

1. Q: Do you have a formal association of academic accountants? If so, please describe the association and its activities.

A: Yes, we do. Taiwan Accounting Association (TAA), established four years ago, is the major academic accounting association in Taiwan. The mission, members, organization, and activities are explained below.

(1) Mission: Promoting knowledge creation and sharing for the accounting community.

(2) Members: The members of TAA include accounting academics and practitioners. Graduate students, academics, and practitioners in other fields are also welcome. Applicants passing the review procedure are offered membership or associate membership (graduate students). At present, TAA has about 370 members, among which 314 (85%) members are from academics and the remainder from the profession.

(3) Organization: In its administrative organization, TAA consists of 15 directors for deciding the directions of the association and annual plan of the activities, and 5 supervisors for reviewing the operating performance and auditing the financial reports. There are also four committees, including accounting education committee, academic research committee, academic exchange committee, and accounting practice committee.

(4) Activities

- a. co-sponsoring with universities to hold seminars on financial accounting standards and auditing standards;
- b. co-sponsoring with universities to hold seminars on accounting education;
- c. co-sponsoring with universities to hold annual conferences;
- d. publishing an academic journal (*Taiwan Accounting Review*);
- e. issuing newsletters (quarterly);
- f. helping academics to improve research capability by sponsoring accounting research summer camp;
- g. facilitating the interaction between academics and practitioners;
- h. promoting international exchange such as sponsoring the Globalization Conference (held in Taiwan, 1999) and East-Asia Accounting Roundtable, and promoting faculty and Ph.D. students' exchange.

2. Q: Do you have a formal association of professional accountants? If so, please describe the association and its activities.

A: Yes, there are three CPA associations in Taiwan. Members of these associations consist of practicing auditors only. In addition to these associations, a professional organization, Accounting Research and Development Foundation, deserves mention.

(1) History: The Accounting Research and Development Foundation of R.O.C. was established in 1984. Financial Accounting Standards Committee (FASC) and Auditing Standards Committee are two major units in this Foundation. Below, I will focus on Financial Accounting Standards Committee only.

(2) Mission of FASC:

- a. To promulgate statements of financial accounting standards in Taiwan;
- b. To interpret and amend the statements of financial accounting standards;
- c. To promote the quality of financial accounting information in Taiwan.

(3) Composition of FASC :

There are 12 committee members and advisors in FASC. The members and advisors are selected from academics, CPA firms, industries, and government agencies. Both members and advisors are part-time jobs.

(4) Accomplishment of FASC:

The FASC has issued 28 statements since its establishment. The statements concerning accounting for treasury stocks and joint ventures are currently in deliberation.

3. Q: How much interaction is there between the academic and professional association and how much interaction is there between both associations and the government?

A: There have been interactions among accounting academics, practitioners, and government. These interactions occur through various channels. For example, the members of FASC and Auditing Standards Committee consist of academicians, practitioners, and government officers. In addition, practitioners and government officers are often invited to serve as discussants

or panelists in academic conferences. Academicians are sometimes invited by government to help make related policies.

4. Q: What are the major professional issues facing your country?

A: (left for Mr. Jimmy Tsao)

5. Q: What are the major academic issues facing your country?

A: Major issues facing accounting academics in Taiwan include the following.

(1) The Supply of Accounting Faculty

a. Sources of accounting faculty

It has been at least 3 years that universities in Taiwan have not recruited an accounting Ph.D. graduating in the U.S.

b. Admission of Taiwanese applicants to the U.S. accounting Ph.D. programs

Rarely has an applicant been admitted to accounting Ph.D. programs in the U.S. in recent years.

(2) The need for preparation for the Internet era

Teaching objectives, teaching materials, and teaching methods may dramatically be affected by the information technology development. It is therefore important for accounting educators in Taiwan to think of these impacts and make preparations.

(3) Dilemmas Facing Accounting Researchers in Taiwan

Issues important for Taiwan may not be interesting for editors or readers of international major journals. In addition, publications in international major journals are more important than before in the promotion decisions. These put accounting academics in Taiwan in a difficult situation. Publishing an internationally recognized journal might solve this problem. But help from other countries is needed.

6. Q: What do you see as the major accounting research issues and what kind of help do you need to conduct them?

A: Major accounting research issues include:

- (1) Corporate governance issues arising from the financial crisis in 1998;
- (2) The adoption or diffusion process of “new” management accounting systems;
- (3) The impact of deregulation on accounting and auditing;
- (4) The valuation and measurement of intangibles; and
- (5) The impact of emerging litigation on audit quality/performance.

7. Q: What kind of help could you use from academic and professional accountants from other countries and what kind of help could you offer to others?

A: Academic exchange such as faculty and Ph.D. student exchange with academicians in other countries is helpful. Experience sharing in teaching and research is most welcome.

8. Q: Are you interested in more interaction with professional and academic accountants in other countries and what form do you think that interaction should take?

A: We are interested in more interactions with accountants in other countries. A forum like EAAR is useful.