ACCOUNTING EDUCATION IN A DEVELOPING NATION

FOCUS: MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

In Malaysia, accounting education can be obtained either through the universities or institutions of higher learning or through apprenticeship training with public accounting firms. The design of university programme and curriculum is usually based on either traditional subject matter or felt needs. MIA and MACPA are also playing an important role as a professional bodies regulating, controlling and 'watching over' the profession.

The rapidly changing technological and economic development in the country has called for a review of the effectiveness of educational training of accountants. This needs cannot be taken lightly as there is some evidence that suggest that accounting graduates from the local universities are not well equipped for more sophisticated and demanding environment of the real world. This has led to the question as to whether the current accounting programme and curriculum can meet the needs of the expanding profession.