



ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS:

Roundtable 1: Recognition of the AT designation

Accounting Technicians
Webinar Series
15 Dec
2021



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Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA)



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Project Overview and Proposed Way Forward

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July 2021 Webinar - Outcome

The Goal:

Achieving Accounting Technician Recognition

The Challenge:

Defining
an AT

Positioning
the
Qualification

Explaining
Roles and
Benefits

Imagining
the Future

The Stakeholders:

PAOs

Governments

Business

Development Partners

Proposed Roundtables 2 to 5 (every six weeks)

Defining an AT

Aim: To explore a common definition for an AT

Recognising the benefits

Aim: To explore the benefits of ATs and if these warrant the separate recognition of ATs

Positioning the qualification

Aim: To explore if qualified ATs can be established as a recognised element of the broader accountancy profession

Imagining the future

Aim: To explore 'the future AT'



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Why there is currently limited or no general recognition of the AT designation

Open Discussion



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We asked attendees to consider three questions:

1. If we are trying to fix something, what is it that is broken or not working?
2. Where is the lack of recognition an issue e.g. generally or certain stakeholders?
3. What are the barriers to achieving widespread recognition?

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In terms of AT recognition.....

.....if we are trying to fix something, what is it that is broken or not working?

Directly relevant responses:

- No standardised mechanism prescribed by IFAC or national regulators
- Lack of proactive promotion of ATs in developing nations/PAOs
- AT is not given the position it deserves
- Too much emphasis on PAs in developing countries

CAPA view:

- We do not have **global** recognition for ATs (as compared to PAs)
- Lack of consistent understanding, programs, language, and agreed positioning in the broad accountancy spectrum

Responses parked for future webinars/thinking:

- Designation not prioritised for resourcing/training
- Lack of non-graduate opportunities (diversity/talent/social mobility)
- Lack of consistent and quality AT training across the profession
- Nothing is broken – we are creating an Interest Group

In terms of AT recognition.....

.....where is the lack of recognition an issue e.g. generally or certain stakeholders?

Directly relevant responses:

- IFAC
- Accountancy profession
- Government and regulatory bodies
- Businesses/Employers
- Recruiters
- Academia

CAPA view:

- Agree with provided responses
- Lack of recognition is widespread across a range of stakeholders

Responses parked for future webinars/thinking:

- Unite in our view of:
 - ✓ who an AT is
 - ✓ what an AT does
- Changing mindsets
- Education and awareness of role of ATs

In terms of AT recognition.....

....what are the barriers to achieving widespread recognition?

Directly relevant responses:

- Traditional focus is CA/CPA
- Professional elitism and competitive tensions
- Lack of focus from IFAC and PAOs
- Need an independent body to advocate for ATs
- Lack of reciprocal arrangements

CAPA view:

- Lack of understanding and interest
- Lack of leadership
- Lack of vision and strategy as it fits into the long-term growth and sustainability of the accountancy profession

Responses parked for future webinars/thinking:

- Impacts on sustainable and resilient future accountancy profession
- Linkages to education systems and providers

Forward Program – What next?

(including Key Questions)

Defining an AT

Aim: To explore a common definition for an AT

- ✓ Is 'Accounting Technician' the right term/name for the desired designation'?
- ✓ How could the designation be defined?
- ✓ What education program would be required?

Recognising the benefits

Aim: To explore the benefits of ATs and if these warrant the separate recognition of ATs

- ✓ Can compelling benefits be identified?
- ✓ What stakeholders have an interest in this cohort of accountants?
- ✓ How do these support the concept of separate recognition?

Positioning the qualification

Aim: To explore if qualified ATs can be established as a recognised element of the broader accountancy profession

- ✓ Why has it not become a widely recognised qualification?
- ✓ Can the related issues be overcome?
- ✓ How could the qualification become an established part of the professional accountancy supply chain?

Imagining the future

Aim: To explore 'the future AT'

- ✓ Will there be a market need/demand for this type of accountant?
- ✓ What roles (and critical skills) are envisaged?
- ✓ What, if anything, needs to change in how this type of accountant is perceived?