

By Jeffrey C. Thomson, CMA



The Power of IMA's Global Community

IMA® has many proponents in the Middle East, and we will be calling on them to continue to help spread the word about our association, the CMA®, and the profession of management accounting.

Dear IMA Members:

I have some exciting developments to report from my recent trip to IMA's Middle East region with Jim Gurowka, IMA's vice president of international development. Our trip included visits to Jordan, Qatar, and Dubai for chapter, course provider, and corporate development activities.

IMA continues to grow in influence, respect, and size in the Middle East region. Outcomes of our trip underscore a couple of major points: IMA is a truly global organization—reflecting the footprint of our profession—and we have many IMA and CMA (Certified Management Accountant) “ambassadors” to call on—including members, volunteer leaders, staff, and business partners—to spread the word about the value of management accounting. In all, we met members from five chapters in the region: Amman Jordan, Dubai-UAE, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia-Eastern Province, and Qatar. Our global community is truly a competitive advantage in its depth and breadth,

spanning the globe with passionate and inspired staff collaborating to advance the profession!

Special thanks go to many local volunteers, including Dubai Chapter President Karim Abd Elhay, CMA, CFM, and Chapter officer (and recent winner of an IMA Young Professional of the Year Award) Iyad Mourtada, CMA, for successful chapter events held in person and via live webinar. Our educational sessions covered leadership development and how CMAs help enhance organizational capability in turbulent times.

During our multicountry visits, we met with the CFOs of Qatar Air and Qatar Telecom and with the regional CFOs of IBM, Daimler, and Ericsson. We also held a special summit meeting that at least 10 of our valued CMA review course providers attended.

On the academic side, we met with two professors from Qatar University, which has one of the top-ranked MBA programs in the Middle East. We talked with Prof. Nitham Hindi, CMA, who is the dean of the school's College of Business & Economics, and Helmi Hammami, head of the Department of Accounting & Information Systems.

Special thanks also go to Ammar

Khayyat, president of the Jordanian Association of Management Accountants (JAMA), which serves as IMA's local chapter in Jordan. We attended JAMA's inaugural annual conference, and it was a huge success. Approximately 250 participants joined us, including many notable CFOs and CMAs.

I saw firsthand the power of IMA's global community and the intense interest in the CMA program. IMA's local staff in the Middle East continues to deliver programs, products, and services tailored to the local member, including the regional IMA Middle East website (partially in Arabic). Many thanks to Hanady Khalife and Kavitha Prabhu for the work they do at IMA's Middle East regional office, for organizing my media appearances with *The National* and *CNBC Middle East*, and for making me feel welcome. In the Middle East, as well as in other parts of the world, IMA helps advance the profession and enrich careers, organizations, and societies.

Please share any thoughts with me at jthomson@imanet.org. **SF**

Sincerely,
Jeff Thomson, CMA
IMA President and CEO