



2 April 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

e2i and CPA Australia extend Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals Programme to SMF members

The Singapore manufacturing sector has a new avenue to hire mid-career professionals looking to switch into the accounting profession, as the industry seeks to relieve the crunch for such talent.

e2i and CPA Australia are collaborating with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) to extend the Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals Programme to support the hiring and training of accounts or audit professionals in the manufacturing industry.

Mr Gilbert Tan, CEO of e2i, said, "The Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals Programme will benefit companies by attracting and retaining mid-career professionals who are keen to switch into the accounts/audit sector. With SMF as a partner, we believe our outreach to manufacturing sector professionals would be amplified, and many would be able to tap on this program to take on a new direction for their careers."

e2i will provide participating employers with training allowances and subsidise up to 70% of course fees for successful candidates who are recruited under this programme.

Mr Melvin Yong, Singapore General Manager of CPA Australia, said, "The Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals Programme has seen strong interest from jobseekers since it was launched in January 2013. Through this new partnership with SMF, we are delighted that the programme can now benefit the manufacturing sector while increasing the opportunities for individuals looking to make a career switch into accounting,"

Mr Lam Joon Khoi, Secretary- General, Singapore Manufacturing Federation said, "This is a good initiative from both e2i and CPA Australia to provide PMEs looking to switch careers with additional support and qualification in accounting. It will certainly enhance the career options for PMEs in this challenging world and contribute an additional resource point to the manufacturing industry."

During their training, candidates will enroll in the CPA Program Foundation Level offered by CPA Australia, which will equip them with the necessary basic accounting knowledge.

It also provides them with a direct pathway to advance to the CPA Program Professional Level, which will confer the globally-recognised CPA Australia professional accounting designation. Candidates will also undergo 6 months of on-the-job training (OJT) with participating employers.

To date, the Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals scheme has attracted 6 employers who intend to recruit Mid-career Professionals in Singapore without accounting work experience or accounting-related qualifications.

Mr Chris Fuggle, Director of Regional Outsourcing of Mazars LLP, a new participating employer, said, "I believe the Programme will prove to be very beneficial. Our clients expect our accountants to be more than just bookkeepers. They seek proactive advice which is relevant to their business. Under the Programme, we will have the opportunity to introduce more diversity to our team. This will create different perspectives, challenge the norms and, I strongly believe, will enable us to provide a more commercially valuable service to our clients. That we can also offer a mid-career professional the opportunity to take on a new and exciting challenge and that the scheme is partially funded are great by-products."

Under the programme, participating employers commit to offer jobs to successful candidates on a permanent and full-time basis.

The candidates will also have starting salaries of at least S\$2,000, and receive a basic salary increase of at least 15% upon completion of the programme.

Employers who hire candidates under this programme can apply for training support of up to S\$8,450 per eligible employee.

Employers who are interested to participate in the programme may contact Ms Yashira Johan at sitiyashira@e2i.com.sg or DID 6471 9524.

####

For further information and media enquiries, please contact:

CPA Australia

Mr Mark Chau
Regional Manager, Employer – International, Business Development
DID : 6671 6514
Email : mark.chau@cpaustralia.com.au

Ms Sheryl Koh
Assistant Marketing Communications Manager
DID : 6671 6529
Email : sheryl.koh@cpaustralia.com.au

e2i

Ms Christine Neo
Senior Specialist
Marketing Communications & Partnerships
DID : 6471 5852
Email : christine_neo@e2i.com.sg

####

About CPA Australia

CPA Australia is one of the world's largest accounting bodies with more than 144,000 members working in 127 countries. We have operations in chosen markets throughout the world, including all Australian capital cities, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

CPA Australia's primary aim is to enhance our members' professional knowledge and support their career development through education, training, technical support and advocacy. Staff and members work together with local and international bodies to represent the views and concerns of the profession to governments, regulators, industries, academia and the general public.

Our international presence continues to grow in terms of representation on international bodies and influence in the profession globally. In the areas of financial reporting, taxation and corporate governance, we are thought leaders in Australia and internationally.

CPA Australia's vision is to be the world's best member service organisation.

For more information, visit www.cpaustralia.com.au

About e2i (Employment and Employability Institute)

As THE leading organisation to create solutions for better employment and employability, e2i exists to create better jobs and better lives for workers. In 2011, we helped 46,000 workers through providing better jobs, developing better skills through professional development, and improving productivity for companies. An initiative of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), supported by the Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF), and the Singapore National Employers' Federation (SNEF), e2i serves all segments of workers, from rank and file to professionals, managers and executives.

Visit www.e2i.com.sg for more information.

About Singapore Manufacturing Federation

Established since 1932, Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by 10 industry groups and 6 Centres of Excellence, SMF offers a holistic approach towards enhancing competitiveness of its members. Current membership stands at more than 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs.

For more information, please visit www.smfederation.org.sg

ANNEX A: Factsheet on the Place-and-Train Accounts & Audit Professionals Programme

Firms keen on diversifying their talent pool by hiring non-accounting professionals for professional accounting roles will now be able to apply for training support of up to S\$8,450 (inclusive of up to 70% course fees and 6 months of training allowance) per eligible employee.

Funding Duration	6 months
Eligible Employee Criteria	Singaporean or Singaporean PR; Has minimally 18 months non-accounting work experience; and Holds minimally a bachelor's degree from a non-accounting field.
Training Support	<p>1. Course fees funding e2i will fund up to 70% of course fee capped at S\$2,450 for an employee to undergo the CPA Programme Foundation Level by CPA Australia). This is subject to 100% exam attendance and that the employee is still in employment at the end of six months.</p> <p>2. Training Allowance e2i will fund up to 50% of an eligible employee's monthly salary capped at S\$1,000 per month for a period of six months.</p>
Employer Commitment	<p>A participating employer shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer employment on a permanent and full-time basis;• Commit to a basic commencement salary of at least S\$ 2,000;• Ensure the employee undergoes a structured and continuous 6-month on-the-job training (OJT) during the first six months of employment; and• Commit to offer a basic salary increase of at least 15% upon completion of the 6 months programme.
Register your interest	<p>Employers:</p> <p>Contact Ms Yashira Johan at sitiyashira@e2i.com.sg or DID 6471 9524</p>