



# ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS: Roundtable 3: Positioning the Qualification

Accounting Technicians  
Roundtable  
9 Mar  
2022



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Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA)

## Project Overview

The Goal:

Achieving Accounting Technician Recognition

The Challenge:

Imagining  
the Future

Positioning  
the  
Qualification

Recognising  
the Benefits

Defining  
an AT

The Stakeholders:

PAOs

Governments

Businesses

Development  
Partners



# Roundtable 1: Recognition of the AT Designation

## Key Questions:

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

## Matters discussed:

- ✓ Recognition - what does it mean
- ✓ Global vs. local recognition
- ✓ Recognition vs. demand
- ✓ Market differences
- ✓ Language - PAs vs. ATs
- ✓ Long-term vs. short-term outlook
- ✓ Organisational arrangements

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# Roundtables 2-5: Focus Areas

(including Key Questions)

## 2. 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?

## 5. 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?

## 3. Positioning the Qualification

**Aim:** To explore if qualified ATs can be established as a recognized 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?

## 4. 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?

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## ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS: Roundtable 3: Positioning the Qualification

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Open Discussion



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

We asked attendees to consider three questions:

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

Responses from ACCA, CA ANZ, SAICA – Thank you!

Accounting Technicians Roundtable – 9 March 2022

## POSITIONING THE QUALIFICATION

### 1. Why has it not become a widely recognised qualification?

Directly relevant responses:	Interpretation of responses	CAPA - additional thoughts
i. Recognition exists in some jurisdictions more than others	Noted	a. Too much variation around the world, in AT: ✓ Programs - qualifications ✓ Designations - titles ✓ organisational arrangements - models b. Lack of mutual recognition between bodies (a usual signal towards global recognition)
ii. Need to understand what does recognition look like? And by whom?	Noted	
iii. Distinction between the PA and AT has not been clarified – delineation point from Roundtable 2	Noted – the issue being concerns that recognition of the PA may be diluted	
iv. Lack of investment in global recognition and branding	Noted	
v. Syllabus specific to local needs	If this is the case, it may hinder global recognition	

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## POSITIONING THE QUALIFICATION

### 2. Can the related issues be overcome?

Directly relevant responses:	Interpretation of responses	CAPA - additional thoughts
i. Yes, with collaborative efforts between PAOs and stakeholders	Noted	a. Organisations already focusing on ATs will need to collaborate and lead b. Operating under a common brand may be key, but this requires common quality c. Hence, collaboration should focus on those matters that contribute to global consistency and quality, e.g. common terminologies, designations, program elements
ii. Yes, with strong branding	Noted	
iii. May require different actions in different regions	Noted – each country/ organisation will need their own action plan to contribute towards the overall recognition goal	
iv. PAOs need to be part of the solution and show the distinctions between PAs and ATs	All PAOs need to understand the concept of an accountancy 'spectrum' and where AT's fit	

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## POSITIONING THE QUALIFICATION

### 3. How could the qualification become an established part of the professional accountancy supply chain?

Directly relevant responses:	Interpretation of responses	CAPA – additional thoughts
i. Obtain global recognition	Noted	a. Need understanding and acceptance from the wider profession (and stakeholders) that the AT has a clear role and position within the accountancy supply chain b. Need alignment of tertiary education with AT programs c. Requires IFAC recognition, which may require IFAC Education Panel to consider relevant education standards
ii. Create global, regional and local awareness (common messages)	Noted	
iii. More alliance needed between organisations offering the AT or equivalent qualification	Noted	
iv. Branding/Marketing/awareness campaign	Noted	
v. Increase recognition through governments/regulators regarding AT roles	Noted	

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## POSITIONING THE QUALIFICATION

### What does all of this mean?

Summary of responses and CAPA thoughts	Suggested Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Recognition required globally, regionally and locally</li><li>✓ Recognition required by profession and relevant stakeholders</li><li>✓ Current AT providers need to collaborate and lead</li><li>✓ Greater consistency needed in AT organisational arrangement and/or programs</li><li>✓ Delineation between ATs and PAs important</li><li>✓ Any programs must achieve a quality standard</li><li>✓ Branding and marketing will be vital</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Need understanding and acceptance from the wider profession (and stakeholders) that the AT has a clear role and position within the accountancy supply chain</li><li>✓ Need alignment of tertiary education with AT programs</li><li>✓ Requires IFAC recognition, which may require IFAC Education Panel to consider relevant education standards</li><li>✓ Existing AT program providers to act as leaders, drive towards core 'consistency', and advocate for recognition of ATs</li></ul>

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# Forward Program – What next?

(including Key Questions)

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