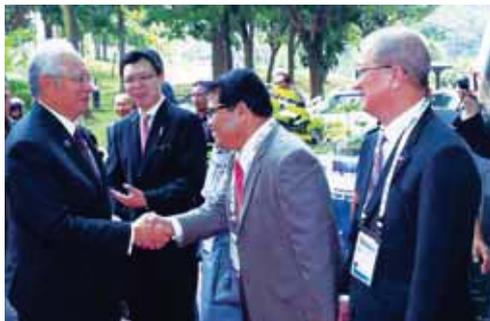


■ REPORTING BY THE ACCOUNTANTS TODAY EDITORIAL TEAM

MIA INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS CONFERENCE 2014



*The MIA International Accountants Conference 2014, which is MIA's 30th annual conference, exceeded expectations with a record-breaking attendance of more than 2,600 delegates.*



**THE** need for enhanced collaboration and strengthening competency and capacity-building to fuel national development were the key messages stressed during the two-day conference, which featured 16 sessions on the latest developments and issues affecting the profession, including regional integration, integrated reporting, big data, leadership and management best practices, and changes to regulations and standards.

During his keynote address, the guest of honour and Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak urged accountants to step up and contribute their unique strengths to nation-building. "Accountants play key roles in the development of every economy; not just as the financial backbone of organisations, but also as advisors, strategists and administrators," he said.

The Prime Minister championed stronger collaboration between professional accountancy bodies and governments, not just to support economic growth but also to protect the public interest. “In supporting economic development, accountants are expected to drive forward transparency and accountability. It is your core values – integrity, objectivity, transparency, independence and accountability – together with good governance, which deliver healthy economic development and business progress.”

Capacity-building and developing a sustainable pipeline and pool of professional accounting talent will be essential to help drive the Economic Transformation Programme, which

aims to transform Malaysia into a high-income nation and to support the government’s aspiration to transform Malaysia into a leading accountancy hub in the Asia Pacific. It is estimated that Malaysia would need at least 60,000 qualified accountants by 2020, said MIA President Datuk Johan Idris in his remarks at the conference opening ceremony.

Singling out competency as a major challenge, Datuk Johan said that implementing dedicated professional centres for accountancy training and professional certification will

be a key effort to elevating competency. He thanked the Prime Minister for the government’s initiative to establish the new Professional Accounting Centre – to be located at UiTM - in collaboration with MIA. “This will certainly help to increase our pool of future professional accountants. MIA is currently working with the relevant parties on the structured programmes for the Centre,” he said.

Responding to the Prime Minister’s call for greater collaboration between government and the profession, Datuk Johan reiterated MIA’s commitment as a partner in economic development and nation-building, by supporting key government initiatives, such as GST implementation and the government’s shift to accrual accounting from cash-based accounting. ■

For more in-depth information on the Conference, please visit <http://miaconference.mia.org.my/speakers/index.asp> to read the coverage of the 16 plenary and concurrent sessions.

