

### IFRS Resources' List is Updated

The IFRS Foundation Education Initiative has updated the list of English language resources about International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) available to accounting practitioners, educators, students, and others who wish to study IFRSs. The list includes resources available from accounting firms, professional bodies, government agencies, commercial publishers, and the IASB itself. The list includes IFRS-based textbooks, is not copyrighted and may be freely reproduced and distributed (without alteration). The latest version may be downloaded from the IFRS Learning Resources page.

(Source: <http://www.ifrs.org/News>)

### IFAC Releases Revisions to Policy Position Papers One and Three

The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) recently released revised versions of Policy Position Paper 1, *Regulation of the Accountancy Profession*, and Policy Position Paper 3, *International Standard Setting in the Public Interest*. Policy Position Paper 1, *Regulation of the Accountancy Profession*, was first issued by IFAC in December 2007. The revised paper includes a new section titled "Current Regulatory Environment." The section highlights the importance of global regulatory convergence, including the adoption and implementation of high-quality standards. It describes recent developments in regulation and makes reference to the Independent Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) *Core Principles*. Lastly, the revised Policy Position Paper 1 includes a description of what would typically be included in shared regulation of auditing at a national level. Policy Position Paper 3, *International Standard Setting in the Public Interest*, was issued by IFAC in December 2008. The revised and updated paper describes how current governance arrangements and independent standard-setting boards supported by IFAC operate in the public interest and address the need for legitimacy, transparency, and performance. It further includes discussion of the 2010 Monitoring Group (MG) review.

(Source: <http://press.ifac.org/news>)

### Comments Invited on 5 Draft Q&As for the IFRS for SMEs

The SME Implementation Group (SMEIG) recently published five draft Questions & Answers (Q&As) on the IFRS for SMEs. These draft Q&As are open for comment until 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 and cover the following topics: Application of the *IFRS for SMEs* for financial periods ending before the *IFRS for SMEs* was issued; Interpretation of 'undue cost or effort' and 'impracticable'; Jurisdiction requires fallback to full IFRSs; Departure from a principle in the *IFRS for SMEs*; Prescription of the format of financial statements by local regulation. The SMEIG is responsible for assisting the IASB on matters relating to the implementation of the IFRS for SMEs, which is a self-contained standard designed to meet the needs and capabilities of small and medium-sized entities. The SMEIG is currently reviewing comments received on three other draft Q&As, for which the comment period ended in June 2011.

(Source: <http://www.ifrs.org/News>)

### G20 Finance Ministers Focus on Global Economic Risks, Re-affirm Commitment to Global Standards

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in a recent meet in Paris, focused on heightened tensions and significant downside risks for the global economy that need

to be addressed decisively to restore confidence, financial stability and growth. The communiqué released outlines various responses and reforms in the financial sector, including in relation to over the counter (OTC) derivatives, Basel reforms on banking regulation and reducing over-reliance on external credit ratings. The communiqué also notes the reaffirming of the objective to achieve a single set of high quality global accounting standards, without providing any documented deadlines for achieving the objective.

(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

### IESBA 2011-2012 Strategy and Work Plan Approved

The 2011-2012 International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Strategy and Work Plan, which sets the direction and priorities for the activities of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), has been approved by the IESBA, the IESBA Consultative Advisory Group, and the Public Interest Oversight Board. The IESBA plans to build upon the strong base established by the revised *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the IESBA Code) issued in July 2009. The 2011-2012 Strategy and Work Plan is focused on three strategic areas: development of standards; adoption and implementation; and convergence. The IESBA plans to develop additional guidance for professional accountants on identifying and addressing a conflict of interest, responding to suspected illegal acts, and dealing with a breach of an independence requirement of the IESBA Code. The plan may be accessed from [www.ifac.org/Ethics](http://www.ifac.org/Ethics).

(Source: <http://press.ifac.org/news>)

### Cross-Industry Taskforce Calls on G-20 to Promote Economic Stability Through Regulatory Convergence

IFAC has released the *Private Sector Taskforce (PSTF) Report to G-20 Deputies*. The PSTF report presents a set of recommendations on how to promote regulatory convergence from the perspective of a number of financial professions and industries. The PSTF was established in May 2011 at the request of the Presidency of the G-20. The report provides the G-20 with an analysis of the development of financial policy and regulation, with the aim of facilitating economic stability in the world's capital markets. The benefits of regulatory convergence are identified, as well as the inefficiencies and associated costs created by regulatory gaps. A range of possible scenarios and associated risks are thoroughly analysed and explored, specific examples are given, and a set of recommendations are provided. Coordinated by the IFAC, the taskforce includes CFA Institute (CFA I); INSOL International; Institute of International Finance (IIF); International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); International Actuarial Association (IAA); International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN); International Insurance Society (IIS); and International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC). The report stresses the necessity of open communication and transparent processes, as well as continued cooperation between national and regional regulators and professional and industry groups, in order to further develop global standards. The PSTF report with the full recommendations is posted on the IFAC website.

(Source: <http://press.ifac.org/news>)

### IASB Updates June 2011 Editorial Corrections to IFRSs

The IASB has posted to its website a revised version of the batch of Editorial Corrections to IFRSs originally issued on

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. This batch makes editorial corrections and changes to IFRS for SMEs (issued July 2009), Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (issued September 2010), Bound Volume (Red Book) 2011, Bound Volume (Blue Book) 2011, IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* (issued May 2011), IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements* (issued May 2011), IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* (issued June 2011) and Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income (issued June 2011).  
(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

#### IFAC Updates Policy Statements on Regulation and Standard Setting

The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) has released revised versions of its Policy Position Papers on the regulation of the accountancy profession and international standard setting. Policy Position Paper 1, *Regulation of the Accountancy Profession*, was first issued by IFAC in December 2007. The revised paper includes a new section highlighting the importance of global regulatory convergence, including the adoption and implementation of high-quality standards. IFAC recognises that regulation of the accountancy profession is primarily conducted at a national level. Therefore, in IFAC's view, to achieve international convergence, national regulation should aim to endorse and implement principles, approaches, and obligations outlined in material issued by authoritative international bodies. Policy Position Paper 3, *International Standard Setting in the Public Interest*, was issued by IFAC in December 2008. The revised and updated paper describes how current governance arrangements and independent standard-setting boards supported by IFAC operate in the public interest and address the need for legitimacy, transparency, and performance. The paper includes a brief history of IFAC's governance structure (such as the 'IFAC Reforms') and notes that the IFAC Board is considering amendments to the governance process of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), including the possibility of public oversight by the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB).  
(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

#### 28<sup>th</sup> session of UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on ISAR

The twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) was recently held in Geneva. ISAR assists developing countries and economies in transition to implement best practices in corporate transparency and accounting in order to facilitate investment flows and economic development. ISAR's annual sessions regularly involve over 200 government authorities, regulators, standard-setters and academic representatives. Speeches and presentations at the session included contributions from ACCA, IAESB, IFAC, IFRS Foundation and the World Bank. They are available on this UNCTAD website.  
(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

#### Audit Alert on Audit Risks in Certain Emerging Markets

The US Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) has issued a Staff Audit Practice Alert to discuss the auditor's responsibilities regarding the risk of fraud when auditing companies with operations in emerging markets. Staff Audit Practice Alert No. 8 *Audit Risks in Certain Emerging Markets* discusses examples of conditions that may indicate greater fraud

risks, procedures auditors should perform to address fraud risks and other items auditors should consider when performing an audit of an entity with operations in emerging markets.  
(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

#### UK Government Considers Reducing SME Reporting Requirements

The UK government has issued a proposal that would see reduced financial reporting requirements for SMEs in order to save companies on accounting fees and administrative costs. The consultation *Audit Exemptions and Change of Accounting Framework* by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills sets out plans to allow more small companies and subsidiaries to decide whether or not to have an audit. The government is also proposing to introduce legislation in 2012 to exempt most subsidiary companies from mandatory audit, provided their parent is prepared to guarantee their debts. Currently in the UK, SMEs have to meet turnover and balance sheet thresholds to be exempt from audit. Under the new proposals, UK SMEs would be eligible for audit exemption by meeting any two of the three criteria - turnover, balance sheet total and number of employees. The Minister for Corporate Governance said that the volume and costs of reporting requirements for UK companies have increased and businesses have stressed the need for more flexible and targeted rules.  
(Source: <http://www.vrl-financial-news.com/>)

#### Study Finds the Global Financial Crisis has Increased Support for IFRSs

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has published a survey showing among other results that the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are more favourably viewed following the global financial crisis. 163 senior executives from a wide range of industries, including the financial sector, from the US, Europe, the Middle East and Asia took part in the survey that was designed to gauge support for global standards. The findings were complemented with in-depth interviews with nine executives and investors. The US Securities and Exchange Commission should adopt the IFRSs is a clear sign as commented in the foreword of the study.  
(Source: <http://www.iasplus.com/>)

#### FRC to Improve Corporate Reporting

The UK Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has launched a Financial Reporting Lab intended for Corporates and investors to develop pragmatic solutions to current reporting needs. The project aims help enhance the current reporting model that has been criticised by some stakeholders and investors, who said company reports are sometimes leaving them struggling to understand the underlying performance of an entity. FRC said the participants in the project will be drawn from a diverse range of sectors and will include investors and representatives from a range of companies. The Financial Reporting Lab will present a safe environment where companies and stakeholders can help improve the efficiency of corporate reporting and the project will take a large part of the cost and risk out of the process of innovation and reduce the need for regulatory intervention as per a chief executive of FRC. Disclosure requirements were also a topic broached at the launch with many questioning whether certain parts of the annual report, such as governance and risk management could be moved online.  
(Source: <http://www.vrl-financial-news.com/>)