

# International Update

## IESBA Opens Public Survey for Views on Level of Fees Charged by Audit Firms

The registration is open for the world's largest gathering of accountants: the World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) 2018 in Sydney, Australia, November 5-8, 2018. To be held in the new International Convention Centre on the world-famous Sydney harbor and co-hosted by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and CPA Australia, the 20<sup>th</sup> WCOA promises to be the biggest congress yet. From now until the congress starts in Sydney next November, the member organisations will have access to innovative, regularly-updated multi-media tools and content including: press releases, social media content, news updates, videos, and photos.

## New Chair Joins International Accounting Education Standards Board Advisory Group

Professor Ray Johnson has been elected Chair of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) Consultative Advisory Group (CAG) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018. Professor Johnson is currently a member of the IAESB CAG, where he has served since 2016, as well as from 2012 to 2014.

As chair, Professor Johnson will lead the IAESB CAG—an independent body comprising stakeholders with an interest in international accounting education—in providing strategic and technical advice in the public interest to the IAESB. Professor Johnson will play a key role in ensuring that the CAG's views are heard and considered in the IAESB's execution of its strategy and work plan.

## CCPM – IAESB Accountancy Education Forum: Implementation Challenges

More than 50 individuals involved in accountancy education in Mexico, along with International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) members and technical advisors, IAESB Consultative Advisory Group members, and Public Interest Oversight Board representative, came together at an Accountancy Education Forum hosted by Colegio de Contadores Públicos de México (CCPM) in Mexico City.

## IAESB Roundtables Discussions: Information and Communications Technology

As part of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB)'s ongoing efforts to obtain input and feedback from a broad array of stakeholders, and coinciding with the IAESB and IAESB Consultative Advisory Group (CAG) meetings in Mexico City, members of the IAESB Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Task Force hosted two roundtable discussions at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).

Participants provided their insights and thoughts on a range of questions focused on broadly-defined ICT

skills that accountants need, or may need in the future, to perform their role competently in the digital age. They also provided input on current and emerging technologies as well as the complimentary skillsets needed to succeed and meet the demands of an ever-evolving business landscape.

While analysis of the sessions continues, preliminary insights center on a wide range of skillsets and emerging technologies—such as bitcoin, blockchain, and artificial intelligence—and how these technologies will impact accountants' ability to perform effectively. Participants also stressed the continued need for strong written and oral communication skills and analytical and critical thinking skills, along with the ability to adapt to ever-changing technologies.

## Shaping the Future of Global Standards- Call for Nominations Issued

A call for nominations for the four international standard-setting boards has been issued. For nearly two decades, the global economy and financial market stability have been supported by the work of these international, independent standard-setting boards.

The *Call for Nominations for 2019* details the upcoming opportunities for qualified individuals to join the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB), International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), and International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB). Serving on these boards allows individuals with diverse professional backgrounds to contribute to the development of international standards, and to gain international experience while serving the public interest.

Nominations for the 22 open volunteer positions are welcome from all stakeholders, interested parties, and the general public. Travel support is available to qualified candidates from developing nations, self-nominees, and public members.

As per the Nominating Committee, Gender equality is especially important and, therefore, nominations of strong female candidates are strongly encouraged. Although candidates would be ultimately selected based on professional background and experience, nominations from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East are particularly welcome to promote greater diversity on each board.

Candidates should have relevant subject-matter knowledge as well as strong English proficiency. Each board meets up to four times per year; the required time commitment is approximately 300 to 850 hours per year, depending on the board, member involvement, preparation, and travel time.

The submissions can be made to the Nominating Committee by February 15, 2018 via the Nominations Database.