



PRESS RELEASE (August 2019)

AFA announces recipient of the AFA Research Grant 2019

Malaysian researchers will be conducting a research on technological competencies for ASEAN SMPs and SMEs under the AFA Research Grant 2019 initiative

Following a comprehensive assessment of high-quality proposals from all over the world, presenting various thought-provoking research ideas focusing on ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Practices (SMPs) relevant topics such as digital mind-set and transformation, financial literacy, sustainability and integrated reporting, service provision and risk management, AFA is pleased to announce the recipient of the AFA Research Grant 2019.

With the title of *Accounting Professional Technological Competency Skills (APTCS) SMPs for SMEs Technology Adoption*, the proposal is a brainchild of a group of researchers from the Faculty of Accountancy, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and Azman Hashim International Business School, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The research aims to identify barriers for accounting professional in technological competency skills acquisition and assessment of their current level in selected countries in the region, and to propose the technological competency skills needed for accounting professional to advocate SMEs' technology adoption.

Assessment of the proposals was conducted by an independent panel of regional experts with various backgrounds, from practitioners to academicians. The panel brings with them a collective expertise, experience, and in-depth understanding of SMEs and SMPs environment especially in Southeast Asia. Based in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom, the panel has done a commendable job in coming to their decision, exercising full accountability in every step of the assessment.

The 9-month research will be commenced in September and expected to be finalised before the end of the first half of 2020.

The AFA Research Grant 2019 is fully supported by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CA ANZ) and the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA).



About AFA (www.aseanaccountants.org)

The ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) was organised in March 1977, to serve as the umbrella organisation for the recognised national Professional Accountancy Organisations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states. AFA is an accredited Civil Society Organisation of the ASEAN, recognised under the ASEAN Charter since 1994.

About the AFA Research Grant

The AFA Research Grant is a realisation of AFA's aspiration to be a regional thought leader on discussion of issues relevant to the accountancy profession. For the period of 2016-2019, AFA's focus is on ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Practices (SMPs).

The first initiative was introduced in 2016, attracting 44 proposals from 9 countries all over the world. The result was the AFA Research Report 2018: *The Institutional Environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Roles for the Accounting Profession (ASEAN Perspectives)*, launched in November 2018. The report highlights different approaches in defining SMEs in the ASEAN region and potential roles of accountants, particularly SMPs in supporting the SMEs.

Download the AFA Research Report 2018 – *The Institutional Environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Roles for the Accounting Profession*:

<http://www.aseanaccountants.org/news-77-AFA%20Research%20Report%202018.html>.

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