



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Angela Lee Loy
ICAC President

Welcome to this the final publication of the ICAC Newsletters for 2007. I am grateful to this medium for again allowing me to congratulate the 25th Annual Accountants'

Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Mr. Donald Thompson, on the execution of a very successful conference. Approximately 370 delegates, spouses, and guests attended the 25th Anniversary event themed "Delivering Excellence - Polishing the Diamond". This is regarded as a great accomplishment given the small size of the St. Kitts institute. ICAC's 26th Annual Conference of Accountants will be held in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago over the period June 26 - 28, 2008, under the theme "Beyond the Wall". The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT).

The year 2007 saw the institute moving ahead with certain milestones namely: the establishment of the ICAC/ACCA Practice Monitoring Programme; preparation for the proposed regional initiative to support the adoption and compliance with IAS/IFRS and ISA; raising the international profile of ICAC; and development and maintenance of a

state of the art website.

I am pleased to announce that Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana are each expected to sign off on the implementation of the ICAC/ ACCA Practice Monitoring Programme in their respective territories before the end of the year. The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Barbados and Jamaica are expected to become monitoring compliant by December 2008. Efforts are ongoing to enlist the other ICAC member institutes namely, Bahamas, Belize, and the Eastern Caribbean, into the programme. Subsequent to the signing of the practice monitoring contracts by Trinidad and Guyana, ACCA will on behalf of ICAC coordinate sessions aimed at further sensitizing accounting practitioners about the programme.

The proposed Regional Caribbean initiative to support the adoption of and compliance with IAS/IFRS and ISA, which is to be partially funded by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) through its Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), made considerable strides this quarter. The final report and draft revised abstract for

Cont'd. on page2

PKF

PKF-Aulous F Madden & Company
Accountants & Business Advisors



Kingston Office:
6 Lockett Avenue, Kingston 4
Tel: 876-922-1074, Fax: 876-922-2506

Ocho Rios Office:
134 Main Street, Ocho Rios, St. Ann
Tel: 876-974-4141, Fax: 876-974-7896
Email: aulous@cwjamaica.com

<i>President's Update</i> ...1-2	<i>Benefits of ICAC Membership</i>5	<i>Progress- Encouraging Quality and Building Trust</i>7
<i>Board Meeting Brief/ Conference 2008 Update</i> ..3	<i>AICPA Conference Update/ Article: IFRS for SME's: Prepareres to Stand Alone</i>6	<i>Territorial Updates: BICA, ICAB, ICAG, ICAJ etc.</i> ...8-12
<i>Article: Are You Ready to Tell the Market How You Manage Risk?/ Best Wishes</i> 4	<i>Quote/ Article: IFAC 30 Years of</i>	<i>Joke Corner</i> ...12

the project have since been issued to the four (4) institutes participating in the programme, namely: the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Guyana. Following the scheduling of a meeting with representatives of the four participating institutes to discuss technical issues relating to the report, the IDB will be submitting the revised Abstract for internal approval by its Policy and Operations Committee.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has committed to assist ICAC in developing and maintaining a 'state of the art' website. The review of the current website is underway and ACCA has since submitted to the ICAC Publicity Sub-committee, proposed layouts of the website for comment. The launch of the new website will get underway by mid 2008.

The ICAC Secretariat is still awaiting feedback on whether its membership application to the Inter-American Association of Accountants (IAA) was approved. ICAC aims to solicit membership from the Cayman Islands Society of Professional Accountants in 2008.

ICAC organized another successful Strategic Retreat on October 27, 2007. The event sought to review and discuss the ICAC's strategic plans in order to determine the best way forward for the institute. Additional details in this regard can be found later in the issue.

The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), of which ICAC is an acknowledged regional grouping, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. It has organized activities to recognize the contributions of its member bodies, regional accountancy organizations and members of the profession to the development of the organization and to raise awareness of the valuable role professional accountants play in contributing to economic growth and development worldwide. In that regard, the ICAC has urged its member institutes to schedule an event in recognition and observance of IFAC's World Accountancy Week. A feature on IFAC's history and activities can be found on page seven (7) of this publication.

In closing, I would like to wish all stakeholders, members and their families, as well as the staff of the ICAC Secretariat, a holy and blessed holiday season and best wishes for 2008.

"ICAC is the internationally recognized body for the accountancy profession in the Caribbean, with an expanding influence in the region. It regulates the profession and promotes the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct. Through thought leadership and the provision of research, CPD and other services, it adds value to its members and the wider community."



The University of Manchester
Manchester Business School

MANCHESTER 1824

focus on
a broader Horizon

MBA for Financial Managers and Finance Professionals

These globally recognized MBA's are designed around the specific needs of the Financial industry, combining self-study with face-to-face residential workshops. Accelerated programmes are available for relevant financial professional qualifications.

intakes - January and July each year

For further information, please contact our Caribbean Centre,
The Jamaica Institute of Bankers,
Tel: (876) 927-3337 or (876) 978-6212
or email: jiobinfo@jiob.org.jm,

"MBS ranked 22nd in the world"
Financial Times 2006 and 2007

The Manchester MBA Worldwide
Learn from a world of experience

www.mbs-worldwide.ac.uk



Accredited by
Association
of MBAs



EFMD
EQUIS
ACCREDITED



The Jamaica
Institute
of Bankers
*"Providing Training and Education
in Business and Finance"*

Board of Directors Meeting/ Strategic Planning Retreat Brief



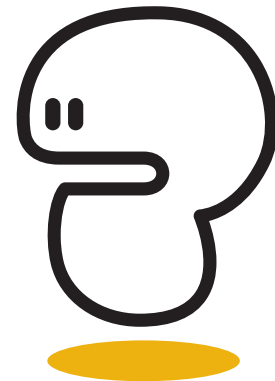
The Secretariat's 49th Board of Directors meeting and Strategic Planning Retreat were held on October 26 and 27, 2007, respectively at the Hilton Miami Airport Hotel. Decisions derived from the meeting are aimed at encouraging all institutes to take the necessary steps in getting the ICAC/ ACCA Practice Monitoring Programme underway in all their territories as soon as possible.

The retreat sought to review and discuss the ICAC's strategic plans in order to determine the best way forward for the institute. A meeting will be scheduled with all territories, especially those without representation, to de-brief on the outcomes of the retreat.



Attendees to the ICAC Strategic Planning Retreat look on as the ICAEW Affiliate Director- Mr. Ashley Clarke, and ICAEC Director - Mr. Frank Myers explain their analysis of ICAC's key areas using the 'McKinsey Seven S' management model.

**THE WORLD NEEDS
THREE-DIMENSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS.
WHAT SHAPE ARE YOURS?**



ACCA The world needs
three-dimensional
accountants
accaglobal.com/3D

Conference 2008 - Beyond the Wall

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) 26th Annual Conference of Accountants will be held in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago over the period June 26 - 28, 2008, under the theme "Beyond the Wall". The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT).

The conference will be held at the new Hyatt Regency Trinidad, a five-star high rise hotel constructed at the Port of Spain International Waterfront Development along the waterfront of Trinidad and Tobago's capital city. This 428 room hotel presents contemporary style and an entirely new level of comfort, luxury and convenience among Trinidad hotels.

The Conference's presenters will include renowned regional and international speakers, and the technical session promises to focus on issues of importance in the financial industry. A very exciting package of leisure activities will be arranged by the Conference's Planning Committee to expose delegates and spouses to the renowned 'Trini' hospitality and

the breathtaking beauty of the islands.

Further details will be confirmed shortly.



**Congratulations
to the:**

**International Federation of
Accountants (IFAC)**

**On the celebration of its
30th Anniversary**

For 30 years, IFAC has developed international standards, good practice guidance and other services to support all sectors of the profession, including professional accountants working in business.

IFRS 7 – Are You Ready To Tell The Market How You Manage Risk?



Article contributed by the Accounting Standards Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ).

IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures is effective for annual accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2007. Hence, IFRS 7 disclosures will be mandatory for the upcoming December 31, 2007 year-ends with comparatives required in respect of the previous year. The standard was actually issued over two years ago in August 2005.

Before examining the new standard's requirements, let us first dispel a common myth - that IFRS 7 is relevant to financial institutions only. IFRS 7 applies to all entities, financial and non-financial. The extent of disclosure, however, will be driven by the entity's extent of use of financial instruments and exposures to risk.

IFRS 7 is now the comprehensive standard on financial instrument disclosures. It consolidates and expands a number of existing reporting requirements and adds some challenging new disclosures. It replaces the disclosure requirements previously contained in IAS 30, Disclosures in the Financial Statements of Banks and Similar Financial Institutions (now withdrawn), and IAS 32, Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation (now renamed Financial Instruments: Presentation). The presentation requirements of IAS 32 are unaffected.

Concurrent with the introduction of IFRS 7, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) also amended IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements, to require capital management disclosures with the same effective date as IFRS 7.

The objective of IFRS 7 is to provide more transparency to financial statement users on an entity's exposure to risks and how those risks are managed. The changes arising from IFRS 7 and IAS 1 (revised) may be grouped into three main categories:

1. Expanded disclosure of financial position and performance
2. New quantitative and qualitative risk disclosures "through the eyes of management"
3. New capital management disclosures

Expanded Disclosure of Financial Position and Performance

IFRS 7 requires greater balance sheet and income statement disclosures, including the following:

- The carrying amount and net gains/losses for each of the categories of financial instruments in IAS 39 (at fair value through P&L, available-for-sale, loans and receivables, etc.)
- Reclassifications of any financial asset as one measured at amortised cost, rather than fair value, or vice versa, and the reasons for such reclassification
- Special disclosures about financial assets and liabilities

designated at fair value through profit or loss, including changes in fair value and the portion arising from changes in credit risk

- Financial assets pledged as collateral and financial and non-financial assets held as collateral
- Reconciliation of the allowance for credit losses (bad debts) account
- Interest income and expense for financial assets or liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss
- Impairment losses for each class of financial asset and interest income recognised on impaired financial assets

Disclosing Risk "Through the Eyes of Management"

IFRS 7 requires both quantitative and qualitative disclosures about an entity's exposure to liquidity risk, credit risk and market risk arising from the use of financial instruments. For each type of risk, disclosure of summary quantitative data, based on information provided internally to key management personnel, as well as any concentrations of risk.

In addition, the following minimum disclosures are required:

Liquidity risk

- Maturity analysis for financial liabilities showing remaining contractual maturities and a description of the approach to managing liquidity risk

Credit risk

- Maximum exposure to credit risk (without deduction of any collateral held) and any related collateral held
- Information about credit quality of financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired
- Aging analysis of financial assets that are past due but not impaired



Cont'd. on page5



Benefits of ICAC Membership



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) is a body comprising accounting Institutes within the Caribbean region. The current membership of ICAC includes:

- ❖ **The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica**
- ❖ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago**

- The opportunity to serve on the various Regional Committees of the ICAC, thereby having an input in the operation and development of the regional accountancy profession.
- The opportunity to provide leadership on emerging issues as they affect the accountancy profession in the region.
- Advantage of Caricom mobility under the protocol II arrangement, which provides for the free movement of personnel throughout the Caribbean community.
- Preferential rates for the ICAC annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants as well as seminars held jointly with territorial institutes or affiliates (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants; Certified General Accountants Association of Canada; Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales).
- Benefits of a regional Practice Monitoring Programme being implemented by ICAC includes enhancing the regulatory capacity of the profession in the region.

ICAC membership includes the following benefits:



IFRS 7 - Are You Ready To Tell The MarketCont'd.

- Analysis of financial assets individually determined to be impaired

Market risk

- A sensitivity analysis for each type of market risk (currency, interest rate, and other price risk) to which the entity is exposed at reporting date. The analysis should demonstrate how profit or loss and equity would have been affected by “reasonably possible” changes in the relevant variable, for example a 100 basis point change in interest rates.
- Methods and assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis and any changes in these from the previous reporting period

In conjunction with the quantitative disclosures, qualitative disclosures of the following are also required:

- Risk exposures arising from financial instruments
- Objectives, policies and processes for managing the risks and the methods used to measure the risks
- Any changes from the previous reporting period

Capital Management Disclosures

The main requirements here are to disclose:

- The entity’s objectives, policies and processes for managing capital
- Quantitative data about how the entity defines capital e.g. what categories of debt are included.
- Whether the entity has complied with any externally imposed capital requirements and, if not, the consequences of

non-compliance

Practical Challenges

Compliance with IFRS 7 is likely to present a significant challenge for many entities. To adequately address the requirements of IFRS 7, management needs to consider the following:

- The need for new systems or systems enhancements to capture the required data for both the current year and the previous year comparatives. The sensitivity analyses, for example, are likely to require the development of financial models to the extent that they do not already exist.
- The internal controls over systems used to capture the required data are sufficiently robust for financial reporting purposes including the audit
- Appropriate training of staff who will be integral to the preparation of the information to be disclosed. This will include not just the finance function but also treasury, information technology, risk management and investor relations personnel.
- The development of an overall communication strategy that demonstrates how financial risks are managed by the entity.

Conclusion

The extensive disclosures required under IFRS 7 will, for the first time, open the internal risk management processes of entities to scrutiny by investors and creditors. For entities that manage financial risks well, it will be an opportunity to demonstrate this to the market. For others, IFRS 7 may be the catalyst to initiate the necessary improvements. What is clear is that IFRS 7 is not a standard to be taken lightly, as compliance will require significant investment in time and resources.

AICPA Presents its Premier International Conference

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the national association for CPAs in the United States, is hosting the AICPA International Issues Conference: Global Accounting, Auditing and Tax. This conference will be held on January 10-11, 2008, at the JW Marriott Hotel Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC., USA. Pre-conference workshops will occur on January 9th.



View from the FASB on Global Financial Reporting.

Larry Gill, Partner at Schiff Hardin LLP in Chicago, is Chair of the AICPA International Issues Committee and Chair of the Steering Committee for this conference. He states, "We believe that

Business leaders from China, India, the European Union and around the globe will give their expert insights and best practices on international business topics. The conference is designed to provide both the practitioner and member of industry with practical learning and "how-to's" to operate in the international business arena. Attendees will also have multiple networking opportunities throughout the course of the conference.

The keynote presentation will be given by Christopher Cox, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission who will present International Business – An SEC Perspective. Robert H. Herz, Chairman of FASB, will address the audience on A

this conference will be the premier event in its field. It combines breadth and depth in both speakers and topics. It provides unique networking opportunities. Most importantly, it responds to the very real needs of all who must deal with international accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting issues, whether in public practice or industry and business."

To find out more about this conference, view the agenda and to register, visit www.cpa2biz.com/international. An early-bird discount is offered until November 25th. In addition, members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean will receive the member rate. When registering, please use coupon code RML for this rate to apply.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for SME's: Preparers to Stand Alone



By Robin Jarvis and Richard Martin

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) is progressing the exposure draft of its standard for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

At a recent IASB board meeting, much of the debate focused on the board's intention that IFRS for SMEs is to be a stand-alone document. This is very much in line with the wishes of many external commentators.

For the preparer, a stand-alone document would simplify the preparation of the financial report. It will mean no reversion to the complex full IFRS or any need to use the conceptual framework as source of principles in preparing financial reports. A stand-alone document would be attractive to IT companies in the development of software. Any options to revert to full IFRS or some alternative are likely to hinder the development of software. The evidence suggests that software embodying standards for SMEs would be very helpful to the preparer of financial reports. For example, many have claimed that the success in part, in terms of the take up, of the FRSSE in the UK is due to software being available.

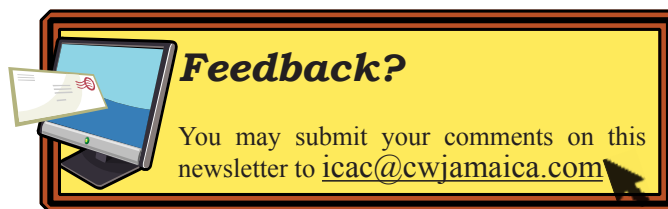
It is not quite so easy, however, to develop standards that will cover all situations and transactions that a SME may confront, which the IASB recognised in this debate. In these circumstances, where IFRS for SMEs does not cover a transaction or situation, the preparer must consider the adoption of all or part of a full IFRS. This is often referred to as the fall back. If there is no IFRS to revert to, the preparer will have to consider applying

principles of accounting that are appropriate to the transaction or situation.

The IASB has openly adopted a 80/20 rule in assessing transactions which are experienced by SMEs and so which should be addressed by the standards. Many would consider this a reasonable approach. However, there are some questions concerning how the IASB assess what is typical – what is 80 and what is 20?

There are no studies, to our knowledge, that have examined the nature of transactions of SMEs from a global perspective. Standard setting historically over the world has been criticised as to their ignorance of who are the users and preparers of financial reports and their needs - whether they are large or small entities.

Also, the IASB is assuming the preparer is relatively sophisticated and able to deal with a situation where IFRS for SMEs does not cover a specific transaction. For example, the proposal by the IASB is that when there is an omission of a type of transaction from both full IFRS, and IFRS for SMEs the preparer '...should select an accounting policy that resulted in rele-



Cont'd. on page7

Quote

Nothing average ever stood as a monument to progress. When progress is looking for a partner, it doesn't turn to those who believe they are only average. It turns instead to those who are forever searching and striving to become the best they possibly can. If we seek the average level we cannot hope to achieve a high level of success. Our only hope is to avoid being a failure..... A. Lou Vickery



International Financial Reporting StandardsCont'd.

vant and reliable information'. It is therefore, at this stage, useful to consider who the preparers are. For SMEs in the UK for example the preparer is likely to be:

- A qualified or unqualified accountant working in the entity
- A small or medium external practicing accountant
- A unqualified external accountant

For a qualified accountant working in the entity or employed externally there will be the daunting task of reverting to a full IFRS or searching for principles to apply to the specific transaction which is not cover by IFRS for SME. Continuing Professional Development, (CPD) is likely to be very helpful, but access to specific technical advice is likely to be even more helpful. This would require professional accounting bodies setting up technical services specifically for applying IFRS for SMEs to support the Small and Medium Practitioner and qualified accountants working in the entity and preparing their company's financial reports.

When it comes to unqualified accountants either working inside companies or externally, their needs will be significant in adopting IFRS for SMEs. They have little or no training and are unlikely to benefit from CPD programmes, to be able to cope with reverting to the full IFRS or be capable of tapping into relevant accounting principles. For this group this is likely to result in non-compliance and begs questions as to how wise it is to allow unqualified accountants to prepare financial under IFRS for SMEs.

The 'fall back' clause also raises the problem of deciding how much of the relevant IFRS for example must be used, particularly detailed requirements on measurement or of the disclosures. There is also the familiar issue of access by these preparer groups to the text of the full IFRS which is restricted by the IASB copyright and by translation into different languages.

Prof Robin Jarvis, ACCA Head of Small Business, is on the IASB working party for SMEs. Richard Martin is ACCA's Head of Financial Reporting.

IFAC: 30 Years of Progress - Encouraging Quality and Building Trust

In many ways, 1977 marked a year of firsts: The Concorde jet inaugurated regular transatlantic supersonic flight. The first Apple II microcomputers went on sale to the general public. The movie "Star Wars" debuted on the big screen. And the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), with 63 founding members representing 51 countries, convened for the first time, in an auditorium in Munich, Germany.



still guide IFAC's work today, including developing international standards, establishing a code of ethics, developing and reporting on management processes and techniques, and fostering closer relationships with users of financial statements. In addition, the plan called for IFAC to communicate with and facilitate the involvement of its member bodies.

Role of Members in IFAC's Evolution

IFAC came to life on October 7, 1977 at the 11th World Congress of Accountants in Munich, Germany when 63 national professional accountancy bodies signed the Constitution establishing the organization. At the first meeting of the IFAC Assembly in October 1977, a 12-point work plan was developed to guide IFAC committees and staff through the first five years of activities. Many elements of that initial work plan

Developing International Standards

Even before IFAC's founding, the need for a single set of international standards was recognized. During the last few decades, companies have increasingly expanded their operations internationally, and investors have looked to capital and credit markets in other countries for new opportunities. The multiplicity of national accounting and auditing standards,

Cont'd. on page11



The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants

✚ *BICA Announces Official Motto: Upholding integrity, Striving for Excellence*

After more than one year since the launching of the competition to find a suitable motto for the institute, BICA Council chose the submission: "Upholding Integrity, Striving for Excellence". This motto appears to fit right into and highlights the objectives and responsibility of BICA. The winning member will receive a plaque and other gifts at the Annual General Meeting.

✚ *Seminar*

A seminar on the topic 'Examining the Global Economic Environment and its Impact on the Bahamas', was held at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel on September 27, 2007. Speakers and topics included:

• *Examining the Changing Global Economic Environment- An Overview*

'How can the Bahamas Remain Relevant and Competitive' - Senator Hon. Tanya Wright

• *Partnering With Other Countries in the Region to Pool Resources*

'Signing Onto Economic Treaties.....What do we Gain or Loose' - Dr. Thaddeus McDonald, Dean of Social Education Studies at the College of the Bahamas

• *New Money Laundering Initiatives for the Bahamas Are we Meeting International Standards'* - Mr. Anthony Johnson, Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit

✚ *BICA Accountants' Week*

The Institute hosted its annual accountant's week over the period November 5-8, 2007 at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel, under the theme "Upholding Integrity, Striving for Excellence". The event was considered a historic one, as a Seminar held in Nassau at the Hilton Hotel, was transmitted via simulcast to members residing in Freeport. The event featured knowledgeable speakers who delivered timely and relevant topics to the vast number of attendees.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados

✚ A seminar on IFRS for SME's was held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre on August 14, 2007. There were 81 individuals in attendance at the seminar, which was presented by Mr. David Raggay.

✚ An Update on the International Financial Services in Barbados, was hosted by the Institute at the Hilton Barbados Hotel on August 31, 2007. The presenters at the seminar included: Marcia Cyrus, Carolyn Hanson, Katrina Sam, and Glen Ladouceur. Approximately 72 individuals were in attendance at the seminar.

✚ ü A seminar on IFRS was hosted by Mr. Mr. David Raggay

at the Sherbourne Conference Center on September 13, 2007. The event was attended by 183 individuals.

✚ ü On October 19, 2007, ICAB hosted a seminar on 'ACCA Business Essentials for SME's at the Sherbourne Conference Center. There were 98 individuals in attendance at the event.

✚ ü ICAB's Annual Caribbean Conference 2007 was held on November 22, 2007 under the theme 'Corporate Reality- Managing the New Environment. The event was held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize

Activities at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize in the last quarter of 2007 focused on the effective operation

of the Secretariat to provide quality services to its members.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean

✚ In September 2007, the ICAEC- St. Kitts/Nevis Branch convened a general meeting to discuss happenings at the 25th Annual Conference of Accountants which was held over the period June 28-30, 2007. The Branch President, Mr. Donald Thompson provided an evaluation of the event.

✚ On September 21, 2007 the ICAEC - St. Lucia Branch hosted a joint CPD seminar on IFRS with ACCA. The standards reviewed were: IFRS 7, IAS 32 and IAS 39. Approximately 34 persons attended the seminar.

✚ On November 6, 2007, a representative group from the ICAEC- St. Kitts/Nevis Branch met with the individuals

from the World Bank, which is conducting an Accounting and Auditing assessment under the Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes Program (A&A ROSC) in the OECS. The A&A ROSC assessment evaluates the quality of the financial reporting and auditing standards and practices in the corporate sector, as compared to international standards (namely, IFRS/IAS and ISA) and good international practice.

✚ On November 17, 2007, ICAEC-St. Kitts/Nevis Branch representatives conducted a meeting with representatives from the International Monetary fund to discuss tax and revenue issues.

ICAEC Update Cont'd.....

‡ The ICAEC- St.

Lucia Branch hosted a seminar on November 22, 2007, on the IFRS- SME Exposure draft. The workshop was facilitated by David Raggay of Trinidad and Tobago. Approximately 31 persons attended the workshop. The Institute utilized questionnaires to facilitate feedback from participants which will be used as our basis for submitting comments on the Exposure draft.

‡ The ICAEC- St. Lucia Branch is planning to host an end of year social event which will take the form of a cocktail.

‡ The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) in Association with the ICAEC- St. Kitts Nevis Branch will be hosting a seminar on Negotiation skills at the Bird Rock Beach Hotel. The seminar will be held on February 19, 2008, and

presented by Deborah Mendez- Brown LL.D. (Hons.) M.A. (Dispute Resolution). Topics include:

- § The Negotiation Process
- § Assumptions, pitfalls and mistakes
- § The Negotiators dilemma
- § Negotiating Tactics

To confirm your attendance please call (869) 662-8255 or e-mail boddie_carol@yahoo.com.



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana

‡ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana hosted a seminar on October 18, 2007, on the IFRS- SME Exposure draft. The workshop was facilitated by David Raggay of Trinidad and Tobago. Approximately 30 persons attended the workshop.

‡ A joint graduation was scheduled by ACCA and ICAG in October 2007. Guest speaker at the event was the Hon. Minister of Education in Guyana, Sheik Baksh. Also in attendance was

Guyana Minister of Finance and ICAG Member, Dr. Ashni Singh. Approximately 100 ACCA and CAT graduates attended the event.

‡ On November 15, 2007, ICAG in association with ACCA hosted a joint seminar on Corporate Governance. The seminar was presented by Mr. Paul Moxey, Head of Corporate Governance and Risk Management at ACCA, and was attended by approximately 65 individuals.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica

‡ 42nd Annual General Meeting

The Institute's 42nd AGM was held on July 25, at which the following persons were elected for 2007/2008:

- .. Miss Prunella Vassell - President
- .. Mr. Archibald Campbell - Vice-President
- .. Mr. Patrick Chin - Treasurer
- .. Mrs. Ethlyn Norton-Coke - Secretary

Other Council members for 2007/2008 are Miss Vintoria Bernard, Mrs. Ann-marie Rhoden, Mr. Leighton McKnight, Mr. L. Garth Kiddoe, Mr. Dennis Brown, Mr. Martin Gooden, Mr. Linroy Marshall, Mr. Carey Metz and Mr. Dennis Chung.

‡ ICAJ Receives Grant Funding for PSDP Project

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ) has received approval for grant funding under the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) administered by Jamaica Promotions Limited (JAMPRO) to provide training for practitioners and Registered Public Accountants (RPAs) in preparation for the proposed practice monitoring programme to be launched soon.

The duration of the project is nine months and it is intended to enhance the quality of audit practice carried out in Jamaica in keeping with requirements by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and to ensure *increased competitiveness of Jamaican practitioners in the Caribbean and internationally.*

Contract signing for the project involving representatives from the ICAJ and JAMPRO took place on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at the ICAJ Secretariat.

‡ ICAJ President Re-appointed to ACCA's International Assembly

ICAJ President, Prunella Vassell, has been re-appointed Jamaica's representative to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) International Assembly. Miss Vassell will serve for the two-year period, 2007-2009. She was first elected to ACCA's International Assembly in 2005.

‡ ICAJ/IDB Project Update

The ICAJ/IDB Project hosted a discussion session with ICAJ Council members and Committee Chairmen, as well as members of the Board of the Public Accountancy Board on September 11, 2007, to consider the nature and type of regulatory framework suitable for the accountancy profession in Jamaica. On September 13, a focus group session was conducted to present the proposed regulatory framework to regulators and other stakeholders for their review and comment.

Facilitators of the two sessions were ACCA consultants, who have been selected to carry out this component of the project that involves an evaluation of the existing regulatory frame-

Cont'd. on page11

ICAJ Update Cont'd.....

work for the accountancy profession in Jamaica with a view to making recommendations for building Jamaica's compliance and enforcement capabilities in financial reporting and auditing.

The ACCA Consultants also conducted one-on-one interviews with selected stakeholders during September 10-14, with a view to obtaining feedback and comments on the regulatory framework. The ACCA team carried out further meetings during October in fulfilment of this component of the project.

The Project also hosted 2 two-day workshops on International Standards on Auditing on August 17 & 18 and August 24 & 25 and a seminar on IFRS: Assessment & Application on October 19-20 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. ACCA Consultant, Graham Fairclough, conducted the workshops and seminar.

---- **Other ICAJ/IDB Project Activities carried out during October:**

- Training of selected persons to administer an IFAC compliant investigations and disciplinary scheme
- Meeting with regulators to develop a mechanism for coordinating responsibilities among them
- Meeting to consider the possibility of setting up a regional monitoring unit
- Carry out a pilot ISQC1 review of one firm to demonstrate its application and how the review should be carried out
- Training of selected persons to carry out IFRS compliance reviews

❖ **Committee Chairpersons for 2007/2008**

The following Committee Chairpersons have been appointed for 2007/2008:

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago

❖ ACCA Fun Day 2007 – This event was held at the Ato Boldon Stadium on Sunday 12th August 2007

❖ IFRS Seminar - The joint ACCA/ICATT IFRS seminar will now be held on December 13th and 14th 2007, at the Trinidad Hilton.

❖ ACCA/ICATT Professional Graduation - The Professional Graduation was held on Saturday 29th September 2007, at the Trinidad Hilton. This ceremony celebrated 146 affiliates who qualified in December 2006 and June 2007. The numbers were 45 and 101 respectively for December 2006 and June 2007.

❖ ACCA SME Seminar - The ACCA in partnership with ICATT, Business Development Corporation, NEDCO and the Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry & Commerce, held a seminar entitled "Business Essentials for SMEs 2007. This seminar was held on Tuesday 16th October 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from 8:30am to 4:30pm. 7 CPD units were awarded for this seminar.

❖ ICATT's annual Accountant's Week will be held over the period December 2 - 8, 2007. The institute will be hosting a full week of activities simultaneously which will include a Breakfast Meeting focusing on the role of the accounting profession in

Accounting Standards
Audit Practice
Property Development
Bye Laws and Handbook
Continuing Professional Development
Current Affairs
Disciplinary
Finance
Future of the Profession
Investigations
Legislation Review
Library
Membership
Practice Monitoring
Public Relations and Publications
Public Sector
Student Affairs
Taxation
Coke

Dennis Brown
Linroy Marshall
Archibald Campbell
Patrick Chin
Dennis Chung
Carlton Barclay
Stephen Holland
Patrick Chin
L. Garth Kiddoe
Kenneth Lewis
Carey Metz
Elaine Robinson
Leighton McKnight
C. Patricia Hayle
Vintoria Bernard
Ann-marie Rhoden
Martin Gooden
Ethlyn-Norton

❖ **Continuing Professional Development Seminars**

- A seminar entitled, "Taxation: Taxpayers' Rights & Obligations" was held on Saturday, October 6. The topics addressed at the seminar included the Legal Framework of Tax Compliance, Tax Administration – Operation & Procedures and Practice & Convention versus the Law.
- A repeat of the Taxation seminar was held on Friday, November 30, 2007 in Montego Bay for the benefit of ICAJ members, students and other interest persons in the western region of the island.
- A seminar entitled, "Conflicts of Interest: What is your Responsibility?" was held on November 24, 2007. Topics included Professional Ethics; the Importance of Fit and Proper Requirements; Insider Trading Requirements and Ethical Responsibili-

ensuring accountability and good governance of public interest entities. There will be several workshops on topical International Financial Reporting Standards; taxation; a seminar on soft skills necessary for professionals in today's environment; and, the popular wine and cheese event. ICATT's Accountants Weeks has enjoyed tremendous success over the years and is the highlight event of the year in the institute's calendar.

❖ The schedule of activities is as follows:

Monday December 3, 2007 Breakfast Meeting San Fernando Rm, Crown Plaza 7:am – 10.30am
Tuesday December 4, 2007 IFRS 5, Workshop EAST/Neal Massy Room, Arthur Lok Jack 8:am -12

~ North/ Blanchisseuse Rm, Marriott 8:am -12
Wednesday December, 5, 2007 Soft Skills Seminar North/Grand Riviere Rm, Marriott 8:am -12

~ Thursday December 6, th, 2007 IFRS 7, Workshop East/ Arthur Lok Jack 8:am -12
North/ Grand Riviere Rm, Marriott 1:30- 4:30pm

~ Friday December 7th, 2007 Tax Workshop East/ Arthur Lok Jack 8:am -12
North/ Maracas Rm, Marriott 8:am -12

~ Saturday December 8th, 2007 Wine & Cheese 2 Zen Rooftop 7pm-12pm

however, complicated this process by adding reporting costs for companies and making it more difficult for investors to compare financial statements from companies in different countries. Having a single set of international standards was seen as critical to enhancing global trade and investment, improving the transparency of financial reporting, and enabling investors to better compare the financial statements from other countries. In addition, international standards were seen as a means for developing nations to build trust in financial reporting and auditing and, thus, increase investment in their countries.

Serving the Diversity of the Profession

The turn of the century also marked a time of expanding focus for IFAC on serving and giving a voice to other segments of the profession, including small and medium practices (SMPs) and professional accountants in business. To address the needs of these constituencies and to ensure that it had sufficient professional support to carry out its public interest programs, IFAC's staff expanded to include experienced professionals who can address the broader range of issues facing IFAC.

Expanding Markets and Membership

In its first fifteen years, IFAC's membership had doubled to include 106 professional accountancy bodies in 78 countries, representing more than one million accountants worldwide. In 1989, the world witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. The fall not only symbolized the end of the Cold War between Eastern Europe and the West, but also offered the opportunity for many nations to join the economic mainstream and to begin building capital markets. The development of capital markets in these countries required the skills of professional accountants and auditors, and a number of formerly Communist countries saw the establishment or further development of professional accountancy bodies, many of which joined IFAC in the following years.

Celebrating 30 Years of Progress

As part of its work to support developing nations and to facilitate collaboration with its members and associates, IFAC has made spokespersonship and outreach a priority. IFAC holds annual meetings with groups of Chief Executives of its member

ICAJ Update Cont'd.....

ties of Boards.

✚ Graduations 2007

• CAT Graduation Ceremony:

On August 29, 2007, the ICAJ and ACCA recognised the achievement of 109 students who successfully completed the June and December 2006 sittings of the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) Examinations. The Graduation Ceremony took place at the Knutsford Court Hotel.

In keeping with the practice of recognising excellence, the ICAJ decided that as of this year, instead of one annual award covering the two examination diets, an award would be presented in respect of each of the June and December examination diets. Also, for the first time in the history of the CAT

bodies in various parts of the world to be able to keep a finger on the pulse of the profession's challenges as well as on national initiatives. To further strengthen communications, IFAC's President, Chief Executive Officer, and other leaders regularly visit member bodies around the world. In the past two years alone, IFAC's President and CEO visited nearly 40 member bodies in 34 countries on six continents.

Together with member bodies, IFAC has also developed tools to make resources and information more widely available to accounting professionals worldwide. In October 2006, IFAC and 13 member bodies launched the KnowledgeNet for Professional Accountants (IFACnet.com), a global multilingual search engine targeted specifically to professional accountants. Member bodies also played a key role in the development and launch in August 2007 of the multilingual IFAC website that features information and news in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish, and English, IFAC's official language. IFAC

Further Information
For more information on IFAC and its committees and standard-setting boards, visit its website at <http://www.ifac.org>. More information on IFAC's history and development is available at <http://www.ifac.org/history>. All IFAC standards and guidance can be downloaded free-of-charge from the IFAC online bookstore: <http://www.ifac.org/store>. The Public Interest Oversight Board's website can be viewed at <http://www.ipiob.org>.

and its members and associates are also working together in communicating key messages, including the attractiveness of the profession, its role in economic growth and development, and the profession's shared ethical values, among others.

In marking its 30th anniversary, IFAC celebrates Thirty Years of Progress that have been achieved by working with member bodies and associates, regional accountancy organizations, and the hundreds of professionals who serve and have served as volunteers on IFAC boards and committees. It is ultimately their dedication that has contributed to the evolution of IFAC and that has encouraged accountants worldwide to carry out *their* responsibilities with integrity, transparency and expertise, and in so doing, to make positive and lasting contributions to the societies in which they work and live.

programme, the ICAJ presented an award to the youngest graduate amongst those completing the June and December examination diets. This award is the Sushil Jain Award and will be presented annually.

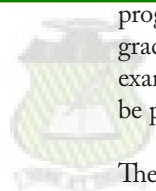
The June 2006 CAT Awardee was Sanike Sutherland and the December 2006 Award was presented to Sydney Seaton. The inaugural Sushil Jain (CAT) Awardee was Kay-ann Gibbs.

• ICAJ/ACCA Joint Graduation Ceremony:

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants honoured 69 students who successfully completed the December 2006 and June 2007 sittings of the Joint Scheme Examinations.

The students were honoured at a Graduation Ceremony and

Cont'd. on page12



ICAJ Update Cont'd.....

Cocktail Reception on Saturday, October 20, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Awards were also presented to graduates in recognition of their outstanding performance in the examinations.

Miss Brenda Lee Tang, Head of Policy Development, ACCA, delivered brief remarks to the graduates on behalf of ACCA and the keynote address was delivered by Professor the Hon. Errol Morrison, President, University of Technology, Jamaica.

The ICAJ Part 1 Examination Award, which is given to any student passing all three subjects at the first attempt, in one sitting with an average mark of not less than 60 percent, was presented to:

- Mark Christopher Howell (December 2006 student)
- Tameka Salmon (December 2006 student)
- Shena Cameron (June 2007 student)
- Camisha Sinanon (June 2007 student)

The ICAJ Part 3 Examination Award, which is given to the student completing Part 3 in not more than two consecutive sittings with the highest average mark of those who sat the examinations, was presented to:

- Nattisha Cornwall (December 2006 graduate)
- Natalie Dyer (June 2007 graduate)

The Sushil Jain Award, presented to the youngest candidate who completes the final stage of the ICAJ/ACCA Examinations on the first attempt each year, was presented to Latoya Hylton (June 2007 graduate).

✚ *Cocktail Reception For Prospective Members*

As part of its ongoing initiative to increase membership growth, the ICAJ hosted a cocktail reception for ACCA and MSc. Ac-

counting (UWI Mona) graduates as well as AICPA and CGA qualified persons at the Knutsford Court Hotel on November 28, 2007. The graduates were informed about the benefits of the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation and the procedures for applying for membership of the ICAJ.

✚ *Taxation Forum*

The ICAJ hosted its annual Taxation Forum on November 13, 2007 under the theme, "Improving the Delivery of Tax Services as a means of Enhancing Tax Compliance" at the Knutsford Court Hotel starting at 4:00 p.m. The forum addressed issues relating to Tax Arrears, Tax Collection Act, Interest & Penalty, GCT: Amendments to the System, Online Payment, Asset Tax, and Withholding Tax.

Discussions were led by members of the ICAJ Taxation Committee and representatives from the Taxpayer Audit and Assessment Department (TAAD).

-----What's Coming Up:-----

- December 6, 2007 - Annual Awards Dinner (Jamaica Pegasus Hotel)
- January 13, 2008 - 43rd Anniversary Church Service (Kingston)
- January 20, 2008 - 43rd Anniversary Church Service (Montego Bay)
- February 2008 - 43rd Anniversary Luncheon (Montego Bay)



Joke Corner - General

answered, "No."

The next question, intended for people who had answered in the affirmative to the last one, was "Why?" The applicant answered it anyway: "Never got caught."

🍏 Employer to applicant: "In this job we need someone who is responsible."

Applicant: "I'm the one you want. On my last job, every time anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

🍏 A very successful partner in a big six firm had a peculiar habit. He will go to his desk open a locked drawer, look inside, lock the drawer again, and start his work. His subordinates knew

that he hid the secret of his success in the drawer, they waited

for the opportunity. One day when the partner had gone out of the city, the juniors decided to make a break. They broke into the drawer, breathlessly, and looked inside. There was one small piece of paper inside - it said - "left is debit and right is credit."

🍏 A man applied for a job as an industrial spy. Together with several other applicants, he was given a sealed envelope and told to take it to the fourth floor. As soon as the man was alone, he stepped into an empty hallway and opened the envelope. Inside, a message read: "You're our kind of person. "Report to the fifth floor Personnel Office".

🍏 A big company offered \$50 for each money-saving idea submitted by its employees. First prize went to the employee who suggested the award be cut to \$25.