



## **IAAER Activities**

### ***In memoriam Professor Kazuo Hiramatsu***

The IAAER was saddened to hear of Professor Kazuo Hiramatsu's passing in early December 2020. Professor Hiramatsu was a Japanese scholar of international accounting, who served as the President of Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan from 2002 to 2008. He was a strong supporter of IAAER having held numerous roles including President and Past President. He also served as a Director of Japan's Financial Accounting Standards Foundation, a member of the CPA Auditing Oversight Board and the Business Accounting Deliberation Council of the Japanese Ministry of Finance, a member of the International Accounting Education Standards Board, the President of the Japanese Association for International Accounting Studies, and he was the 2005-2006 International Member-at-Large of the Council of the American Accounting Association. The IAAER community will fondly remember Professor Kazuo Hiramatsu and his contributions.

### ***Changes to eIFRS access for IAAER members***

IAAER members subscribing or renewing their membership up to December 31, 2020 will still be able to enjoy one year full access to the eIFRS professional subscription. For any new memberships or membership renewals as of January 1, 2021, the IFRS Foundation will offer a 50% discount on the price for the eIFRS professional subscription for IAAER members. Details on the new eIFRS subscription procedure, and how to obtain the IAAER discount will soon be available in the member area of the IAAER website.

### ***IAAER KPMG Grant Program to inform the IASB***

On December 3 and 4, 2020, the IASB hosted the first deliverable for Round 7 of the IAAER KPMG Grant Program to inform the IASB. Five teams presented the preliminary findings of their research projects which are directed at informing the IASB. A list of the funded projects is available [here](#).

Presenters on December 3 included Niclas Hellman, Mariya N. Ivanova and Zeping Pan (all Stockholm School of Economics); Denise A. Jones and Kimberly J. Smith (both College of William and Mary); and Roshan K. Sinha and Donald R. Young (both Indiana University). Presenters on December 4 included Kim Trottier (HEC Montréal) and Elaine Henry and Steve Yang (both Stevens Institute of Technology).

Each presenting team received valuable feedback from members of the Program Advisory Committee (Mary E. Barth, Stanford University; Holger Erchinger, Partner KPMG LLP; Patrick Hopkins, Indiana University; Anne McGeachin, IASB; Katherine Schipper, Duke University; Donna L. Street, University of Dayton; and Ann Tarca, IASB) as well as IASB board and staff members. In addition to Ann Tarca, other IASB Board members in attendance included Nick Anderson, Tadue Cendon, Zach Gast, Tom Smith, and Mary Tokar. Incoming IASB Chair Andreas Barckow, SEC Deputy Chief Accountant International Paul Munter, and Leslie Hodder, IAAER Representative to the IFRS Advisory Council also attended the deliverable to share their insights with the teams.



The next deliverable will be hosted by the IASB on June 1-2, 2021.

This highly successful grant program is possible due to the generous funding of the KPMG Foundation and KPMG LLP.

### ***IAAER on IFAC's International Panel on Accountancy Education***

During 2020, IFAC organized a series of panel conversations with experts for members of the International Panel on Accountancy Education (IPAE). IAAER co-hosted the 'December Panel Conversation with Experts'. Facilitated by IAAER President Professor Keryn Chalmers, the topic was "'Robot-proofing' Accounting Students". In addition to Keryn, the speakers were Stephanie Bryant (AACSB) and Melissa Stanton (Director KPMG US). Panelists discussed developments in accounting bachelor and masters degrees to enhance the ICT skills of professional accountants. This is particularly relevant given the new International Education Standards (IESs) become effective on January 1, 2021, and include revisions to the ICT competence area. Stephanie discussed how AACSB Accounting Accreditation is preparing tomorrow's professional accountants with a focus on how technology is being infused throughout the curriculum. Melissa discussed KPMG's Master of Accounting with Data Analytics program, co-created and delivered with a number of universities. The KPMG program aims to prepare the next generation accountant. Keryn summarized the findings from a recent study, commissioned by CPA Australia, that included a review of how, and to which extent, ICT skills are incorporated into the accounting curriculum at Australian and New Zealand Universities.

### ***IAAER representation at the first virtual AAA doctoral consortium***

IAAER nominated Philipp Muetsch, a doctoral student at the University of Mannheim, to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> American Accounting Association (AAA) Doctoral Consortium held in June 2020. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the consortium was held as an online event this year. The consortium's organization committee led by Ed de Haan put together a highly informative and well-balanced virtual event that combined presentations and discussions by distinguished scholars with opportunities for doctoral students to present their own research and establish scholarly networks. The consortium featured high profile accounting academics, such as Brain Bushee (who spoke about the relevance of market-based measures in accounting research), Sarah McVay (who shared insights and recommendations about the academic publication process), Dan Taylor (who reflected on the advantages and disadvantages of various research approaches), and Alan Jagolinzer (who familiarized participants with state-of-the-art teaching methods). Doctoral students presented and discussed their projects in small breakout groups with up to three fellow students and two professors. Philipp presented a project he co-authors with Holger Daske and Felix Vetter. They study how mandatory gender policy disclosures change labor market outcomes for women, Philipp commented: "Although held virtually, the AAA doctoral consortium was a great learning experience. I received valuable feedback on our project and gained many new insights. I am very grateful to the organizers for putting together such an excellent virtual event and cannot thank the IAAER enough for granting me this unique opportunity."

***IAAER Representation on the IFRS Advisory Council***

The IFRS Advisory Council met virtually on November 3-4, 2020. The primary topic of discussion was the Trustees' Consultation Paper on Sustainability Reporting. The Consultation Paper articulates requirements for success for a Sustainability Standards Board (SSB), should such a board be established by the IFRS Foundation Trustees. The Advisory Council Meeting was preceded by small group breakout sessions conducted by the Advisory Council Chair in October 2020. Consistent with those meetings, the SSB discussion was organized around the primary questions addressed by the consultation paper. The Council broadly agreed the IFRS Foundation's governance structure and credibility could add legitimacy and credibility to a Sustainability Standards Board. However, concerns exist about the scope of the undertaking and its ability to succeed without adversely influencing financial reporting standard setting. One specific concern is that a perceived urgency for immediate results is at odds with a sufficiently deliberative process necessary to promote acceptance of promulgated sustainability standards. One important concern is the absence of a conceptual framework specifying the objectives of sustainability reporting, its scope, elements, and qualitative characteristics. Insufficient consensus about fundamental reporting concepts is likely to result in widespread disagreement about specific standards. Indeed, the term "sustainability" itself has many possible meanings and many yet-to-be-defined components.

Although the Consultation Paper proposes immediate focus on climate change-related reporting as an initial foray into sustainability reporting standard setting, "climate-change-related reporting" has numerous meanings. For example, other boards have developed reporting criteria with at least two distinct and potentially competing objectives: (1) quantify financial impacts of climate on the firm and (2) report the firm's impact on climate change. These objectives potentially require different standards and measures. In particular, meaningful representation of the firm's impact on climate change likely requires development of meaningful nonfinancial metrics by scientists and other experts. Allowing expediency to circumvent important deliberations about sustainability reporting objectives and concepts would force board members to address such fundamentals at the level of each standard. In addition, this focus on expediency could threaten both the independence and legitimacy of the new board from the moment of its assembly.

While potentially facilitating some "quick wins," restricting the scope of a new sustainability standards board to a single dimension of climate-related reporting could place the IFRS Foundation in a double bind. While the absence of timeliness could render a new sustainability board ineffective, the absence of a comprehensive and conceptual approach to sustainability reporting could also render a new board ineffective. In either case, the new board runs the risk of becoming just one more voice in the cacophony of developing standards promulgated by entities around the globe.

What do IAAER members think? The development of a sustainability standards board within the governance structure of the IFRS Foundation is a substantive proposal to which IAAER members can meaningfully contribute. Please see the IFRS Foundation's project information [here](#), and make your views known. The response period for the paper is open until December 31, 2020.



### **IAAER Conferences and Workshops**

#### ***IAAER AAA International Accounting Section Joint Meeting, January 28-30, 2021 – IAAER Membership benefit: complimentary registration***

The meeting will proceed in a virtual setting while also preserving the key elements of its traditional program. The meeting is preceded by a PhD/New Faculty Consortium on January 28, 2021. Please check the AAA International Accounting Section's (IAS) website [here](#) for updates and registration, which will be available shortly. Please note that, due to the generous support of KPMG Foundation, registration is complimentary for members of both AAA IAS and IAAER, by selecting the appropriate box. IAAER members must use the email address on file with IAAER when registering. Membership will be verified; if you are a member of both organizations, we request that you select the AAA IAS member option.

#### ***IAAER ACCA Central and Eastern European Emerging Accounting Scholars Research Workshop, Bucharest (Romania), June 7-8, 2021***

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) together with IAAER will host their annual joint workshop to provide emerging scholars from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) with feedback on their research proposals and to help develop their research skills. Please view the call for papers [here](#).

#### ***IAAER/Taiwan Accounting Association Joint Conference, Taipei (Taiwan), December 2021 (dates to be confirmed)***

#### ***Accounting Section of VHB / IAAER Joint Conference 2022 (dates and location forthcoming)***

#### ***42nd AFC Congress with IAAER, Bordeaux (France), 2022***

Originally scheduled for May 2021, due to the continuing uncertainties with regards to the pandemic the event will be postponed to 2022.

#### ***Krakow University of Economics / IAAER Joint Conference, Krakow (Poland), September 2023 (dates forthcoming)***

### **Research funding and grants**

#### ***Winners of the IMA Research Foundation 2020 Special COVID-19 Call for Research Proposals and further funding opportunities***

IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) is pleased to announce the winners of the IMA Research Foundation (IRF) 2020 Special COVID-19 Call for Research Proposals.

- (1) "Corporate governance response to concurrent internal and external risk," Brant E. Christensen, Dipankar Ghosh, and Deonette Lambert (all at The University of Oklahoma, USA)
- (2) "COVID-19 and SME revenue management," Jodi Moll and Ogan Yigitbasioglu (both at



- Queensland University of Technology, AUSTRALIA)
- (3) "COVID-19 Motivated Changes to Executive Compensation and Incentives," Mary Ellen Carter (Boston College, USA), Luann Lynch (University of Virginia, USA), Xiaoxia Peng (University of Utah, USA)
  - (4) "Development of cost-deployment-based metrics for the measurement of financial impact of ISO14001 implementation," Tom G. Geurts (Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, USA), Beate Klingenberg (The International Institute Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence, ITALY)
  - (5) "COVID-19 and Abnormal Excess Capacity for Manufacturers: Impact on Inventory Valuations and the Adequacy of SFAS 151 Disclosure in 2020 Financial Statements," Benjamin P. Foster (University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA)
  - (6) "Rolling with the Punches: Improving Business Resilience and Decision-Making Through Advanced Information Technology," Shirley J. Daniel and Yuangzhang Xiao (both at University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA), and Ting-Tsen Yeh (Louisiana State University, USA)
  - (7) "Revenue management by the U.S. Commercial banks during COVID-19 pandemic," Nancy Seelye (First Financial Bank, Ohio, and Indiana Wesleyan University, USA), Brian Routh (Meredith College, North Carolina, USA)

The IRF is dedicated to funding relevant, thought-provoking research that furthers the knowledge and scope of accounting and financial management globally. Ongoing grant programs accept grant proposals throughout the year. These include the Academic Research Grant program for faculty, Doctoral Scholars program for students at different stages of their doctoral studies, and the IMA Incubator Grant Program for small "proof of concept" or pilot-type projects that may lead to more in-depth research. Questions can be sent to Kip Krumwiede, IMA director of research, at [kkrumwiede@imanet.org](mailto:kkrumwiede@imanet.org).

### ***Update on ICAS Calls for Research***

ICAS launched two programs of research in 2019, focusing on the topics of Intangibles and Technology. Following our calls for research in late 2019, the following three academic research projects were funded and are under way:

- (1) Do companies disclose relevant information about intangibles? Insights from business model and risk reporting, Christian Nielsen (lead researcher) (Aalborg University), Lorenzo Simoni (University of Genoa), Francesco Giunta (University of Florence), Chiara Crovini (University of Turin)
- (2) Intangibles, Stefano Zambon, University of Ferrara; Giuseppe Marzo, University of Ferrara; Laura Girella, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- (3) Real and Quick-time data: A challenge to reporting and assurance? How real-time and quick-time data is shaping and transforming the practice and decision-making of financial analysts and professional investors, Mark Aleksanyan, University of Glasgow; Ioannis Tsalavoutas, University of Glasgow; Subhash Abhayawansa, Swinburne University of Technology; Kenneth Less, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Calls for papers and non-IAAER conference announcements*****AMIS 2021 International Conference in Bucharest (Romania), June 9-10, 2021***

The 16th edition of the Accounting and Management Information Systems (AMIS 2021) conference will be hosted by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (Romania), on June 9-10, 2021, either in a hybrid or virtual format. For further information please view the Call for Papers [here](#).

***CAAA Annual Conference 2021 ONLINE (everywhere), June 10-12, 2021***

The 2021 CAAA Annual Conference will be held online in a synchronous format on June 10-12, 2021 under the Topic "Diversity/La diversité". Submissions are due on January 19, 2021. Further information is available [here](#).

***Accounting Perspectives: CAAA Annual Conference Symposium, June 10, 2021***

Accounting Perspectives is pleased to announce the Accounting Perspectives Symposium at the CAAA Annual Conference. The symposium, "Transformational Thinking: Applying Ourselves to Change" will explore how external influences have transformed, and will continue to transform, the accounting profession. The symposium, to be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, will feature research articles that study significant transformations in the field of accounting. Submissions are due on January 19, 2021. Further information is available [here](#).

***Accounting Perspectives: Call for Papers, Special Issue of Literature Reviews on Emerging Topics in Accounting Research***

Accounting Perspectives is pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue of Literature Reviews in Accounting Research. The journal is seeking literature reviews that synthesize accounting research topics, identify gaps in the literature and raise new research questions to inspire future accounting research on emerging topics. Submissions are due on January 31, 2021. Further information is available [here](#).

***2021 AFAANZ Conference in Melbourne (Australia), July 4-6, 2021***

The 2021 AFAANZ Conference organized by the Accounting & Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) is scheduled to be held in Melbourne, Australia on 4-6 July 2021, but will be held online if required. Updated guidance about whether the conference is to be held physically or virtually will be given as soon as possible. For further information please view the Call for Papers [here](#).

***2021 International Accounting Standards Board Research Forum, November 1-2, 2021***

The International Accounting Standards Board (Board) will hold a Research Forum in conjunction with Accounting and Finance. The Forum will be held virtually if travel is not possible. If travel is possible the Forum will be held in southern Asia on November 1-2, 2021. The editors of the Accounting and Finance/IASB Research Forum Special Issue, Tom Smith and Gary Monroe, invite submissions that provide evidence to help inform the standard-setting



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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ACCOUNTING EDUCATION & RESEARCH

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activities of the Board. Submissions are due on March 31, 2021. Further information is available [here](#).