



International Accounting Standards Board®

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IASB expands its working group on Standards for Smaller Entities

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has expanded its working group on Accounting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SMEs) to include more preparers and users of SME financial statements as well as others with a particular SME expertise. SMEs are entities that (a) do not have public accountability and (b) publish general purpose financial statements for external users.

The role of the working group is to assist the IASB in its project to develop a set of financial reporting standards suitable for SMEs—standards that are likely to include simplifications from full International Financial Reporting Standards. A meeting of the working group is planned for 29 and 30 June 2005 in London.

New members of the IASB's working group are:

- Jean-Pierre Boucquet, Adjunct-Director Accounting, Dexia Bank, Belgium
- Mark Ellis, Chief Financial Officer, Michael C Fina Companies, United States
- Hugo van den Ende, PricewaterhouseCoopers, The Netherlands
- Dr Christophe Ernst, Ministry of Justice, Germany
- Dany Girard, Executive Director, Caisse Populaire Desjardins d'Arvida/Kénogami, Canada
- Mitsuru Komiyama, Managing Partner, Komiyama & Co., Japan
- Mr Pascal Labet, Director of Economic Affaires, CGPME, France
- Johnny Mao, Head of Credit and Special Assets, The Bank of East Asia, Limited, Hong Kong
- Arthur V Neis, Vice President, Treasurer/CFO, LCS Holdings, Inc., United States
- Mike Pacitti, Director, 3i plc, United Kingdom
- Dr Richard Roberts, SME Research Director and Chief Economist, UK Banking, Barclays Bank
- Leonardo Rodriguez, Professor Emeritus, Florida International University, United States, and President, Interamerican Accounting Association
- Dr Oliver Roth, Chief Executive Officer, LempHirz GmbH & Co. KG, Germany.

Continuing members of the working group are:

- Yoseph Asmelash, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- David Cairns, Academician and consultant, United Kingdom
- Paul Chan, Paul Chan & Co., Hong Kong
- Ndung'u Gathinji, Eastern Central and Southern African Federation of Accountants
- Larissa Gorbatova, Center for Capital Market Development, Russia
- Robin Jarvis, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, United Kingdom
- Kil-woo Lee, Korea Accounting Institute
- Mikael Lindroos, European Commission Internal Market Directorate General
- Ian Mackintosh, Chairman, Accounting Standards Board, United Kingdom
- Reyaz Mihular, KPMG Ford Rhodes Thornton & Co., Dubai
- Colin Notley, Mitchell Notley & Associates, New Zealand
- Gerhard Prachner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Austria
- David Raggay, IFRS Trainers, Trinidad
- Fabienne Renaud-Aidan, Conseil national de la Comptabilité, France
- Tony Seah, SQ Morison, Malaysia
- Isobel Sharp, Deloitte & Touche, United Kingdom
- Frank Timmins, Grant Thornton, South Africa
- Ying Wei, China Accounting Standards Committee, People's Republic of China

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NOTES TO EDITORS

What does the IASB mean by a publicly accountable entity?

An entity has public accountability if:

- it has filed, or it is in the process of filing, its financial statements with a securities commission or other regulatory organisation for the purpose of issuing any class of instruments in a public market;
- it holds assets in a fiduciary capacity for a broad group of outsiders, such as a bank, insurance company, securities broker/dealer, pension fund, mutual fund or investment banking entity;
- it is a public utility or similar entity that provides an essential public service; or
- it is economically significant in its home country on the basis of criteria such as total assets, total income, number of employees, degree of market dominance, and nature and extent of external borrowings.

The IASB believes that its full International Financial Reporting Standards are appropriate for these entities.

About the IASB

The IASB, based in London, began operations in 2001. It is funded by contributions collected by its Trustees, the IASC Foundation, from the major accounting firms, private financial institutions and industrial companies throughout the world, central and development banks, and other international and professional organisations. The 14 IASB members (12 of whom are full-time) are drawn from nine countries and have a variety of professional backgrounds. The IASB is committed to developing, in the public interest, a single set of high quality, global accounting standards that require transparent and comparable information in general purpose financial statements. In pursuit of this objective, the IASB co-operates with national accounting standard-setters to achieve convergence in accounting standards around the world.

A Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu study indicates that 94 countries either require or permit the use of IFRSs for publicly traded companies beginning in 2005. Some other jurisdictions, including Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Singapore, base their national practices on international standards. In September 2002 the IASB and the US standard-setter, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, reached an agreement to work towards the convergence of existing US and international practices and the joint development of future standards. In October 2004, the IASB and the Accounting Standards Board of Japan agreed to initiate discussions about a joint project to minimise differences between IFRSs and Japanese accounting standards towards a final goal of convergence of their standards. In January 2005 the two boards announced their agreement to launch a joint project to reduce differences between IFRSs and Japanese accounting standards, and in March the boards met to decide on the initial programme of work for the project.