

### **IFAC Proposes Guidance to Help Companies Develop Codes of Conduct**

Effective codes of conduct are the key elements of strong corporate governance and internal controls within businesses worldwide. Recognising the critical role that professional accountants in business play in these areas, the International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee has issued a draft new guidance to assist companies and their professional accountants in developing and implementing a code of conduct. The proposed new good practice guidance, *Defining and Developing an Effective Code of Conduct*, highlights the varied roles of professional accountants in business, driving and supporting organisational ethics and conducting programmes. Comments on this exposure draft are requested by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007. The exposure draft may be accessed by going to <http://www.ifac.org/EDs>. Comments may be submitted by email to [EDComments@ifac.org](mailto:EDComments@ifac.org).

*(www.ifac.org)*

### **Proposals sought to Develop Quality Control Guide for SMPs**

The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) is seeking proposals for the development of an explanatory guide on implementing International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*, for use by small and medium-sized practices (SMPs). The purpose of this guide is to help SMPs around the world understand, comply with, and apply ISQC 1. The specifications for the proposals sought are available on IFAC's SMP Committee's home page (<http://www.ifac.org/smp>).

### **IPSASB Issues Proposed Standard on Employee Benefits**

For the majority of public sector entities, the costs of employee benefits have a major impact on financial performance and financial position. To assist governments and other public sector entities in appropriately accounting for these benefits, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) has issued an exposure draft (ED) of a proposed new International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS), ED 31, *Employee Benefits*. The proposed standard will contribute to more transparent and consistent accounting for employee benefits. Comments on the ED can be sent by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007. It may be viewed by going to <http://www.ifac.org/EDs>.

### **Laws no help with ethics, say Australia's Accountants**

Tougher laws do nothing to make people behave more ethically, say Australia's accountants. According to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, too many laws would have the opposite effect. An institute's paper on ethics says regulation is no guarantee of ethical behaviour. The Institute plans to beef up ethical guidelines for Australia's accountants by developing an ethical framework to be delivered next year.

*(www.theage.com.au)*

### **WFE Endorses IAASB's International Standard-Setting Process**

The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) has formally endorsed the processes for establishing International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) at its General Assembly meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil recently, viewing ISAs as key to the development of a globally uniform financial reporting system. ISAs are developed by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) of the IFAC. The WFE represents 57 securities and derivative markets that account for more than 97% of world stock market capitalization. Its endorsement provides important impetus for convergence to international standards. The ISAs represent an integrated body of standards that provide direction on the actions and procedures the auditors need to perform, and the judgments that need to be made to achieve the objective of an audit. ISAs are intended for use in all audits - publicly traded companies, private business of all sizes and government entities at all levels. They are increasingly being adopted worldwide; over 100 countries have adopted or incorporated ISAs into their national auditing standards or are using ISAs as a basis for preparing national auditing standards. All IAASB standards and guidance can be downloaded free-of-charge from the IFAC online bookstore: <http://www.ifac.org/store>.

### **Need for accountants and IT professionals high: Survey**

Business is looking up for accounting and finance professionals, as well as information technology professionals, according to the most recent Robert Half International indexes. Eight per cent of chief financial officers surveyed plan to add staff during the quarter and 2% anticipate reductions in personnel. The net 6% increase is up two points from the third-quarter 2006 forecast. "Demand is steady for highly skilled accounting and finance professionals," said the US based survey agency in a release.

*([www.accountingweb.com](http://www.accountingweb.com))*

### **Accountants Going Overseas for 'Adventure'**

The UK's tax regime – which many consider stringent and overburdensome – is not a strong reason why British workers, including accountants accept job opportunities overseas, a new recruitment survey has found. Just 3% named the tax regime as a reason for moving abroad. Young newly qualified accountants are the ones that traditionally go overseas for adventure, for broader work experience and to work in international companies, the survey found. Most candidates said that the main benefit of working abroad was to add international exposure to their CV, with nearly 90% of candidates around the world saying that having a global CV is important. These findings were based on interviews with 6,800 candidates from the UK, Continental Europe, North America and Asia Pacific on their attitudes to working abroad.

*(Accountancy Age)*