

# The IMA Vision: Global Leadership

by Margaret Butler, CMA, CPA

The world is getting smaller. Business is becoming increasingly global. As these changes occur, financial professionals all over the world are seeing the need to become part of an organization that helps them enhance their

knowledge, their professionalism, and their credentials so they can further their careers and better serve their employers. Many of them are coming to the IMA for education, professional development, and certification.

IMA's Vision Statement clearly expresses the objective of its leaders to be influential in the world financial community as it envisions "Global leadership in education, certification, and practice of accounting, finance, and information management." Likewise, its Statement of Mission indicates the commitment to being "globally recognized by the financial community..." for promoting ethical practices in those fields.

For many years, IMA has been involved in international efforts. It has representation on the International Federation of Accountants and participates on IFAC's Financial and Management Accounting Committee. IMA's Financial Reporting Committee is charged with the responsibility of responding to proposed pronouncements of such global standards-setting bodies as the International Accounting Standards Board. And IMA has sent delegates to the World Congress of Accountants.

IMA has more than 5,000 international members in 119 countries. During the first 10 months of this operating year, more than 20% of new members came from outside the borders of the U.S. A majority of those have come to the IMA for certification: 35% – 40% of new candidates in the certification programs are international members.

This speaks favorably of the global nature of business and the extent to which IMA and its certifications support business and financial management worldwide.

IMA also has a number of active international chapters. The Seoul, South Korea Chapter was chartered in September 2000, followed by the Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Chapter, chartered in February 2001, and the Taipei, Taiwan Chapter, chartered in September 2001. The Metro Manila Chapter, whose charter was issued in November 2002, will officially receive it at the IMA Annual Conference this month. And the Amsterdam, Netherlands Chapter, chartered in February 2003, held its Opening Conference May 8.

Chapter development efforts are under way in Cairo, Egypt; Amman, Jordan; and Hong Kong and The People's Republic of

China. There has been significant interest in promoting the IMA and its certifications at various locations in Canada, Mexico, Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain, among others.

But our job has just begun. As business continues to expand globally, so will the efforts of IMA leaders to promote the Institute's Vision and Mission to provide education, professional development opportunities, and certification that will advance the ethical practice of accounting, finance, and information management within the United States and throughout the world. ■

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