

Committee to Develop the Accountancy Sector

12 April 2010

Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Minister for Finance

Dear *Minister,*

**FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP THE
ACCOUNTANCY SECTOR**

You established the Committee to Develop the Accountancy Sector (CDAS) in December 2008 to conduct a holistic review of the Singapore accountancy sector and profession, with the aim to position Singapore as a leading international centre for accountancy services and professionals.

2. The CDAS has completed its work and now submits its recommendations for the Government's consideration. The CDAS has held extensive deliberations and consultations with all stakeholders, involving more than 100 meetings and focus group sessions with more than 80 stakeholder groups and interested parties. The CDAS has benefited from diverse feedback and suggestions from a wide range of stakeholders that included undergraduates, educators, public accountants, professional accountants, national and international professional bodies, company directors, chambers of commerce, CFOs and government agencies.

3. The CDAS has set out the vision for Singapore to transform its accountancy sector into a leading global accountancy hub for the Asia-Pacific region by 2020.

The CDAS is excited by the scale of opportunities and growth potential of the Singapore accountancy sector over the next decade. The Asia-Pacific market beckons with dynamic economic growth and new markets as promising investment destinations that will undoubtedly further fuel foreign demand for exports of professional accountancy services and talents. The Asia-Pacific accountancy services market is today the fastest-growing region for the global accountancy networks, and is forecasted to reach US\$38.3 billion by 2013.

4. The transformation of the accountancy sector will require a clear shift towards intensifying the international outlook of the sector and making fundamental reforms in the sector. It will also require sustained collective efforts and participation from all key stakeholders of the sector. Singapore should strive to more than double the accountancy sector's Gross Domestic Product contribution to the economy from the existing 0.4 per cent to 1 per cent over the next decade. Key to this will be to boost the sector's exports contribution of professional services to the region from the current overall level of 22 per cent to more than 50 per cent. It is a challenging but compelling goal that the CDAS believes the sector should strive for.

5. The CDAS believes that Singapore has what it takes to make the vision for the accountancy sector a reality. We are building from a position of strength, leveraging on the transformation that is taking place in the Singapore economy and in the Asia-Pacific region. The CDAS has set out its recommendations that we believe will deepen the professional capabilities and expertise in our sector, strengthen Singapore's attractiveness for accountancy professional talents and entrench Singapore's position as the leading accountancy hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

6. The executive summary, together with the CDAS final report, sets out the detailed recommendations by the CDAS.

7. On behalf of the CDAS, I thank you for the privilege of serving on the CDAS. I would also like to put on record my appreciation for the support and guidance that you and the Second Minister, Mrs. Lim Hwee Hua, have given the CDAS in our work.

Yours sincerely



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CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP THE ACCOUNTANCY SECTOR

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