

Charity Finance Conference

■ **Keep up-to-date with the latest developments in the charity sector at this year's Charity Finance Conference on Thursday 18 June at Holywell Park in Loughborough. The conference will begin with a keynote address from Nigel Davies, Technical Secretary to the charity SORP Committee. The conference provides guidance on reporting, tax, employment law and how you can demonstrate you are an effective charity. Sessions include:**

- Managing for Effective Performance
- Charity Accounting
- Charity VAT Update
- Employment Law Update
- Gift Aid
- Breakout sessions; (a) Internal Controls, (b) Cash Management or (c) Reporting to Stakeholders

The conference fee is £295. ACCA members and registered charities are eligible for the reduced rate of £280.

For further information or to book any of these events, contact the Professional Courses team on 020 7059 5910 or email professionalcourses@uk.accaglobal.com. ■

coming up

■ **ACCA UK Professional Courses provides a wide range of CPD events designed to keep your technical knowledge fully up to date.**

The following one day courses will be held in London between 09.15 and 17.00 and are priced at £295 each:

- Integrating Financial and Non-Financial Performance Measurement; 3 June
- Influencing with Integrity; 5 June
- Coaching for Performance; 17 July.

A programme of events for the Autumn was being prepared as *Public Eye* went to print. Please contact Professional Courses for further details. ■

CPD and the economic downturn

■ **There is no longer any doubt that we are in the grip of a major economic downturn, leaving many of us feeling anxious about the future in one form or another. But why think about CPD at this time?**

It seems for now the economy is still adjusting to the changes taking place, with no one being absolutely sure what we should expect next. Therefore it is absolutely vital to be proactive when thinking about your skills set. You will want to be able to demonstrate that you can add value to your employer not only through your existing expertise, but also by developing the appropriate knowledge and skills needed in this economic climate. Focusing on your CPD will help you plan ahead and ensure that not only your organisation, but also your own career, comes out of this downturn strongly.

What types of learning should you consider?

There are two key areas you should consider when thinking about your CPD: firstly, the subject areas you will need both now and in the future, and secondly the methods in which you might gain the learning.

ACCA's Insights research piece: A Changing Profession: the evolution of accounting roles, skills and career aspirations, found that technically specialised roles are increasingly common, driving the need for technical skills.

Technical knowledge

While your current role will largely dictate the range of technical knowledge you currently hold, it is nonetheless worth noting that, in the future, ACCA's research has found it likely that there will be skills shortages in the finance profession in areas such as risk management,

corporate governance and financial analysis. It's certainly something to bear in mind if you are considering re-skilling to move into a new area of business.

Business and management skills

A changing profession found that there is a perceived gap between the management skills organisations need, and the skills both employees and external candidates hold. The main management skills gaps are in:

- Communication
- Analysis
- Leadership
- Time Management
- Team Building
- Presentations.

For finance and accounting professionals, future career success can largely hinge on ensuring that such skills are held.

Learning methods

Cost effective methods of gaining CPD include coaching and mentoring within your organisation, or being coached or mentored by a senior colleague; making use of existing staff expertise to deliver in-house courses, briefings and updates to other colleagues; and making use of on-the-job learning such as learning from new project work or asking for a secondment. ■

For more information, and how ACCA Realise can help you, visit these resources:

<http://www.accaglobal.com/members/cpd>

<http://www.accaglobal.com/elearning>

<http://discuss.accaglobal.com>

<http://www.accaglobal.com/members/careers>



ACCA appoints new Head of Public Sector

■ ACCA is pleased to welcome Gillian Fawcett as the new Head of Public Sector in the Technical Department.

Before joining ACCA, Gillian was a senior fellow working with the Office for Public Management, a not-for-profit consultancy organisation in the UK. Gillian has also worked for the Audit Commission in the UK, where she provided senior policy advice on corporate governance, financial management, performance management, equalities and human rights. In 2005 she was seconded to the UK Parliament as deputy head of the scrutiny unit, responsible for providing professional support to select committees. She began her career as an accountant and is, of course, ACCA qualified.

One of Gillian's key objectives will be to provide cutting-edge policy and technical support to members in the public sector so that they can continue to deliver effective financial management during a time of unprecedented financial constraint. ■

farewell to Public Eye

■ In January, ACCA relaunched its members' magazine *Accounting and Business*. With a much greater emphasis on the UK than before, the magazine now features much of the content previously published within *Public Eye*. Why not take a fresh look at *Accounting and Business* when the June issue arrives?

This relaunch has allowed ACCA to review how it communicates with its members and focus on its desire to be a more sustainable organisation. As a matter of course we now use our website and e-mail to provide you with details of our free events programme, (paid for) Professional Courses CPD events and other network news (eg elections to the panel).

With the above channels keeping you informed of both news from ACCA and developments across the corporate sector, this – the 68th issue over 17 years – marks the final issue of *Public Eye*. We hope you have enjoyed reading the magazine and will continue to enjoy reading *Accounting and Business*. ■

Keeping your contact details up to date

ACCA strives to be a sustainable organisation, and is moving towards primarily electronic forms of member communications. Using e-mail and our website also allows us to communicate with you on a timely and cost-effective basis. Please take a moment to ensure that the e-mail address you have registered with ACCA is your primary, current, e-mail address. Login to MyACCA via www.accaglobal.com to check your details now.