

MEMBERSHIP

As of January 15, 2009, the membership of the Forum comprises:

FULL MEMBERS

Baker Tilly International Limited
BDO International
Constantin Associates Network
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Ernst & Young Global Limited
Grant Thornton International Limited
HLB International
Horwath International
IEC
INPACT Audit Limited
JHI
KPMG International
Mazars
Moore Stephens International Limited
PKF International Limited
PricewaterhouseCoopers International
RSM International Limited
Russell Bedford International
SMS Latinoamérica
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co.
International
UHY International Limited

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Polaris International

FORUM OF FIRMS AND TRANSNATIONAL AUDITORS COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVE OF THE FORUM OF FIRMS

The objective of the Forum of Firms (Forum) is to promote consistent and high quality standards of financial reporting and auditing practices worldwide. The Forum brings together firms that perform transnational audits and involves them more closely with the activities of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in audit and other assurance-related areas.

STRUCTURE

The Forum is a registered legal entity in Switzerland. There are currently 21 full members and one provisional member of the Forum. The Transnational Auditors Committee (TAC) is the executive arm of the Forum and a committee of IFAC and, therefore, provides the official linkage between the Forum and IFAC.

The Forum and IFAC work together in areas such as standard setting, dialogue with the regulatory community, and promoting convergence to international standards. The Forum provides technical expertise to the IFAC standard-setting boards through its five nominated members to each of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, the International Accounting Education Standards Board, and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants. The Forum also supports IFAC's Member Body Compliance Program and developing nations initiatives to strengthen the accountancy profession around the world.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The work of the Forum is primarily conducted by the TAC. The responsibilities of the TAC include:

- Identifying audit practice issues. When the issues suggest that changes in auditing or assurance standards may be required, the TAC recommends to the appropriate IFAC standard-setting board that the issue be reviewed.
- Providing a forum to discuss good practices in areas including quality control, auditing practices, independence, and training and development.
- Participating in the IFAC Regulatory Liaison Group and identifying qualified candidates to serve on IFAC standard-setting boards.
- Acting as a formal conduit for interaction among transnational firms and international regulators and financial institutions with regard to audit quality, systems of quality control, and transparency of international networks.

FORUM MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the Forum is open to networks and to firms upon giving notification to the Secretary of the Forum that they meet the following criteria for eligibility – namely, that they (or their constituent entities, as applicable) have transnational audit appointments or are interested in accepting such appointments. Forum members must also promote the consistent application of high quality audit practices worldwide, including the use of International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), and support convergence of national audit standards with ISAs. Members must agree to meet the Forum’s membership obligations with respect to transnational audits, which require members to:

- Maintain appropriate quality control standards in accordance with International Standards on Quality Control issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board in addition to relevant national quality control standards and conduct, to the extent not prohibited by national regulation, regular globally coordinated internal quality assurance reviews;
- Have policies and methodologies for the conduct of such audits that are based, to the extent practicable, on ISAs; and
- Have policies and methodologies which conform to the IFAC *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* and national codes of ethics.

In addition, members must agree to submit to the Secretary of the Forum an annual report, in a form approved by the TAC, indicating that they meet the membership obligations set forth above.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Forum and the TAC, visit http://www.ifac.org/Forum_of_Firms/ or contact Barry Naik, Technical Manager, TAC/Member Body Development, by telephone: +1 212 471 8723, or email: barrynaik@ifac.org.

RECENT TAC PUBLICATIONS

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

- *Tone at the Top and Audit Quality*
- *Perspectives on the Global Application of IFRS*
- *Globally Directed Internal Inspection Programs*

POLICY AND GUIDANCE STATEMENTS

- TAC Policy Statement 1 – *Policy for Provisional and Full Members*
- TAC Policy Statement 2 – *Internal Quality Assurance Review Program Requirements*
- TAC Guidance Statement 1 – *Definition of Transnational Audit*



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