

Members Forum: PAOs Sustainability Agenda & Net Zero Commitments

1. Objective

This session will discuss the sustainability (environmental impact) agendas being implemented by PAOs. This will include:

- (a) initiatives for the profession in the respective jurisdictions, and
- (b) initiatives for their own organisations to act more sustainably.

Certain members will share their current initiatives and goals. The session will allow CAPA and members to consider their next steps in the sustainability space.

2. Background Information

Climate and sustainability are now on everyone's mind. IAASB and IESBA have just finalized their new sustainability standards pending approval from PIOBs, and IPSASB has launched its sustainability exposure draft on climate-related disclosures on 1 November at the ICAEW Office in London.

PAOs have a significant role to play in equipping accountants and auditors with the skills required for recording, reporting and assuring sustainability information. PAOs are also playing a significant public interest role in advocating to businesses and others to operate in a sustainable manner. Accordingly, PAOs will also be expected to play their part, 'practicing what they preach.'

In October 2021, 14 major accounting bodies - members of the Accounting Bodies Network (ABN) - publicly committed to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within for own organisations, and to provide an enabling environment for their membership (close to 2.5 million accountants) to do the same. While some of these organisations have yet to mention any interim target (say by 2030), all the signatories have agreed to aim for the Paris Accord of meeting their own net zero commitment by 2050 as a long-term goal. Read more about these commitments [here](https://www.accountingsustainability.org/en/activities/net-zero-activities/abn-net-zero-commitment.html) or <https://www.accountingsustainability.org/en/activities/net-zero-activities/abn-net-zero-commitment.html>

In June 2024, the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) launched a blueprint entitled "[Sustainability Blueprint For The Accountancy Profession](#)". This calls for the development of a profession-wide strategy to equip the accountants of all stripes (PAIBs, PAPPs, public sector and academic) to deal with the issues of sustainability. At the same time, a department and a steering committee have been set up to look into sustainability as it applies to the Institute.

The following presentations will support the discussions:

- Our in-person members will share some of their organisations initiatives and those for the local profession:
 - ✓ Zarif Ludin, Head of Institutional Partnership, ACCA
 - ✓ Satsuki Miyahara, CAPA Board Member, JICPA
 - ✓ Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President, ICAI

- Rasmimi Ramli*, Executive Director of Sustainability, Digital Economy & Reporting, Malaysian Institute of Accountants, will share some salient features of the MIA's sustainability blueprint for the accountancy profession.
- Gillian Peters*, CEO of Pragmatica (based in Ireland) previously worked at CA Ireland and introduced certain sustainability initiatives in the Institute. At Pragmatica, Gillian is focused on initiatives applicable to membership-based organisations to advance their net zero ambition/commitment, including the provision of supporting systems for measurement and reporting.

During her session, Gillian will cover:

- ✓ The 'why' for PAOs – the need to be on a sustainability journey
- ✓ What PAOs should consider when starting their carbon footprint management journey
- ✓ The Green House Gas Protocol approach to measuring emissions
- ✓ Reflections on PAO initiatives and challenges

* *To join virtually*

3. Action

Attendees are encouraged to prepare for this session by reflecting on:

- (a) your PAO's sustainability initiatives for the profession in your jurisdiction, and
- (b) your PAO's approach towards any internal net zero commitment and acting sustainably.

If you have a compelling story on sustainability to tell, please come prepared to share.