

EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present to you the 2012 issue for JAP. In this edition, all five articles were contributed by academics. The areas discussed are related to accounting regulations, behavioural aspects in managerial accounting research and the contribution of infrastructure construction – specifically tolled highways – in achieving Malaysia's socio-economic objectives. The first paper by Engku Mohd Anuar et al. discusses the impact of the audit exemption proposal on the behavioural aspects of SMEs. The authors conducted a study on the views of the SMEs concerning the proposal, grouping the samples as follows: wholly owned family business, partially owned family business and non-family owned business. The authors find that the family-owned businesses are more likely to continue adopting for a voluntary audit even in the event that SME regulatory auditing is exempted. According to the authors, the dependence of family-owned businesses on accounting expertise is the main factor that contributes to the stark differences in views concerning voluntary auditing in comparison to non-family businesses. The second paper by Abdullah et al. discusses IFRS compliance by Malaysian companies. This study employs both the disclosure analysis and interview method. The authors find that, overall, the quality of financial reporting by Malaysian companies is not in tandem with the written regulation on compliance. The authors argue that this scenario calls for the regulatory authorities to strengthen their enforcement of compliance with the accounting standards.

From the regulatory issues presented and discussed in the two papers above, we move on to issues that are more closely related to organizations. The third paper by Abdul Rasit and Ismail discusses the development of the literature on performance measurement. The authors find that although performance measurement has been widely researched, this area is generally linked to the overall performance of organizations. The authors contend that there is limited research on how performance measurement is related to the behaviour of individuals and how managers' decision-making is conducted. Hence, future research may assist in addressing the apparent gap in the field.

The fourth paper, by Zainuddin and Zainal, discusses how budget participation influences intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, which could ultimately assist in job performance. The authors conducted a questionnaire survey in the study. They find that participating in budget preparation increases the managers' intrinsic motivation, which, in turn, enhances the drive for extrinsic motivation, and, ultimately, job performance. The results suggest that if an organization adopts

a more participative style in its budget setting, it may indirectly increase the motivation of the employees, and, later, their job performance, which is beneficial to the organization.

The last paper, by Alfian, discusses how the construction of tolled highways in Malaysia corresponds to the broad economic policies that have been implemented and directed to achieve socio-economic objectives in the country. The paper uses secondary data obtained from the Malaysian Highway Authority, Ministry of Works and the Economics Planning Unit to supplement the main data gathered from the Companies Commission of Malaysia. The ownership of the concession companies were then obtained and analysed taking into account the political economy approach (PEA), which is the theoretical perspective adopted for this study. The author concludes that the government's presence is significant, and, thus, critical in ensuring the achievement of the socio-economic objectives.

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