

## *President's Communication — June 2009*



**Nasir U Ahmed, FCA**  
**President, ICAB**

**My dear fellow members,**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your continued support in discharging my responsibilities as your President since beginning of this year. The month, June is a very special month of the year for all professional accountants whether in practice or in service, as the annual budget is declared with various amendments in fiscal policies of the government. This being the first budget of the new government, people had a high expectation for various changes in fiscal measures. The major issue of this year's budget was the provision for declaration of undisclosed money paying very nominal tax thereon. Moreover initial proposal was to keep this provision open for three years, but later having faced serious criticism from various professionals, trade bodies and civil society, the government finally decided to allow this opportunity for only one year i.e. 2009-2010 fiscal year.

June was a month of prediction, anticipation and rumors on budget related issues mainly opportunity for declaration of undisclosed money, increase in the limit of the individual tax free amount, downward revision of corporate tax for financial institution and NBFIs, special fiscal benefits to boost up capital market, duty on vehicles etc.

As usual, I would now like to draw a sketch on some of the major activities carried out by ICAB during the month of June 2009 and also provide an indication of our planned activities for the next month.

I have tried to accommodate few of the suggestions received from various honourable members to enrich these pages of President's Communications. I hope to continue this monthly communicate with honorable members through these pages to keep them posted the developments that are taking place in ICAB and in our profession.

I beg sincere apology for the delay in circulating my June communication for unavoidable reasons and I promise to circulate next communication at an earliest possible time.

### **Presentation of National Budget:**

The new Finance Minister Hon'ble Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, M.P. presented proposed National Budget for financial year 2009-10 at the *Jatiyo Sangsad* on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009. ICAB was represented by Mr M. J. Abedin, FCA, Council Member & Past President, who is also the Chairman of Taxation & Company Law Committee and Mr Md. Shahdat Hossain, FCA Vice President at the VIP Gallery of *Jatiyo Sangsad* to listen Finance Minister's budget speech. A meeting of the Taxation and Company Law

Committee of ICAB was called on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, following the presentation of draft budget by the Finance Minister, to review the fiscal measures proposed in the budget. It was decided at the meeting that a CPD Seminar would be held on the changes proposed in Finance Act in line with previous practice.

#### **CPD Seminars:**

There was one CPD seminar on the 20 June 2009. Despite our intention to hold two CPD seminars in June, we could not do so due to some unavoidable reasons. The CPD program scheduled on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, had to cancel due to technical fault of lifts at C A Bhaban.

The topic of the Seminar was “Strategic Planning – A Case Study”. Mr. Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA Managing Director, Nuvista Pharma Ltd. presented the key note paper. Mr A Hafiz Choudhury, FCA President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Past President-ICAB attended the seminar as Chief Guest. The session was chaired by Mr. A K M Aftabul Islam, FCA former President, American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh. A good number of members attended the seminar.

#### **Workshops on External Audit of MFIs:**

ICAB joined with Microcredit Regulatory Authority in holding a workshop on External Audit of MFIs” at Chartered Accountant Bhaban on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Abbas Uddin Khan, FCA Council Member, Past President & Chairman of the Professional Development Committee, Mr Anwaruddin Chowdhury, FCA Council Member & Past President and Mrs. Parveen Mahmud, FCA Council Member & Past Vice President attended the workshop and spoke at this program.

#### **Evening Coaching Classes:**

Evening Coaching classes for PE I were continuing in full swing for examinees waiting to sit for November 2009 examination. Classes for PEII & PEIII students would start after declaration of results of May examination, tentatively in August 2009. ICAB and its Council are fully focused on students' educational facilities including library facilities to increase pass rate in all professional examinations. Council and Board of Studies are also taking keen interest in activities relating to examinations and revision of syllabus under Twining Project with ICAEW. We are taking all preparations for smooth switching over to new curriculum to be designed under Twining project. This will be another important milestone for ICAB.

### **Professional Examination:**

All professional examinations of ICAB started from the 31<sup>st</sup> May, were finished during first week of June 2009. I must thank to the Controller of Examinations and all office bearers of Dhaka and Chittagong Regional Councils for their untiring efforts in successfully holding of examinations both in Dhaka and Chittagong as well as the members of ICAB who acted as invigilator. My special thanks to Mr Showkat Hossain, FCA Vice President stationed in Chittagong for his supervision and guidance to CRC for successful holding of the examinations in Chittagong.

All actions have been taken for timely declaration of results of these professional examinations.

### **Participation at a Roundtable Discussion organized by BEI:**

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) invited the President of ICAB to participate at the Roundtable Discussion on the “*Global Financial Crisis and Corporate Governance: Lessons and Way Forward for the Banking Sector in Bangladesh*” held on Saturday, June 06, 2009, at BEI Conference Room. Former Finance Minister, Dr Mirza Azizul Islam was the key note speaker and Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr Atiur Rahman attended as Chief Guest. Chairman, Securities Exchange Commission was also present as special guest. Other invitees included at this roundtable discussion were, Chairmen of Board of Directors of various banks and other experts relating to the banking industry. President, ICAB whilst invited to speak on the subject, suggested mandatory inclusion of professionals like Chartered Accountants, Lawyers and veteran bankers in the board of all banks to ensure better corporate governance in this sector. He opined that if this suggestion is implemented, would further strengthen corporate governance at banks. He also suggested well constructed guidelines on induction of “Independent Director” in the board, to ensure better governance of banks and other listed companies. These suggestions were well accepted by the Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Chairman, SEC. Chairman, SEC informed that the formation of revised guidelines on “Independent Director” is under process and SEC would take suggestion from ICAB on this issue.

### **Participation in Prothom Alo “Shapath Grohon” Programme:**

At the request of the Prothom Alo, ICAB participated at a program on “*Shapath Grohon*” at our auditorium on the 08<sup>th</sup> June. President, Vice President, Secretary and other officials, staff, students participated at this program. This event was well covered in the Prothom Alo on the following day. This has given an additional mileage to ICAB and Chartered Accountancy profession.

### **Meeting with the President, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) in London, UK:**

President of ICAB while on a personal visit to the UK, had a meeting with Mr Martin Hagen, President of ICAEW, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at ICAEW Office, Chartered Accountant Halls, London. They discussed various professional issues of mutual interest with special emphasis on signing a MoU between the two institutes. President, ICAB informed his counterpart about the progress of the Twining Project. During this meeting Ms Jean Ettridge, Head of International Affairs of ICAEW and Mr Vernon Soare, Executive Director of ICAEW were also present. After the meeting, Mr Martin Hagen, President, ICAEW took visiting President of ICAB around the office building of ICAEW and showed him various sections of ICAEW and also briefed him various activities of the institute and facilities offered to its members. President, ICAB invited Mr Martin Hagen, to visit ICAB at a mutually convenient time. Mr Hagen gladly accepted the invitation and expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh during October 2009.

President, ICAB had another meeting with Mr Micheal D M Izza, Chief Executive of ICAEW and other key officials of ICAEW. At this meeting, President, ICAB discussed various issues relating to current Twining Project and extension of the project for the benefit of ICAB members and students. Signing of MoU between the Institutes received highest importance at both the meetings. ICAEW Officials present at this meeting were, Mr Vernon Soar, Executive Director, Ms Jean Ettridge, Head of International Affairs, Mr Martin Batsford, Contracts and Project Manager.

### **Meeting with Office bearers and members of ICAB UK Chapter, in London:**

ICAB UK Chapter hosted a dinner party in honour of visiting President of ICAB at a local restaurant in London on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Mr Hossain Ahmed, FCA Chairman of the UK Chapter presided over this dinner meeting, where other members of the UK Chapter were present. President, ICAB appraised members and UK Chapter officials present there, on various actions taken by the present Council, for the benefit of the profession and its members. He also apprised them, plans for rest of the year. While delivering his speech, President ICAB requested officials of UK Chapter to organize events for the benefits of members in the UK. He also suggested to organize few social events to include families of members in the activities of ICAB UK Chapter. President concluded his speech with profound thanks to UK Chapter office bearers and members, for arranging the dinner party.

Members present at this meeting suggested President to arrange publication of UK Chapter's activities in the monthly News Bulletin of ICAB. They also requested President to arrange distribution of "List of Members" among overseas members. President assured them to look into these issues with due importance and suggested them to keep ICAB office informed about their activities in the UK to enable ICAB to publish news of their activities in the monthly news bulletin.

#### Other key activities of the month:

- One Council meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. Meeting discussed various important issues including SAFA events in Delhi in July and participation at ICAI diamond jubilee programs. In addition, few important recommendations of the Executive Committee were also approved.
- One Executive Committee meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, to take decisions on various professional and administrative matters of ICAB.
- Information Communication Technology Committee (ICTC) held a meeting to review the proposal of the Sub-Committee on automation of examination system & other areas of the operation of ICAB. A proposal has been received on the automation from a vendor. Decision was taken to place this proposal for automation of the examination system at the next Executive Committee for approval.
- TRC Sub-Committee held one meeting to take decisions on various technical issues relating to the profession and professional standards.
- Articled Students Committee held one meeting to resolve various students' related issues.

#### Activities Planned for July 2009:

We have already planned the following activities for the month of July:

- Carrying out recruitment process for the position of Executive Director (Project) and Director (Technical) for immediate appointment.
- Holding of at least one Council meeting.
- Arrangement of at least one CPD Seminar.
- Holding meetings of the following Standing and Other Committees –
  - Executive Committee
  - Project Development & Implementation Committee
  - Continuous Professional Development Committee
  - Review Committee for Published Accounts & Report
  - Board of Studies
  - Information Communication Technology Committee
  - Taxation & Company Law Committee
- Meetings of various Sub Committees have also been planned in this month.

- Meetings of Council Sub Committees for review of new curriculum and draft MoU with ICAEW has also been planned in this month.
- Meeting with academicians of Ashton University, UK who are carrying out a research project in Bangladesh.
- Meeting with IMF Team, who are conducting Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP)

**Conclusion :**

While concluding my communication with you, I would like to urge all the members of ICAB - Let's dream big and more importantly, dream different. Remember that dreams are like stars, you may never touch them but if you follow them they will lead you to your destiny.

Sincerely Yours,



**Nasir U Ahmed, FCA**  
Dated: 20 July, 2009