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J.E. (Betty) Brathwaite
this Newsletter issue.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to provide you with an update of ICAC's activities during the last quarter and to share with you my vision for the ICAC and the regional accountancy profession via

I had the opportunity to outline my vision for the ICAC at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago's (ICATT) Annual International Accounting & Finance Conference held on November 2nd and 3rd, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, where I delivered remarks on behalf of the ICAC. I commend ICATT for organising such a high-quality conference focussing on 'Innovations in Business Financial Reporting & Governance'. The conference, which featured dynamic regional and international speakers, highlighted the critical role of accounting and finance professionals in facilitating innovation, creativity and competitiveness in businesses and as contributors to national development.

Among my top priorities as President is to ensure that the ICAC enhances the reputation and role of accountants within the region. Businesses today expect us to remain the custodians of the organisation but more importantly, we should play an increasingly role as trusted advisors. As trusted advisors, accountants no longer just report to shareholders but work with a multitude of regulators to ensure that businesses are effectively managed. Similarly, businesses expect us to 'get with it' in order to keep up with their needs and the shifting paradigms that they are forced to create as a result of changing global economic realities.

An ACCA published report entitled 'Towards Greater Convergence' provides evidence for policy makers and regulators that global convergence would be beneficial on a number of fronts – not just for IFRS but also for audit and other areas such as corpo-

rate governance and financial reporting. The research shows that:

- The effect of the financial crisis has improved the perception of global standards among investors and issuers, with over half (52 per cent) saying they view global standards such as IFRSs more positively in the wake of economic crisis than in the last few years.
- 60 per cent of respondents see international standards as facilitators of more consistent regulation.
- Investors favour global auditing standards more than CFOs – 27 per cent of CFOs see some benefit from these, compared with nearly twice as many – 49 per cent - who see little or no benefit.
- Rising demands from investors and customers for greater disclosure is fuelling an appetite for global standards in non-financial reporting. Far more CFOs (37%) believe standards will improve non-financial reports, such as those on corporate social responsibility and environmental risk, than the nine per cent who think otherwise.
- Executives believe that global standards or benchmarks in corporate governance would encourage more long term thinking with 70 per cent of both CFOs and Investors believing that standards for corporate governance would encourage more long term thinking in the boardroom.
- There is also a clear recognition of the potential benefits of integrated reporting, with more than two thirds of those surveyed saying there is much to be gained – both in terms of better decision-making (39 per cent) and a more accurate picture of overall performance (28 per cent) from the presentation of financial, governance and sustainability information in an integrated format.

With all of these demands, we need to embrace a simple concept of 'work smarter, not harder – and work together'. As the late Steve Jobs was widely quoted as saying, "kick start your brain" because innovation

does not exist without creativity, and for Jobs, creativity was the act of connecting things – in other words integration – and in our language, ‘global accounting standards’. We cannot go forward as a body of professionals, in the interest of our clients and our own growth without embracing such ‘radical’ concepts.

The ICAC as a regional body will continue its efforts to enhance and build the reputation of accountants within the region through various initiatives such as our annual Caribbean conference. Our annual conference continues to provide a forum for accounting and finance professionals from the region to discuss critical issues and share ideas and best practices that will enhance their role and further build the profession. This is of particular importance given the changing role that accounting professionals are being called upon to play in businesses. The 30th Annual Caribbean Conference of Accounts takes place in Antigua & Barbuda over the period June 21-23, 2012 and we encourage you to save this date in your calendar.

Regional Contribution/Involvement

At the ICAC Board Meeting in September, Kyle Rudden, Actuary and Chartered Accountant, who formerly served as Director on the ICAC Board, was appointed as our representative on the recently established Caribbean Actuarial Association Advisory Council. The Council comprises Caribbean regulators, representatives of major associations in the region including the insurance industry and the accountancy profession and the ICAC is pleased to serve the Caribbean community via this body. We are confident that we will make a meaningful contribution to the CAA Advisory Council through the input of our representative.

The ICAC also continues to make a meaningful contribution regionally through our representation by immediate Past President Harryram Parmesar on the Board of Trustees of the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund and ICAC Secretary and Director, Anthony Pierre on the Board of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

In July 2009, the ICAC welcomed the release of IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and encouraged member institutes to adopt the Standard. Since then, the ICAC embarked on a number of initiatives in collaboration with member institutes to assist with the effective implementation of IFRS for SMEs regionally. Most recently, we had an opportunity to partner with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados (ICAB) and the IFRS Foundation to host a IFRS for SMEs Train-the-Trainer Caribbean Workshop over the period November 22-24, 2011 in Barbados. The workshop was intended to provide participants with intensive training on the Standard and develop training expertise in the region in the application of the Standard. The event was a great success attracting delegates from all across the region. Further detail on this workshop is included in another section of this Newsletter.

International Contribution

We continue to pursue initiatives to increase the ICAC’s role and contribution at the international level. We are also committed to building strategic relationships with international bodies that can help to grow and enhance ICAC and the regional accountancy profession.

In this regard, I was pleased to represent ICAC at the Council Meeting of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) held in Berlin, Germany from November 16-17, 2011. The ICAC was also represented at IFAC’s consultative meeting for Regional Organisations (RO) and Acknowledged Accountancy Groupings

(AG) held on November 15, 2011 in conjunction with the Council Meeting.

The consultative meeting was very informative as it provided a platform for regional organisations and accountancy groupings, including the ICAC, to share their experiences and challenges and to focus on opportunities for future collaboration. It was very heartening to realize that other AGs and ROs have similar challenges to those that we experience in the Caribbean. This is a great forum in which we can seek to leverage and learn from each other’s experiences. The meeting also provided the opportunity for ICAC to further develop linkages with other accountancy bodies including the Inter-American Accounting Association (IAA), the regional accountancy grouping for the Americas.

The ICAC and ICATT were also represented by Kyle Rudden at the first congress of the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA) held in Kenya on November 7-9. PAFA is the regional grouping of the Institutes in Africa. Kyle had the opportunity to address the PAFA Congress and to bring greetings on behalf of ICAC as a former Director of the Board. A report on the outcome of the Congress and discussions pursued with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Kenya will be presented to the ICAC Board at its next meeting.

Member Body Development

In keeping with the ICAC’s commitment to support our Associate Member, the Suriname Association of Accountants (SUVA) over the next three years to assist in further developing its framework and governance structure, I was pleased to present a cheque donation on behalf of the ICAC to SUVA. The cheque was formally presented to Rudie Tjong A. Hung, SUVA’s President at the 61st Board of Directors Meeting held in Barbados on September 24, 2011. The contribution represents a share of ICAC’s profits from a joint seminar hosted by SUVA and ICAC in May of this year.

The ICAC in collaboration with ICATT is also providing mentorship support to SUVA. Under this important initiative, ICATT has been offering technical assistance to SUVA since August 2011 to help strengthen the institutional capacity of the Association and develop its CPD training programme. Support is also being given to SUVA regarding the adoption and implementation of IFRS and IFRS for SMEs and the establishment of appropriate regulatory systems for the accountancy profession in Suriname as well as the training of its management personnel.

The ICAC is very grateful for the invaluable support being provided by ICATT as we work to assist with the development and strengthening of the accountancy association in Suriname. I believe that this is the kind of collaboration and cooperation that will further strengthen the profession regionally. I would like to personally thank ICATT President, Anthony Pierre and the Council for the commitment shown to the region and for being a “big brother and mentor” to a fledgling organisation.

Finally, I wish to extend season’s greetings to all ICAC Directors and their families and to the Presidents, members of Council and staff of regional institutes, as well as to the representatives of our Affiliate and Associate members. I also wish to thank the Chief Executive Officer of the ICAC, Miss Misha Lobban and Administrative Assistant, Lomeah Reid, for their support during the year and look forward to their continued support in the New Year.

**J.E. (Betty) Brathwaite
President**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The following are highlights of the issues discussed at the ICAC's 61st Board of Directors' Meeting held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Accra Beach Hotel, Christ Church, Barbados.

ICAC/ACCA Practice Monitoring Programme – Update

Practice monitoring reviews by ACCA's team are ongoing in Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean. The feedback from practitioners in these territories has been positive and they have been seeing the benefits of the monitoring reviews in helping to improve their audit procedures and the quality of audits.

The ICAC continues to work with its member institutes in The Bahamas and Belize to encourage the implementation of the practice monitoring process within these territories.

The ICAC Board is considering the establishment of a regional monitoring unit to ensure the ongoing implementation of monitoring reviews within member territories. This is necessary to ensure that effective quality assurance review systems exist within the regional accountancy profession.

Caribbean Actuarial Association (CAA) Advisory Council



Kyle Rudden

The ICAC Board formerly appointed Kyle Rudden, Actuary and Chartered Accountant to serve as ICAC's representative on the recently established CAA Advisory Council with effect from October 1, 2011.

The Advisory Council is intended to facilitate communication with organizations that use the services of actuaries in the Caribbean and to assist the CAA to develop actuarial standards for the region. The Council comprises Caribbean regulators, representatives of

major associations in the region including the insurance industry and the accountancy profession.

Kyle Rudden is the Managing Director and Consulting Actuary of KR Services Limited in Trinidad and Tobago. He is an Actuary and Accountant with over 25 years' consultancy experience in the Caribbean and Central and South America. His areas of specialization include the challenges in application and interpretation of international financial reporting and actuarial standards in developing countries and illiquid markets. He has advised private and public sector clients on matters including social security reform; valuation and financial reporting of health and non-life insurance; investments; pensions and other employee benefits.

Kyle is a Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT) and a former Director of the ICAC Board.

The ICAC is pleased to serve on the CAA Advisory Council and to contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of this regional body.

Project for the accounting sector in preparation for negotiation of MRAs under EPA

Since 2008, the CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) has been working with regional professional bodies, particularly engineers, architects and accountants, to prepare these sectors for the negotiation of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with respect to the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which grants access to Caribbean services, firms and professionals in a range of sectors in the EU.

In this regard, the OTN and the ICAC have been working on a project to support the accounting sector within CARIFORUM countries as they prepare to capitalise on opportunities available under the EPA. The overall objective of the proposed project is to identify specific areas in which mutual recognition can facilitate increased CARIFORUM-EC trade in accounting services and to develop a framework for the negotiation of MRAs for the accountancy profession, where appropriate. The MRAs are also expected to stimulate harmonisation of certification and regulations in the region and thereby further the regional integration process.

A proposal was submitted to the Caribbean Development Bank's CARTFund in 2010 to seek funding to support the proposed project, which is intended to benefit members and associate members of ICAC, that is, national accounting associations in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), namely Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Other associations within CARIFORUM territories not covered by the ICAC, primarily, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, will also be targeted.

The expected outcomes of the project will be:

- harmonisation of the legal and regulatory framework with in CARIFORUM and recognition of equivalent qualifications across CARIFORUM countries;
- development of regional negotiating positions for the accounting sector; and
- provision of business development support services to members to improve their capacity to take advantage of the business opportunities identified in EU markets.

The Caribbean Development Bank has agreed to fund 78% of the total cost of the project and the remaining 22% is to be funded by ICAC in the form of cash and in-kind resources.

The ICAC Board at its 61st meeting reviewed recommendations submitted by the CARTFUND Steering Committee meeting in relation to the project as well as the project budget and the requirements to be met by the ICAC.

The ICAC is currently in discussions with its member bodies regarding their input and level of contribution towards this proposed initiative which aims to benefit the regional accounting profession.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

ACCA Announces Project for On Demand Exams

ACCA has signed a contract with Summit Consulting Group to deliver all ACCA examinations online through an innovative e-Assessment programme. The contract with Summit means that ACCA's move to online delivery will bring greater choice and access for employers and students around the world who select ACCA qualifications for their professional training.

Summit Consulting Group will work with ACCA to introduce e-Assessment on a phased basis and work with ACCA to ensure its existing Computer Based Exams (CBE) - such as Managing Costs and Finance and Accountant in Business - will still be available. The first papers will transition to the new system in 2012 with all papers being phased over the next few years. ACCA first introduced Computer Based Exams (CBE) in 1998, has since implemented e-paper production and e-marking of its scripts.

ACCA Report: Audit changes must be meaningful not superficial

Ill-advised changes to audit, which add costs to business for little benefit, could result from the volume of official inquiries internationally into the role of audit in the financial crisis, warns ACCA. In a policy paper, **Audit under fire: a review of the post-financial crisis inquiries**, ACCA addresses the issues that have been raised during investigations by the UK House of Lords, the European Commission and the US senate.

In Singapore and elsewhere, regulators are also actively engaged in stakeholder consultations to assess how audit can be enhanced. The EC has promised legislative changes by the end of 2011. Several recurring themes have emerged from the various inquiries including audit concentration, going concern issues, joint audits, mandatory audit rotation and the effect of International Financial Reporting Standards. ACCA is concerned that the political imperative for visible change may result in the wrong measures being adopted.

ACCA believes some of the key issues include:

- Audit concentration
- Audit independence
- Audit's role
- Going concern
- Auditor-Regulator dialogue
- Small business
- International Financial Reporting Standards

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)

AICPA-CIMA Agreement Approved

The governing Council of the AICPA voted unanimously to approve an agreement with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants to create a new Chartered Global Management Ac-

countant designation for professional management accountants worldwide. Read more on the new CGMA website: <http://www.cgma.com/>.

IIRC Roundtable held in New York, Co-convened by AICPA and Ceres

The International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) held a roundtable meeting in New York to gather perspectives on integrating governance, environmental and social performance information into organizational financial reporting. The meeting was co-convened by the AICPA and Ceres. The IIRC (<http://www.theiirc.org>), formed in 2010, is a product of The Prince of Wales Accounting for Sustainability project and the Global Reporting Initiative.

Certified General Accountants Association of Canada (CGA-Canada)

The Need for Tax Simplification – A Challenge and an Opportunity

Canada's overly complex tax system costs consumers, businesses and the economy more than just tax bills. The time and money spent to comply with the tax system add up to a significant hidden cost, and today's fragile economic recovery makes it a good time to open the dialogue on tax simplification, says a new study commissioned by CGA-Canada.

The Need for Tax Simplification – A Challenge and an Opportunity highlights key issues around tax simplification. The Association aims to use the study to build awareness and promote discussion among interested stakeholders as a meaningful contribution to an important subject of public policy.

The study considers both the challenge of a potentially high political cost of making difficult tax reform decisions, and the opportunity to yield substantial savings and contribute to a sustainable fiscal structure. The study points out that there have been few attempts to simplify the tax system since its creation in 1917. It considers the nature and reasons for tax complexity and discusses the need for a review of both the personal and corporate income tax systems. With increasing fiscal pressures from demographic trends, and the threat of Canada lagging behind trading partners like the UK, Australia and the US on tax modernization, the new study proposes that it is the right time to set a clear course to simplify our tax system.

Tax simplification is a key pillar of CGA-Canada's advocacy programme.

The Effects of IFRS on Financial Ratios: Early Evidence in Canada This timely CGA-Canada publication examines the impact of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) on key financial ratios of public Canadian companies as they transition to the new financial reporting regime this year. IFRS replaces Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for publicly accountable enterprises and affects figures presented in financial statements. The differences between IFRS and pre-changeover

Canadian GAAP regimes may lead to variances in financial ratios – the key indicators on which investors rely to gauge a company's financial performance. The variances in ratios can impair the comparability and analysis of historic trends. The report does point to opportunities to mitigate these challenges. Companies are initially required to produce statements using both sets of accounting standards.

The recommendations of the report are:

- Analysts should continue to be cautious when examining financial ratios during the transition to IFRS in Canada.
- Financial statement users need to be aware of the main features of IFRS that differ from pre-changeover Canadian GAAP and distinguish between reported performance changes caused by the transition to IFRS from those caused by changes in the business.
- Relying on cash-flow analysis is recommended, particularly in cases where accounting practices are subject to uncertainty or discretion of management. Another possible solution may lie in recalculating ratios using IFRS retroactive information presented in the year of transition.
- Financial statement users are advised to verify the uniformity of underlying figures when using gross profit and operating profit margins in profitability analysis.
- The use of comprehensive-ROA (return on assets) and comprehensive ROE (return on equity) is recommended to enhance comparability when analyzing comprehensive income. These represent an adaptation of the standard ROA/ROE calculations which substitute comprehensive income as the numerator.

Certified Management Accountants (Canada) Nova Scotia, Bermuda, and the Caribbean partner

CMA Graduating Class in Eastern Caribbean

CMA convocations for the first graduating classes of the CMA Caribbean programme took place at ceremonies on November 24 and 25, at the Trinidad Hyatt Regency and Barbados Hilton respectively. Among the graduates were nine students of the first intake of the new, face-to-face CMA Professional Programme (as introduced in Barbados and Trinidad just three years ago) as well as the first group of senior leaders in the Caribbean to take part in our Executive CMA Programme. Additionally, 14 Eastern Caribbean students will receive the CMA Certificate of Foundational Studies in accounting as a mid-point accomplishment on their path to full CMA accreditation.

CMA Professional Programmes Now Offered in Jamaica

CMA has begun offering its full suite of accreditation programmes in Jamaica, with classes having begun in September 2011. Programmes now available to individuals in Jamaica include the CMA Foundation Studies Programme, CMA Professional Programme, and the Executive CMA programme.

Throughout the Caribbean, CMA's programmes are offered directly through CMA as well as in partnership with the University of the West Indies and their associated school of business.

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

ICAEW Online Training Available to ICAC members

• ICAEW International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) Programme

The ICAEW's ISAs programme is aimed at users and preparers and provides a clear understanding of clarified ISAs and the audit process.

<http://www.icaew.com/en/qualifications-and-programmes/icaew-isas-programme>

• IFRS Certificate

ICAEW's IFRSs learning and assessment programme will give you the guidance and knowledge to fully understand and apply IFRS requirements with confidence. Accessible online, the certificate level learning and assessment programme is flexible and self-taught.

<http://www.icaew.com/en/qualifications-and-programmes/financial-reporting-learning-programmes/ifrss-learning-and-assessment-programme>

• IFRS for SMEs Learning and Assessment Programme

ICAEW's learning and assessment programme tailored for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), provides a comprehensive overview of the IFRS for SMEs standard and will develop your knowledge in this area.

<http://www.icaew.com/en/qualifications-and-programmes/financial-reporting-learning-programmes/ifrs-for-smes>

• Certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting (Cert IPSFR)

While supporting both direct IPSASs adoption and implementation of IFRSs modified for the public sector, the programme provides knowledge that will help guide you and your organisation.

<http://www.icaew.com/en/qualifications-and-programmes/financial-reporting-learning-programmes/cert-ipsfr>

• Business Sustainability Programme:

The BSP is an e-learning programme covering Corporate Responsibility and the issues facing companies in becoming sustainable. The programme consists of five e-learning modules and is of benefit to:

- finance, accounting and business professionals
- those who wish to refresh / gain new knowledge in this area
- those who need a practical guide to designing, implementing, measuring the performance of and reporting on CR strategy

<http://www.icaew.com/en/qualifications-and-programmes/bsp>

IFAC Technical Manager Addresses ICAC's 5th Regional CEOs Forum

IFAC's Technical Manager for Member Body Development, Joseph Bryson, was the featured speaker at the ICAC's 5th Regional CEOs Forum held on November 4, 2011 in Trinidad and Tobago.

The forum provided representatives of ICAC member bodies in the region (who are also members of IFAC) with guidance in the preparation of Action Plans for IFAC's Compliance Programme. Discussions also focussed on IFAC's SMOs and Strategic Planning for the Action Plan process

Mr. Bryson gave a detailed presentation on IFAC's SMOs and its Compliance Programme which are intended to ensure high quality standards and performance among professional accountants globally. The seven SMOs which are:

- SMO 1: Quality Assurance
- SMO 2: International Education Standards for Professional Accountants and Other
- IAESB Guidance
- SMO 3: International Standards, Related Practice Statements and Other Papers
- Issued by the IAASB
- SMO 4: IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants
- SMO 5: International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Other IPSASB Guidance
- SMO 6: Investigation and Discipline
- SMO 7: International Financial Reporting Standards



Joseph Bryson, IFAC's Technical Manager for Member Body Development

Joseph Bryson (seated at centre) with ICAC President, Betty Brathwaite (at right) and ICAC CEO, Misha Lobban (at left). Standing from left to right are, Reginald Farley, Executive Director, ICAB; Andrew Brathwaite, President, ICAB; Anthony Pierre, President, ICATT; Derek Mohammed, 1st Vice President, ICATT and Subert Gilbert, General Manager, ICATT.



Mr. Bryson emphasized that IFAC member bodies are required to participate in IFAC's Compliance Programme, an important prerequisite to remain in good standing as members of the global accountancy body. He also provided hands-on guidance on preparation and planning for the completion of Action Plans for IFAC's Compliance Programme.

He also addressed the issue of how member bodies in the Caribbean can maintain good corporate governance practices and outline

the ways in which IFAC is committed to working with ICAC and its member bodies in the region.

Joseph Bryson has worked in the IFAC Quality and Member Relations department since March 2008. He is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of IFAC's Compliance Programme and is in charge of the portfolio of member bodies and associates from Latin America and Caribbean Region. He also manages inter-institutional relations at the regional level.

Representatives from the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the regional forum and shared their experience in formulating their respective Action Plans. Discussions also focussed on the challenges facing ICAC and regional institutes and

how to leverage support and resources to further strengthen the accountancy profession.

"We were very pleased to have the participation of IFAC and look forward to facilitating ongoing communication and interaction between the global accountancy body and ICAC member institutes

IFRS for SMEs Train-the-Trainer Caribbean Workshop in Barbados

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados (ICAB) in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) and the IFRS Foundation, hosted a three-day IFRS for SMEs Train-the-Trainer Caribbean Workshop over the period November 22 - 24, 2011 at the Accra Beach Hotel & Resort, Barbados.

The objective of the workshop was to provide stakeholders in the Caribbean, including trainers, accountants, auditors, standard-setters and regulators, with the expertise to promote high quality implementation of IFRS for SMEs and to develop training capacity in the application of IFRS for SMEs in the region. It also provided a forum for participants to interact, share experiences and discuss common issues in relation to the IFRS for SMEs.

The workshop attracted 57 participants from Barbados, Trinidad



Michael Wells of the IFRS Foundation (standing at left) addresses participants at the IFRS Train-the-Trainer Caribbean Workshop

& Tobago, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Suriname and Belize. It provided intensive

coverage of IFRS for SMEs, application guidance issued by the SME Implementation Group and training material published by the IFRS Foundation.

“The workshop was well received by participants and we were privileged to have the opportunity to interact with representatives of the world standard-setter, the International Accounting Standards Board, and have the Standard explained from their perspective. This simplified Standard is very important to the region for several reasons, and we are confident that the workshop participants are now well-equipped to make a meaningful contribution to the implementation of the Standard in their respective territories. We are also grateful to the Caribbean Development Bank for their sponsorship that allowed us to offer the workshop at a reduced cost,” states ICAB President, Andrew Brathwaite.

Workshop facilitators were Paul Pacter, IASB member and Chairman of the SME Implementation Group and Michael Wells, Director, IFRS Education Initiative, IFRS Foundation.

Paul Pacter was appointed to the Board of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) on July 1, 2010. Prior to this, he was Director of Standards for Small and Medium -sized Entities at the IASB, where he led the development of the International Financial Reporting Standard for SMEs. He has also served on the US Financial Accounting Standards Board as Deputy Director of Research and Executive Director of the Financial Accounting Foundation.

Michael Wells leads the Education Initiative of the IFRS Foundation and has also served as a member of a number of international account-

ancy education advisory groups.

ICAC’s Regional CEOs Forum cont’d.

through the regional CEOs Forum,” states ICAC’s Chief Executive Officer, Misha Lobban.

“The Forum which comprises CEOs and Executive Directors of regional institutes was introduced in 2010 as part of the ICAC’s strategic objectives to strengthen communication linkages with its member institutes and to support the advancement of regional goals and initiatives. The forum has also been successful in encouraging greater collaboration and the sharing of experiences and best practices among CEOs of regional institutes,” Miss Lobban added.

ICAC President, Betty Brathwaite also notes that, “CEOs/Executive Directors of regional institutes have a critical role to play in

helping to support and advance the goals and objectives of the ICAC. It is also important for regional institutes to work together in a focused way in order for us to build a strong and cohesive regional accountancy profession.”

The 5th Regional CEOs Forum was hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad & Tobago. It was a follow-up to the 4th ICAC regional forum held on September 23, 2011 in Barbados at which it was proposed that IFAC’s representative should be invited to interface with member bodies on the Action Plan for the IFAC Compliance Programme.

FYI

CAC's 2012 Conference - Antigua

The ICAC 30th Caribbean Conference of Accountants will be held from June 21 – 23, 2012 in Antigua; one of the Caribbean's premier tourist destinations.

The 2012 conference is being hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda branch) under the theme, *Playing to Win – Bowling over the Challenges*.

According to Chairman of ICAEC-Antigua & Barbuda branch, Erwin Southwell, "The theme was formulated within the context of our rich cricketing tradition and in honor of two West Indies cricket icons from Antigua who exemplified a spirit of endurance and determination to overcome challenges in order to succeed."

"The first, Sir Vivian Richards, was a fierce competitor, who faced challenging situations and always played to win with a positive "never die" attitude. The second is Curtley Ambrose, who was recently inducted into the International Cricket Hall of Fame. His role in West Indies cricket was as an aggressive fast bowler, focused on attacking the batsmen's stumps and eventually dismissing many of them. We can learn positive lessons from the approach and attitude of these sportsmen that can help us to develop effective strategies to overcome the many challenges impacting the accounting profession and the business environment within the Caribbean region," he adds.

The technical sessions will therefore focus on examining the increasing challenges facing the accounting profession as well as Caribbean economies and the strategies to effectively overcome them.

A social events programme showcasing the rich culture of Antigua and Barbuda is also being planned to ensure that conference delegates and their spouses experience an unforgettable time in Antigua.

Conference Fees:	
Delegates	- US \$500 (members of ICAC member institutes)
	- US \$550 (non-members)
Spouses	- US \$250

Conference Hotel and Accommodation:

The 2012 Conference will be held at the Grand Royal Antigua Beach Resort, a 40-acre, tropical garden estate bordered by a protected cove and half-mile of glistening beach. This Caribbean beach hotel sits on Antigua's western coast, nestled into a hillside at breathtaking Deep Bay. Visit the hotel's website at <http://www.grandroyalantigua.com/> to learn more.

Special negotiated rates for conference delegates are as follows:

	Category	
	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Room Only		
Mountain View	US \$80	US \$80
Lagoon View	US \$90	US \$90
Room & Breakfast		
Mountain View	US \$95	US \$110
Lagoon View	US \$105	US \$120

*Rates quoted are per night and are exclusive of 20.5% Government taxes and service charges.

Save the date of June 21 - 23, 2012 on your calendars and register early for the 30th Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants and benefit from discounted early bird registration fees.

See you in Antigua in June 2012!!!!

International

SUSTAINABILITY 2012 Conference



We see more than numbers.

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Needhams Point, St Michael

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 Protecting the Environment
 Developing People

Keynote Speaker

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 Member of the UN Global Panel on Sustainability

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The Role of SMPs in Greening Small Business

By Sylvie Voghel, SMP Committee Chair and Paul Thompson, Deputy Director, SME and SMP Affairs, IFAC

This article examines the relevance of integrated reporting to small business and highlights how small- and medium-sized practices (SMPs) can help small businesses improve their environmental performance and is reprinted with permission.

Introduction

While the significant challenges posed by sustainable development and sustainability have been well recognized for some time, management of these challenges has yet to become a core competency of most organizations—big and small. Why? First, while awareness among business leaders is growing, many are not eco-literate. They do not recognize the benefits of making environmentally sustainable business choices, including reducing their carbon footprint, and contributing to cleaner water and better air quality. Second, many business leaders do not believe that the environment is a legitimate business concern. Many do not realize that with minimal investment in more efficient technology and simple changes in human behavior, their organizations can reap significant cost savings.

Fortunately, there are signs that things are changing. According to a recent research study conducted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs) are placing greater emphasis on developing a sustainability strategy as it becomes increasingly linked to business performance.

However, most SMEs that are moving toward sustainability seem to be doing so in response to market pressures in the supply chain—large corporate customers are imposing requirements on their SME suppliers as a condition of their purchase order to reduce their own carbon footprint and/or fulfill their environmental reporting obligations. But there are other reasons to embrace the green agenda.

Why should SMEs embrace the green agenda?

There is mounting scientific evidence that business needs to embrace the green agenda by adopting more sustainable business practices, including the development and implementation of more eco-efficient products and services. And, small business should not be exempt. Why? Small business is the cornerstone of most—if not all—national economies. According to data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the SME sector accounts for the majority share of private sector GDP, economic growth, and employment in OECD economies and beyond, and, consequently, has a carbon footprint comparable with that of the listed-company sector.

Some claim the SME sector is often ignored or given low priority when solutions or tools to address business issues are designed. It is argued that the tools makers and policy shapers are typically the large corporate players and governments, and “small” is not typically part of their repertoire. Yet, given their cumulative environmental impact, small businesses need to be a part of the

solution. To do so, they may need the help of their most trusted business advisor, the professional accountant.

How can professional accountants help SMEs green their businesses?

SMPs are well positioned to take advantage of SMEs’ increasing demand for value-added business advisory services, including sustainable business advice (see *The Role of SMPs in Providing Business Support to SMEs*). As small businesses themselves, SMPs understand and appreciate the needs of their SME clients, including the need for tools that are affordable and practical.

SMPs also appreciate the need for their small business clients to formalize their operations to instill better management control, which can help SMEs become more eco-efficient, do more with less and hence, increase and green their bottom line. For example, accountants can advise on the benefits of reducing energy costs, from simple behavioral changes aimed at eliminating waste, to investment in new equipment and alternate sources of energy.

SMPs can also advise SMEs on developing an Environmental Management System (EMS), which enables an organization of any size or type to identify and control the environmental impact of its activities, products or services; set and achieve environmental targets; and demonstrate that these targets have been achieved. Implementing an EMS should lead to cost savings and a reduction in the organization’s carbon footprint. Business advisory in this area can include:

- 1) informing clients about the value of an EMS, and connecting them to tools to help them get started; and
- 2) helping them prepare, for example, an EnviroReady Report to demonstrate the presence of a robust and credible EMS and help position them as good corporate citizens; and
- 3) help SMEs meet the reporting needs of their large, listed suppliers who often have to meet certain requirements, such as compliance with the International Organization for Standardization’s ISO 14001 dealing with EMS.

In addition, in the next few years, increasing numbers of SME owner-managers will be retiring and seeking to sell their businesses. Buyers are likely becoming more discerning when it comes to the green credentials of potential purchase targets. All this opens opportunities for SMPs to build on their existing relationships and offer sustainable business advice, helping clients to comply with sustainable reporting and any attendant assurance requirements, green their business, improve their bottom line, and attract new clients or buyers.

What tools can SMPs use to help SMEs green their business?

IFAC’s Sustainability Framework (Section 2.1) includes a number

of relatively simple steps that SMEs can take to lower costs through minimizing waste. SMPs can help their SME clients implement these measures. For SMEs seeking to implement a business excellence framework, a universally applicable tool is the International Organization for Standardization's Standard, ISO 14001. SMPs interested in supporting SMEs on the path to sustainability should download the IFAC SMP Committee's free *Guide to Practice Management for Use by Small- and Medium-Sized Practices*, which offers guidance and tools spanning a range of topics.

How can SMPs and SMEs influence policy makers?

The International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) recently released its Discussion Paper, *Towards Integrated Reporting - Communicating Value in the 21st Century*. The paper presents the rationale for integrated reporting, offers initial proposals for the development of an international integrated reporting framework, and outlines next steps toward its creation and adoption. Why should SMEs and SMPs respond to this paper? Integrated reporting will allow organizations to release more inclusive and useful reports on all aspects of performance, including environmental, social and governance, as well as economic, in a concise and user friendly format. This information will allow organizations to provide an assessment of the long-term viability of an organization, as well as meet the needs of investors and other stakeholders.

Comments are encouraged from various stakeholders, including reporting organizations, investors, employees, and assurance providers. Of most relevance to SMEs and SMPs is question 4 on the applicability of integrated reporting (IR) to SMEs and the

initial focus of integrated reporting on larger companies.

IFAC RESOURCES

The following resources (all free of charge) are accessible via IFAC's SMP Committee website at www.ifac.org/SMP.

- Publications—*Guide to Practice Management for Small- and Medium-Sized Practices* (PM Guide) and accompanying User Guide, *The Role of SMPs in Providing Business Support to SMEs*, and *Sustainability Framework*
- Quarterly eNews and Relevant Links: Business Advisory

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The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants

Continuing Professional Education

On September 20, 2011, The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) in conjunction with KPMG (Bahamas) held a seminar on the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) at The British Colonial Hilton Hotel. Ms. Melinda Schmidt, Tax Director at KPMG, LLP New York and Mrs. Annie Chinafat Principal Audit KPMG, Bahamas were the seminar facilitators.

Education Committee

BICA participated in the Annual National Career Awareness Month held in October. The month of activities, organized by the Ministry of Education, was aimed at providing students in the Bahamas with an opportunity to receive necessary information about career opportunities in various professions. Members of the Education Committee participated in the speakers' circuit and addressed students of both primary and high schools on the accounting profession. The month of activities ended with a Career Fair at the Sir Kendal Isaac Gym on October 25-27, 2011. Over 1,200 primary and high school students from around the country visited more than 100 local and international company exhibits where they were exposed to different career choices.

Accountants' Week 2011

BICA hosted its annual Accountants' Week during November 6-12, 2011 under the theme: Developing the Bahamian Accounting Profession in the Era of Globalization. The week began with a church service at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on November 6, 2011. During the week, accountants and finance professionals from every business sector in the country convened to discuss ways in which accounting professionals can contribute to the development of the profession in an era of globalization.

Seminars held during the week focused on:

- The Role of Accountants in Financial Service Regulation
- Risk based Supervision and the Role of the Auditor
- Education Transformation in the Bahamas
- Data Analytics

Keynote speaker was Minister Zhivargo Laing, Minister of State and Finance. Other seminar speakers included Mr. Philip Stubbs, Chairman of the Securities Commission; Mr. Anthony Kikivarakis-Partner, Deloitte Bahamas; Mrs. Remelda Moxey, Dean of the School of Business, College of the Bahamas and Mr. Robert Sands,

CEO, Bah Mar Development Project.

The week ended with a Fun Run/Walk/Push on November 12, 2011. Part proceeds from the event were donated to the National AIDS Foundation.

National Development

The Institute is committed to actively participating in matters affecting the accounting profession in the Bahamas. The Council was invited by the Attorney General, John Delaney, to discuss proposed reform and revision to the laws relating to the winding up/liquidation of companies in relation to the following draft Bills:

- (a) Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011;
- (b) Companies Winding Up Rules 2011;
- (c) Insolvency Practitioners' Regulations 2011; and
- (d) Foreign Bankruptcy Proceedings (International Cooperation) Rules, 2011.

A focus group was formed by the Institute under the leadership of the President, Julian Rolle to review the draft bills and submitted recommendations for amendments to the Attorney General's Office.

Council members also met with the Securities Commission of the Bahamas to discuss the implementation of the Securities Act, 2011(SIA). As a part of the implementation plan, the Commission will develop various rules which will be circulated for consultation to industry participants and registrants. Members were encouraged to submit comments on the Consultation White Paper-Physical Presence to the Commission.

A representative from BICA's Council also attended a Consultative Meeting with the Ministry of Finance on the proposed action needed arising from The Bahamas Phase 1 Peer Review (OECD) by the Global Forum.

Condolences

Anthony Smith, member of BICA's Council passed away on November 19, 2011. Anthony served as member of the Education Committee for the period 2009 - 2010, Chair of the Education Committee from 2010 - 2011 and Chair of the Continuing Professional Education Committee. BICA extends condolences to Anthony's family, friends and colleagues.

Runners and walkers gather together in the early morning for the Fun Run/Walk/Push on November 12, 2011 during Accountants' Week.



Members and friends of BICA congregate at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral following the church service to mark the start of Accountants' Week.

Policy Advocacy

Government's Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals

Minister of Finance, Hon. Christopher Sinckler made his Budget presentation to Parliament on Monday, August 15, 2011. Some of the Minister's proposals were consistent with recommendations submitted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados (ICAB). Comments were also prepared on the Budget and published in the media.

Social Partnership

ICAB has been playing an active role in the Social Partnership. A meeting of the Social Partnership under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Freundel Stuart was held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference Centre on August 4, 2011. The event included presentations on the economy by the Ministry of Finance and the Central bank of Barbados followed by open discussion and comments from representatives of the Trade Unions and the Private sector.

The Sub-Committee of the Social Partnership also met on September 30 and October 28. The agenda included discussion on the Barbados Human Resource Development Strategy, the Coalition for the Revitalization of the Economy (CORE), the ILO Decent Work Country Programme, and a presentation on the Barbados economy by the Minister of Finance.

Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA)

The Institute was represented by President Andrew Brathwaite at two meetings of the BPSA, which were designed to facilitate the views of private sector leaders on the economy. The first meeting was held on July 20, 2011 with Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, and the second on July 28, 2011 with Opposition Leader, Owen Arthur.

Prevention of Corruption Bill

On October 20, 2011, ICAB held a consultation meeting with members to get their input on the draft Prevention of Corruption Bill. The suggestions made by members who participated in the discussions will be incorporated into ICAB's submission to the BPSA.

Meeting with the International Monetary Fund

The IMF conducted an Article 4 assessment of Barbados during October 2011. On October 4, 2011 the IMF mission team led by Therese Turner-Jones met with the BPSA to obtain the private sector's view on the economy and to provide a brief overview of IMF concerns. ICAB was a member of the BPSA delegation.

Services Sector Consultation

ICAB participated in the Services Sector Consultation hosted by the Barbados Coalition of Service Industries (BCSI). It was held on August 10, 2011 at the Courtyard Marriott and was attended by the Executive Director. The aim of the national broad based consultation was to devise a national strategy for the development of the services sector. The proposals will be submitted to Government.

Regulatory/Technical Developments

IFAC Member Body Compliance Programme

In January 2010, ICAB submitted its Action Plan which was published by IFAC in April 2010. An annual update is required by each member body on its progress on the action items listed under each of the seven Statements of Membership Obligation (SMO 7).

In September 2011, ICAB submitted its Action Plan Update which has been reviewed by IFAC's Compliance Department. On October 7, 2011 a teleconference was held with Mr. Joseph Bryson, Technical Manager, Member Body Development at IFAC to discuss the updated plan. ICAB was commended for its progress in implementing the plan and invited to submit further details on initiatives such as the formation of the Public Sector Committee.

Audit of Member's CPD Returns

As part of the programme of strengthening regulatory oversight, ICAB commenced the Audit of Member's CPD Returns. In August 2011 a sample of 15% of Ordinary Members and 15% of Practising Members was selected for audit of their CPD annual returns. ICAB members are required to file an annual return of their CPD activities during the year. Those selected for audit were requested to submit (within 30 days) documentary evidence in support of the CPD listed on the annual returns. The CPD Committee has commenced a review of the documentation submitted and will provide feedback to all members who were selected for audit.

E-filing of VAT and Excise Tax

The Government launched the new VAT and Excise Tax Administration System (VETAS) on July 8, 2011. The launch was addressed by the Minister of Finance, Christopher Sinckler. The system has been created to serve both the VAT Department and the Excise Department. ICAB assisted its members by organizing a number of intensive training sessions in collaboration with the VAT Department and the Government's Data Processing Department. Four sessions were held in the computer training lab at the Data Processing Department during the period September 9-13, 2011. A total of 44 members were trained.

Public Sector Committee

ICAB has established a Public Sector Committee as a Committee of Council with the following terms of reference:

- o To monitor and advise on public sector policies and programmes related to:
 - Financial management
 - Accountability
 - Productivity
 - Governance
- o To liaise with the Accounting & Auditing Standards Committee on the application of IPSASs to financial reporting, accounting and auditing in the public sector;
- o To promote the interests of public sector members within ICAB;
- o To liaise with the Continuing Professional Development Committee to ensure adequate and relevant CPD for public sector accountants;
- o To liaise with agencies of Government on such joint initiatives as may advance the aims and objectives of the Committee.

The Committee held meetings with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Accountant General, and Auditor General to discuss technical assistance to Government in strengthening public sector financial reporting, accounting and audit training, and CPD with a public sector focus. ICAB will source experts from the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IP-SASB) to conduct CPD seminars on the IPSASs.

CPD Activities

- An IFRS for SMEs Seminar was held at the Lloyd Erskine

Sandiford Centre on July 19, 2011. The presenter was Charles Gubbins.

- An Audit Workshop was held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre on July 20, 2011. The presenter was Charles Gubbins.
- On August 11, 2011, a seminar on “*Risk Management in Public Practice*” was held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre. The presenters were Malcolm D’Souza CA, Larry Andrade CA, and Christopher Hluchan (Attorney at Law).
- On August 26, 2011, the annual “*International Business Workshop*” was held at the Hilton Hotel. The presenters were drawn from Cidell Bank & Trust, Ernst & Young, and PWC.
- On September 6, 2011, ACCA held its SME seminar under the theme, “*Strengthening the Growth and Innovation capacity of SMEs in the Caribbean*”. ICAB and the SBA assisted with the co-ordination of seminar registration.
- On September 29, 2011, the annual Joint ACCA/ICAB IFRS Update seminar was held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre (LESC). The presenter was Nagin Lad.
- On September 30, 2011, the annual ISA Update seminar was held at the LESL. Nagin Lad was the presenter.
- On October 5-7, 2011 the International Bureau for Fiscal Development (IBFD) held its international workshop on “*Principles of Transfer Pricing*” at the Accra Beach Hotel. It was attended by 21 persons from the Caribbean region. ICAB facilitated the seminar.

- On October 13, 2011 the Annual Joint ICAB/CGA seminar was held. This year the topic was “*Innovations in Management Accounting*” with presenter Anton Dimnik, PhD of Queens University, Canada.

ICAC

ICAB hosted the ICAC Regional CEOs Forum at its Secretariat on September 23, 2010. The meeting included a presentation on ICAB’s iMIS members’ database which features integrated and managed member records, seminar registration, CPD record keeping, annual dues billing and mass emailing.

Public Outreach

ICAB maintained its public profile with an average of four press articles per month and seminar advertisements during the period July-October. In addition, ICAB’s Face Book Group and Website are used to post information on the Institute’s activities. The Face Book group is used for discussions on a wide range of accounting and non-accounting issues.

On Oct 25, 2011, the ICAB President made a presentation on “*Accounting Standard Setting and its Relevance to the Caribbean*” to accounting students in the 6th Form of St. Michael School. The presentation was made at the request of the school in its efforts to forge a linkage between its new 6th Form and the business and professional community.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize (ICA-Belize) hosted a special general meeting with its membership on November 10, 2011 at the Baymen Business Lounge, 48 Baymen Avenue, Belize City. The meeting covered:

- Election of an auditor for the 2010 financial report;
- Update on guidelines for CPE reporting requirements for members and other matters relating to the continuing professional development of members of the Institute; and
- The need for an increase in membership participation.

Resolutions made in the special general meeting included:

- Posting of CPE 2011 guidelines on the ICA-Belize website by the end of the November 2011;
- Summary of CPE Reporting form to be submitted by January 31, 2012;

- ICA-Belize to hold workshops for the membership in early 2012 facilitated by local members with expertise in topics such as audit and investigation, local taxation policies and IFRS for SMEs;
- Implementation of a Buddy Programme intended to increase membership participation in general meetings and seminars;
- Hosting of an Annual General Meeting in December 15, 2011;
- Soliciting the input of the membership regarding the updating of ICA-Belize Byelaws;
- Soliciting the input of the membership on the updating of the Accountancy Profession Act (of Belize).

During the period under review, one new member was admitted into membership and the number of students continues to grow.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean

ICAEC – Dominica branch

Mr. Gerald Smith was re-appointed as the Institute’s representative on Dominica’s Integrity in Public Office Commission. He was previously appointed for three years, from 2008 to 2011. The appointment became effective September 2011 and will be for a period of three years.

The Dominica Co-operative Societies League in collaboration with the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions conducted a one-day workshop on IFRS for Credit Unions in Dominica on September 21, 2011. The presenters were Andrew F. Brathwaite, President of ICAB and a member of the International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation’s SME Implementation Group (SMEIG) and Andrea St. Rose, President of ICAEC-St. Lucia.

The workshop was attended by Credit Union officials and practitioners from Dominica.

ICAEC – Antigua & Barbuda branch

ICAEC - Antigua & Barbuda branch hosted a Tax Seminar on July 21, 2011 with over 55 participants in attendance. Facilitator was Mr. Neil Coates, Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Council Member of ICAEC with responsibility for taxation matters. The seminar dealt with understanding statutory obligations and the rights of the taxpayer.

A CPD seminar was held jointly with ACCA on August 24, 2011 entitled, Anti-Money Laundering regulations and changes. Facili-

tators were the Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda, Honorable Justin Simon and Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Lt. Col. Edward Croft. Participants were drawn from the banking, legal and accounting fraternity.

The Institute's Accountants' Week was held over the period October 16 – 22, 2011. Activities included a church service, a meet and greet cocktail for members and their spouses, media appearances and a charity event involving a movie day with a local scout group. Other activities included a presentation to a scholarship winner. The scholarship competition is held each year with applicants required to submit an essay based on why they want to become an accountant. In addition to the essay, the applicant must be pursuing tertiary level education which includes CAT, ACCA, CPA or CGA or a



Joy-Neta Noyce (right) was admitted as a new member of the Institute during the Meet and Greet Cocktail held as part of Accountants' Week. Here, she accepts her certificate from ICAEC-Antigua branch Chairman, Erwin Southwell

degree programme in accounting.

A joint seminar was also held with CGA-Caribbean during the week of activities. The seminar topic was Cost Management and the presenter was Canadian accounting and finance education specialist, Tony Domnik.



Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda, Honorable Justin Simon, delivers the feature address at ACCA/ICAEC joint seminar on Anti-Money Laundering

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana

Accountants' Week

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana (ICAG) hosted its inaugural Accountants' Week – a week of Continuing Professional Development seminars - at the Georgetown Club on September 19 – 23, 2011.

The seminars covered the following topics:

- *Developments in Accounting for Impairment and Fair Value Reporting – IFRS 9 & IFRS 13*, which was conducted by Vishwamint Ramnarine, Partner of PKF, Barcellos, Narine & Company and Rakesh Latchana, Partner of Ram & McRae Chartered Accountants.
- *Current Tax Issues*, which was conducted by a team from Guyana Revenue Authority.
- *Consolidation and Off Balance Sheet Accounting – IFRS 10, 11 and 12*, which was conducted by Harryram Parmesar, Managing Partner of Parmesar Chartered Accountants.
- *Clarified International Standards on Auditing*, which was conducted by Khalil Alli, Partner of Jack A. Alli. Sons &

Company Chartered Accountants.

- *Brazil – Guyana Trade*, with presenters: Mr. Manzoor Nadir, Minister of Labour; Mr. Clinton Williams, President of Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association; Mr. Roubinder Rambarran, Chief Executive Officer of Private Sector Commission and Mr. Roopnarine Sukhai of National Milling Company Ltd.
- *Guyana's Corporate Governance Code* was presented by Mr. Roubinder Rambarran, Chief Executive Officer of Private Sector Commission; Mr. Deodat Indar, Finance Controller/ Company Secretary, Sterling Products Inc. and Mr. Ramesh Dookhoo, Chairman of Private Sector Commission.

The week of activities ended with a Friday afternoon fellowship attended by members, affiliates, students and other professionals.

Membership

During the period, three new persons were admitted to membership of the Institute bringing the total membership to 68.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica

Annual General Meeting

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ) held its 46th Annual General Meeting on July 27, 2011 at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston at which Miss Vintoria Bernard was elected President succeeding Mr. Archibald Campbell, who served over the past two years. The following persons were also elected for 2011/2012:

- Mr. Dennis Chung - Vice-President
- Mr. Dennis Brown - Treasurer

- Mrs. Ethlyn Norton-Coke - Secretary

The other members of Council are Miss Prunella Vassell, Mrs. Ann Marie Rhoden, Mrs. Glossie Stone, Messrs. Audley Gordon, Martin Gooden, Linroy Marshall, Bruce Scott, Raymond Campbell and Archibald Campbell.

Continuing Professional Development Seminars

ICAJ's Continuing Professional Development Committee organized the following seminars and workshops during the period July

– October, 2011:

- A forum entitled, “*Green Paper on Tax Reform for Jamaica*”, held at the Knutsford Court Hotel on August 10, 2011. The main speaker was Mr. Joseph Matalon, President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) who focused on the Private Sector Overview of the Green Paper. The team of panelists included Mrs. Ethlyn Norton-Coke, Legal & Compliance Officer at the University of Technology (UTech) & Chairman, ICAJ Taxation Committee; Ms. Allison Peart, Country Managing Partner & Tax Partner, Ernst & Young and Ms. Elizabeth A. Jones, Senior Partner & Tax Partner, KPMG.

- A workshop on Practice Management was held at the ICAJ Secretariat, 8 Ruthven Road on August 24 & 31, 2011. The topics addressed were Financial Management, the use of Technology to Enhance Business Operations, and Client and People Management. The presenters were Mr. Orville Christie and Mr. Dennis Chung, Chartered Accountants; Mr. Wilfred McKenley, Managing Partner, McKenley & Associates, and Mrs. Carolyn Bell-Wisdom, Senior Manager, PwC.

- On September 22, 2011, a seminar entitled “*Implications of the Proposals in the Green Paper on Tax Reform for Jamaica & Beyond*” was held at the Wyndham Kingston Hotel. The areas of focus were REAP Programme and the Strategic Direction of the Revenue Services, Green Paper – Manufacturing Perspective, Green Paper – Agricultural Perspective and The Incentive Legislation.

The Hon. Clive Mullings, MP, Minister of Mining & Energy delivered the keynote address. Seminar presenters included Mr. Ainsley Powell, Chief Technical Advisor, Tax Administration Jamaica; Mr. Metry Seaga, Deputy President, Jamaica Manufacturers’ Association; Mr. Mariano Brown, Consultant, and Mr. Christopher Levy, President & Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica Broilers Ltd.

- On October 22, 2011, ICAJ and ACCA hosted a joint seminar on *Risk Management - The DNA for Business Success* at the Jamaica Conference Centre. Topics discussed were Organisational Risk/Operational Risk, Capital Markets and Regulatory Framework, Credit Risk and Disaster Recovery Planning. Presenters included Mr. Bruce Scott, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Mr. Gene Leon, Senior Resident Representative, Jamaica, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Ms. Georgia Simpson, Training Consultant, CIPS, and Mr. Dale James, Market Risk Manager, Jamaica Money Market Brokers.

Prospective Members’ Cocktail Reception

Approximately 30 persons attended a cocktail reception for ACCA & MSc. graduates and new members held on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at the Courtleigh Hotel & Suites in Kingston.

A presentation on the Role and Operations of ICAJ as well as Benefits of ICAJ Membership was made by Mr. Leighton McKnight, Member, Membership Committee, ICAJ, while Mrs. Marsha Melhado-Beersingh, Committee Member, delivered a motivational address on “*Becoming a Chartered Accountant*”.

Accountants’ Forum

In order to cushion the effects of the global recession, the Government of Jamaica undertook initiatives such as support from the International Monetary Fund and the Jamaica Debt Exchange

Programme. In an effort to build public awareness of Jamaica’s present economic situation and possible avenues for economic growth, the ICAJ, through its Current Affairs Committee, organised an Accountants’ Forum under the theme, “*The Global Economic Situation- The Way Forward for Jamaica*”. This was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at the Knutsford Court Hotel and was open to members and the general public.

Topics included, *Implications of the IMF Test and the USA Downgrade; Stability-Interest Rates and Economic Growth; Aviation and Trans-shipment: Opportunities for Growth, and Energy: How Vital a Factor?* Presenters included Mr. Brian Wynter, Governor, Bank of Jamaica; Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Derby, Director General, Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority and Mr. Fitzroy Vidal, Senior Director of Energy, Ministry of Mining & Energy.

Graduation Ceremonies

- **Joint ICAJ/ACCA Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) Graduation Ceremony:**

A total of 53 students graduated under the ICAJ/ACCA CAT programme during a ceremony held at the Wyndham Kingston Hotel on August 27, 2011. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Dwight Bailey, Member of the Student Affairs Committee and Mr. Nigel Chambers, Staff Partner, KPMG, delivered the keynote address.

- **Joint ICAJ/ACCA Professional Graduation Ceremony:**

Another 53 students who successfully completed the ACCA Professional Programme were honoured at the Joint ICAJ/ACCA graduation ceremony held at the Wyndham Kingston Hotel on October 22, 2011. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Milton Samuda, President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. Ms Brenda Lee Tang, Head of ACCA Caribbean delivered greetings on behalf of ACCA.



Beth Ann Jacobs (left) receives the Jasper Burnett Award from ICAJ President, Vintoria Bernard, at the graduation ceremony co-hosted by ICAJ and ACCA on October 22, 2011. Jacobs obtained the award for obtaining the highest pass mark in Paper 3.5 - Strategic Business Planning Development - on the first attempt. She also received the Deloitte Award for attaining a mark of 77 per cent in Paper 3.1 - Audit and Assurance Services - on the first attempt.

Students’ Rap Session

In continuing its effort to provide local accounting students with the necessary information relating to their course of study, the ICAJ hosted a Students’ Rap Session on September 24, 2011 at the Village Hotel in Ocho Rios, St. Ann. Approximately 25 students participated

Annual International Finance & Accounting Conference 2011

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad & Tobago (ICATT) hosted a successful annual conference on November 2nd & 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain. The 2011 conference theme was, *Innovations in Business Financial Reporting & Governance*. The event attracted over 200 participants and brought together dynamic international, regional and local presenters.

Speakers included the Honourable Senator, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning & the Economy who spoke on Sustainable Growth in the Non-Energy Sectors of Trinidad & Tobago, and Dr. The Honourable Timothy Harris, Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Agriculture, Marine Resources and Constituency Empowerment, St. Kitts & Nevis who delivered the keynote address on Forging a new Paradigm in the Caribbean: Innovation, Creativity and Competitiveness Towards A New Caribbean Economic Order.

Accountancy Career Fair

ICATT held its first Accountancy Career Fair entitled, A Professional Development Forum, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in July 2011. The event targeted secondary school students, persons pursuing accountancy studies and others wishing to enter the accountancy profession.

ICATT President, Mr. Anthony Pierre noted that, "ICATT is pleased to be at the forefront of such a major event in Trinidad and Tobago. More young persons are entering the field of accounting and ICATT, as regulator, is there to ensure that they have the information they need to establish career objectives and implement the necessary actions that support the development of the profession."

Audit Committee Conference in Trinidad & Tobago

ICATT and the Caribbean Association of Audit Committee Members Inc. (CAACM) co-hosted the 5th Annual Meeting & Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain in July. The event marked the first Audit Committee conference to be held in Trinidad and Tobago and featured international and regional delegates and a special address by The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Finance.

ICATT President, Anthony Pierre noted that the conference brought together major players in the region to discuss the role of the audit committee in moving an organisation forward, while encouraging an exchange of ideas and solutions to address common issues.

Continuing Professional Development

In August, ICATT held a Taxation workshop facilitated by Mr. Merlin Sergeant, former Chairman of the Board of the Inland Revenue. The event was well-received and ICATT hopes to offer a repeat of this seminar.

In September, four CPD events were held, two of which were in conjunction with ACCA. The first joint event was an ICATT/ACCA SME forum. It was well attended and sought to strengthen the innovative capacity of SMEs in the Caribbean. The forum

explored issues relevant to the sustainability of small and medium enterprises in the Caribbean. The second event hosted jointly with ACCA was on International Financial Reporting Standards and International Standards of Auditing 2011 Update, which was facilitated by Mr. Nagin Ladd of ACCA UK.

ICATT held its third one-on-one audit training workshop with facilitator, Michael Scott of PCP UK Limited. Two sessions were held at the Arthur Lok Jack GSB Facility and Royal Hotel in San Fernando. The workshop was designed to help participants implement the requirements of the new clarified International Standards of Auditing and addressed issues arising from the practice monitoring visits by ACCA in Trinidad and how these issues can be addressed. The workshop focused on providing a practical understanding of the clarified standards and case studies.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement: International Focus

President, Mr. Anthony Pierre and Council member, Peter Gittens, recently completed a successful mission to London where they met with the senior executives of ACCA and attended the annual meeting of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) World Standard Setters Conference. They also met with Ms. Jane Fuller, head of an accounting "Think Tank" project in innovations in financial reporting.

Arising from the meeting with ACCA, ICATT and ACCA have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding governing several areas of the relationship between the two bodies.

At the World Standard Setters Conference, ICATT formally proposed the establishment of an appropriate set of accounting standards for micro enterprises and gained support for the initiative from a number of other accounting bodies around the world.

In October, ICATT was engaged in the first phase of a mission by the World Bank to prepare a Report of Standard of Compliance (ROSC) on the level of compliance with International Accounting and Auditing Standards in Trinidad and Tobago through initial stakeholder meetings and discussions. The ROSC will confirm the country's compliance with international best practices as it relates to financial reporting standards and international auditing standards.

Accounting and Auditing ROSC for countries worldwide are posted on the World Bank's official website and is frequently examined by foreign investors wishing to invest in a country. The ROSC Report highlights the strength of the country's financial structure.

ICATT continues to work closely with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the global regulatory organisation for accountants, of which ICATT is a member, to implement the Institute's action plan for full compliance with the Statements of Members' Obligations (SMOs).

Membership Update

For the period July 1 to October 31 2011, thirty six (36) new members joined the Institute bringing the total number of members to 1,053 members.

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IASB AND IFAC TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) announced on November 22, 2011, an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in developing private and public sector accounting standards.

IPSASs are used by an increasing number of public authorities, including national and local governments, agencies and regulatory bodies from around the world, and by many international organizations. Many IPSASs are primarily drawn from IFRSs, and the agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reflects the IASB's and IFAC's shared conviction that the transparency provided by high-quality financial reporting standards contributes significantly to the effective functioning of capital markets and sound economic growth. The agreement represents a further commitment to strengthen the cooperation between the two boards, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in their respective standard-setting activities.

The MoU is available to download from <http://go.ifrs.org/IFACMoU>

IFAC UPDATES AUDIT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR SMPs

IFAC's Small and Medium Practices (SMP) Committee has released the third edition of its Guide to Using International Standards on Auditing in the Audits of Small- and Medium-Sized Entities (ISA Guide). Intended to help practitioners understand and efficiently apply the clarified ISAs to audits of small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs), the updated guide features a number of refinements to the technical content and presentation.

The comprehensive implementation guide offers a practical "how-to" approach for conducting risk-based audits of SMEs. First issued in 2007 and developed with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, it is designed for use by all practitioners, whether or not they are already familiar with the ISAs. Volume 1 covers the basic concepts of a risk-based audit in conformance with the ISAs. Volume 2 contains practical guidance on performing SME audits, including two illustrative case studies—one of an SME audit and one of a micro-entity audit.

The updated ISA Guide can be downloaded free of charge from the SMP Publications and Resources area of the IFAC website.

SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISIS DEMANDS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REFORM BY GOVERNMENTS

IFAC applauds Europe's focus on resolving the current financial crisis but warns that—in addition to addressing the symptoms—the underlying causes must also be addressed, by reforming governments' substandard financial management practices.

The situation in Greece is only the tip of the iceberg. Substandard

accounting, auditing, and financial management led eventually to financial reporting fraud by the Greek Government, and ultimately triggered a market reaction that revealed much more widespread financial fragility in the European public sector, evidenced by the need for bail-outs and increased debt servicing costs. In Germany, the government recently disclosed an accounting error equivalent to 2.6% of GDP. To put the size of that error in context, the cost of Japan's earthquake and tsunami in early 2011 was equivalent to approximately 5% of GDP. That this error was not obvious to Germany's Ministry of Finance is indicative of the general state of government financial management. A similar, though smaller, error reported in the Irish Government's financial statements this week corroborates this negative assessment of the state of public sector financial management.

Fiscal mismanagement in the public sector is not isolated to Europe; it is a global problem. At the core, it stems from political shortsightedness and the inadequate systems that governments use to manage public finances, in particular the use of cash-based accounts in a highly complex financial world.

Consistent with its recent submission to the G-20, IFAC calls for urgent research and action to address this critical, but neglected, component of the international financial system. IFAC recommends that work should be conducted or commissioned by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), to consider the nature of institutional changes that are needed in public sector financial management to facilitate greater transparency and accountability and to protect the public and investors in government bonds. IFAC believes the FSB should examine reformed fiscal arrangements which include:

- Audited financial statements within six months of year end;
- Budgeting, appropriations, and reporting on the accrual basis;
- Full transparency in fiscal positions ahead of general elections, ensuring that voting is fully informed;
- Independent, audited projections of fiscal position to accompany budgets; and
- Limitations on deficit spending, or at least full transparency around the reasons for deficit spending and explanations of how, over an economic cycle, fiscal balance will be restored

PREDICTIVE BUSINESS ANALYTICS GUIDE ISSUED

IFAC's Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee has issued new International Good Practice Guidance, Predictive Business Analytics: Improving Business Performance with Forward-Looking Measures. The guidance is designed to help professional accountants in business working in commerce, industry, financial services, education, and the public and not-for-profit sectors, as well as their organizations, embrace predictive business analytics to help develop and execute strategy. This International Good Practice Guidance will assist professional accountants in business as they contend with rising expectations from their organizations.



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