Accounting Technicians – Exploring Opportunities for the Profession is available on the CAPA website (www.capa.com.my) in electronic format and can be downloaded at no charge. Printed copies can be requested from the CAPA Secretariat.

WHERE TO OBTAIN THE PUBLICATION?
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WHO SHOULD USE THE PUBLICATION?
This publication is for PAOs who want to have a better understanding of:

- The AT sector, the services it provides and the benefits it brings
- The various operating models and programs that exist
- Potential opportunities for PAOs, including either developing or sustaining the AT sector

Other stakeholders, including development partners who have regularly advocated the need for an established AT sector, are also encouraged to use this publication.

CAPA’s commitment to the public interest leads it to advocate the adoption of, and compliance with, professional values throughout the accounting sector. Professional accountancy organisations (PAOs) can have a fundamental role to play in considering whether and how accounting technicians (ATs) might be brought into a framework embodying the values and quality requirements already core to the accountancy profession.

The publication, Accounting Technicians – Exploring Opportunities for the Profession, aims to encourage PAOs to consider the importance of ATs in the accounting sector, and whether and how they might create, support, partner, liaise with, or otherwise assist with developing and/or strengthening an AT (or equivalent) cohort within their country.
Whatever their stage of economic development, all countries, across all sectors, have a workforce supporting the preparation of financial information at an operational level. Timely, credible and reliable financial information preparation is fundamental to successful investment, to effective governance and to the quality of service delivery both by the AT workforce and by the more senior, higher-qualified professional accountants that rely on it. ATs play an important and significant role at the forefront of the accounting supply chain.

This is why CAPA wishes to encourage PAOs to consider the importance of ATs in the accounting sector. Training and professionalising this workforce is not just about benefiting the individuals by opening up access to professional qualifications, nor about benefiting the organisations that will benefit from it. More importantly, it is about benefiting national and regional economies, businesses and governments, and ultimately benefiting the public interest.

The organisational arrangements and programs from eleven jurisdictions (nine from Asia Pacific) are described, which show the wide diversity of operating models and AT or similar programs.

Any PAO seeking to explore opportunities further will need to consider the approaches in the context of their own national market and regulatory structures, along with their current stage of development and access to resources.

In considering what an AT-styled organisation and program may look like, the publication explains:

### Four Alternative Organisational Arrangements and Structures

1. A separate organisation sponsored by a national PAO, as can be found, for example, in Sri Lanka or South Africa.
2. A program embedded within a national PAO, as can be found, for example, in Canada or New Zealand.
3. An organisation established independently of any national PAO, such as in China, Japan or the Philippines.
4. An arrangement whereby the PAO or AT member organisation partners with others offering an AT program, as occurs in Cambodia and Singapore.

In the light of experience and as organisations mature, the research shows the organisational arrangements and programs also evolve.

### Nine Common Characteristics and Attributes of an AT Program

These characteristics, all of which drive towards establishing a high-quality program, are discussed in detail in the publication.