

## EDITORIAL NOTE

It gives us great pleasure to present the second issue of the Journal of Accounting Perspectives. The Journal contains articles by academics, practitioners and students that address issues concerning various areas of accounting. In this issue, four academic papers, as well as one paper each from practitioners and students, are presented.

From the academic perspective, in the first paper, Sulaiman and Zakaria (2009) examine the service quality of management advisory services (MAS) provided by accounting firms in Malaysia. The study adopts the SERVQUAL technique to identify the expectation gap while the quality function deployment technique is used to identify improvement elements and address the quality gap in MAS. The findings show that the expectation gap exists and several key improvement elements are identified to narrow the gap.

Next, Che Azmi and Mahzan (2009) investigate how the one book-tax difference may be impacted by the adoption of IAS 12. Specifically, the study focuses on the treatment of losses or allowances under normal operations of businesses (category I) and those from businesses that are granted tax incentives (category II). They find that Malaysian companies reflect a high degree of conservatism in adopting FRS 112 and that there are significant differences in the level of conservatism among companies in the plantation, properties and construction industry. The results also show that Big-4 auditors are importing Anglo Saxon practices, thus showing higher levels of conservatism.

The adoption of information technology (IT) in auditing has resulted in the need for graduates to possess sufficient knowledge and skills in IT to meet the demand by the auditing profession. Mahzan et al. (2009) explore the opportunities, methodologies and challenges in incorporating IT in the teaching of auditing courses to accounting undergraduates. Their findings reveal that students responded positively towards the opportunity and benefits of adopting IT in the auditing process. They also identified the challenges encountered in the teaching process, namely, the assessment methods to be used in assessing students and the software availability and its licensing.

The final academic paper by Muhamad and Md Rahin (2009) looks at the corporate responsibility (CR) reporting practices in the annual reports of the Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs). They found that there is a communication gap between the actual communication made by IFIs and the “desirables” as prescribed in Shariah.

From the perspective of practitioners, Mohammed (2009) discusses the importance of managing talent in building an effective internal audit (IA) function as the competition for key talents intensifies. According to him, the future sustainability of an IA function and value creation will depend on key individuals with mastery in not just accounting and internal auditing, but in general management skills, deep rooted business knowledge, leadership and ability to create value. He argues that a good understanding of people's personal aspirations and plans, and the ability to match them with the strategic needs of the company and function will define the success of leading and transforming an IA function.

From the students' perspective, Wan Abdul Rahim et al. (2009) discuss the effort made by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) in making the financial statements of business organizations in the global market comparable so as to assist users of accounting information in business decisions. The IASB has embarked on the convergence of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for cross-border financial reporting through the adoption of IFRS globally. The convergence process is expected to narrow the differences between IFRS and the national accounting standards of the various countries. Nevertheless, despite the efforts directed to minimise countries' differences through convergence, the knowledge on comparative accounting still remains relevant as it enables comparisons of financial statements to be made in a more meaningful way.

In conclusion we thank all those involved in the preparation of this issue. Our appreciation goes to the contributors of the articles and the reviewers for their prompt and careful reading of the manuscripts. Last but not least, thanks to members of the Editorial Board for their hard work and valuable input.

***Associate Professor Datin Dr Rusnah Muhamad***  
***Dr Ervina Alfian***  
***Dr Mazni Abdullah***