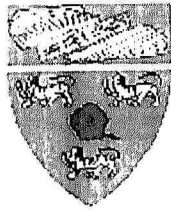


APPENDIX



Universiti Malaya

Dear Respondent,

A SURVEY ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE TRAINING OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN MALAYSIA

The recent amendments to the Accountants Act 1967, has brought about, amongst others, a common designation of "Chartered Accountant" for all Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) members irrespective whether they are public accountants or registered accountants. It was explained that in the era of globalisation and information technology, accountants would not be differentiated by titles; but by their professional attitude and conduct.

The change was facilitated by amending Section 7 (e) of the above Act, by substituting for the words "public accountants or registered accountants" the words "chartered accountants"

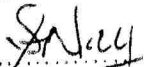
This questionnaire is designed to gather and analyse the views of members of the accounting fraternity in public practice, commerce and industry, institutions of higher learning and the public sector and other selected interest groups such employers of accountants and undergraduates relating to the common designation of chartered accountants for all MIA members. Their views should shed some light on whether the holders of the designation are qualified enough to justify its conferment or is there a need to refocus accounting education or revise the accreditation process currently in place to produce more broadly and ably educated accountants who would be more useful and relevant to a rapidly changing world.

This study is undertaken as a partial fulfillment towards completion of a postgraduate degree at the Faculty of Business and Accountancy, University Malaya.

The information you provide will assist MIA, professional bodies and institutions of higher learning to gather a correct picture of the current status of practising accountants and structure their educational, training and research programmes. By relating your experiences, you are providing useful input to the study and therefore request you to respond to the questions frankly and honestly. In the event of insufficient space to pen your response, you are most welcome to attach additional sheets of paper to fully express your opinion. Your response will be kept strictly confidential.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. I greatly appreciate your help in furthering this research endeavour.

Yours sincerely,


Siva Subramanian Nair
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University Malaya

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E-Mail: sivanair@tm.net.my

SECTION B : EDUCATION FOR GRADUATES

- | | Strongly
Disagree | | Neutral | | Strongly
Agree |
|---|----------------------|---|---------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Fresh graduates from Universities are adequately equipped to meet the realities of the business world | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Globalisation has demolished boundaries and cross border transactions are common in today's world. Graduates are ready to manage this changing environment which requires not only knowledge of local financial reporting standards but some insight into international accounting practices | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. With 3 years of experience, a local graduate is able to attain membership with MIA. He is conferred the title of Chartered Accountant. However some may not have sufficient exposure in the relevant areas and therefore should be subjected to some form of assessment to gauge competence and proficiency. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. The assessment should test, in addition to knowledge of specific areas, the candidates professional judgment on a wide range of contemporary business issues and compliance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. The competency test should be held in stages; i.e. at the end of each year of practical experience and should assess him on the level of proficiency that he is expected to have acquired within that period. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. The competency examination should be centralised to ensure uniformity, and the task of setting the exam should be segregated from those involved in preparing the students for the examination | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Graduates from foreign universities and professional bodies not recognized by MIA are required to sit for a qualifying examination (QE). | | | | | |
| a) Do you agree that the exam should be open to both accounting and non accounting degree holders | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b) The QE should be taken only after the 3 years experience which is a prerequisite for membership | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) On passing the QE, candidates should still be required to sit for the competency exams | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Having completed the professional competency examinations, a programme of continuing professional education (CPD) provided by professional bodies and MIA is sufficiently effective enough to maintain and improve the professional competence of accountants | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

General Comments:

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SECTION C: SIGNIFICANCE OF A SINGLE DESIGNATION

- | | Strongly
Agree | | Neutral | |
|---|-------------------|---|---------|---|
| 1. The use of the common designation of Chartered accountant would serve to harmonise the public's perception of accountants in Malaysia | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. The chartered accountants in Malaysia would probably enjoy the same esteem reflected by the chartered accountants from around the world, if the professional competency examination is adopted as a mandatory prerequisite. Please elaborate below. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. With Malaysia being a party to WTO, AFTA etc., Malaysian accountants will face strong competition from foreign accountants who would be expected to have commensurating qualifications in order to practice in Malaysia. Therefore Malaysian standards for accountants should be maintained at a high level so that there would not be an influx of "less qualified" accountants into Malaysia | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. Graduates from foreign professional bodies sometimes cease to be members of their mother bodies once they attain membership with MIA. This should be prohibited as they will no longer have the CPD support of their mother bodies and this may affect the maintainence of their competence and proficiency. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

General Comments: -----

SECTION A: ACCOUNTING EDUCATION

Please state the extent to which you agree/disagree with each of the statements by circling the appropriate number on the following scale.

Scale

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 = Strongly Disagree | 4 = Agree |
| 2 = Disagree | 5 = Strongly Agree |
| 3 = Neutral | |

1. The current state of Malaysian accounting education programme at universities is adequate to meet the needs of an expanding profession. If not, please elaborate below 1 2 3 4 5

2. The prerequisites for entry into universities i.e. STPM/Diploma/Matriculation etc. are highly examination orientated and fail to prepare students for university life where they are required to open their minds and think independently 1 2 3 4 5

3. University education should expand from mere transfer of knowledge to training students to be able to adapt themselves to changes in environment/circumstances 1 2 3 4 5

4. Lecturers should use case studies and problem solving techniques where students are required to identify relevant information to make logical assessments and communicating clear conclusions. This would prepare them for the real world. 1 2 3 4 5

5. Multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills linking accounting, auditing and tax should be inculcated to equip students in future to face multifaceted and complex situations which is typical of professional demands 1 2 3 4 5

5. Practical training / industrial attachment should be made compulsory and assessed as part of the curriculum. 1 2 3 4 5

6. Information technology content in the accounting curriculum should be sufficient to enable the student to not only use and evaluate information system but be able to play a role in the design and management of such systems 1 2 3 4 5

7. Students should have the capacity of inquiry, research, logical thinking and critical analysis. If you agree, suggest avenues for achieving this, below 1 2 3 4 5

8. Accounting education should incorporate general knowledge which produces broad-based individuals who:

a) can think and communicate effectively	1	2	3	4	5
b) possess strong entrepreneurial skills	1	2	3	4	5
c) have good public relations	1	2	3	4	5
d) are efficient strategisers	1	2	3	4	5

General Comments: -----

SECTION D : DEMOGRAPHY

Please complete the following by indicating your response in the boxes concerned.

1. Age

2 Gender

Male
 Female

3 Are you a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants ?

Yes No

4 Professional Affiliation /Qualification

a) Chartered Accountant from -----
 b) ACCA
 c) CIMA

d) CPA from -----
 e) Accounting degree from -----
 f) Others: Pls. specify -----

5 Working Environment

Public Practice		Commercial		Education		Public Sector
Big Five	Others	Listed company	Non-Listed Company	Private Institutions	Public Institutions	

6 Place of occupation (Town / State): -----

7. Number of Years of Experience in Accounting