Professor Nunuy Nur Afiah (Council Member, IAI), Indah Budiani (Executive Director, Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development), Henny Dewanto (Partner, ShineWing Indonesia), Dr. Estelita C. Aguirre (President, AFA 2014-2015), and Rachel Chee (Regional Education Consultant, ACCA) shared an aspiration for ASEAN accountants to continue promoting the importance of diversity, inclusion, and equity as an integral part of the ASEAN accountancy profession.

As highlighted in the report, anyone can contribute to promotion of diversity, inclusion, and equality in their environment such as by taking the time to appreciate diversity, understanding the diversity goals of the organisation and how these align to the business goals, and welcoming different ideas and supporting their implementation.

“Professional accountants must be fully aware of inclusion and diversity issues in business. Even with the progress that we are seeing now, from diversity at the Board level, to significant increase in the number of female accounting students, some issues remained to be solved. Accountants, with our Code of Ethics as the guiding principles, can take a lead in supporting the inclusion and diversity agenda in business” as highlighted by Edward Tanujaya, Director of Membership and Partnership Services of IAI in his remarks.

The 2-hour webinar was attended by close to 500 participants.



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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