

**Speech by Mr Doug Oxley  
President of Hong Kong Institute of Accredited Accounting  
Technicians Limited  
at the New Name Ceremony and Annual Dinner 2006  
– “Fly to a New Dimension”  
on Friday, 31.3.2006**

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Mrs Fanny Law, Mr Paul Chan, fellow Board members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Accredited Accounting Technicians Limited, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you all for joining this Ceremony.

This evening is the formal launch of our new name and logo. We are very honoured to have Mrs Fanny Law as our guest of honour to officiate our ceremony. Thank you Mrs Law. We also have some VIP guests from London, the President of UKAAT and his wife and its Chief Executive, who traveled a long distance to celebrate with us. Thank you Trevor, Mrs Salmon and Jane. Of course, it is our great pleasure to have you all here to witness this important milestone of HKIAAT's development. Thank you very much indeed.

Our bright new corporate logo comes with a simple contemporary design which signifies solid skills and bold optimism. The two distinctive wings symbolise the first flight towards a career in accounting, while the orange colour represents youth and

dynamism. Our new design also shows the HKIAAT's ties to the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, being its subsidiary body that adopts the same important values of quality, depth, rigour and ethics.

As many of you know, the HKIAAT evolved from The Hong Kong Association of Accounting Technicians Limited. In the past 17 years, we have dedicated ourselves to training young accounting professionals to serve the world of business and the public sector. With the new look and renewed mission as the only professional body for accounting technicians in Hong Kong, we will reinforce our unique position in the market as the "backbone of business".

AAT represents reliable, dynamic and professional people. They provide essential support to CPAs; they are respected for understanding the mechanics of accounting and finance, and supporting accounting system, internal controls and management. They work at all levels from accounts assistants to financial supervisors. They have indispensable talents that keep the business wheels turning. The AAT qualification that we offer is an elite symbol - our qualification provides the knowledge, relevant and practical skills expected of accounting technicians for a wide range of accounting and finance jobs. No matter what age group or previous experience, AAT qualification is a ticket to a promising accounting career in every business and public sector. Our qualification also offers opportunities for those who aspire to higher

academic or a fully-fledged CPA professional qualification.

Over the years many school leavers or mature students have benefited from the multi-entry levels of examinations we offer. The HKIAAT has been striving to seek recognition of the AAT qualification so that our members and students can easily pursue higher education and achieve career advancements. I am proud to say that our AAT and Professional Bridging Examination (PBE) qualifications have received six advanced standings from accounting degree and finance master programmes and five government departments have considered our PBE students as equivalent to degree holders for employment. Whilst we take pride in these achievements, we are not complacent.

Continuous efforts are being made to seek more recognition of our qualification outside Hong Kong. It was only last month that we forged a firm link with our counterpart in United Kingdom under a Reciprocal Membership Agreement. Now members of both bodies are eligible to apply for the membership of the other body and enjoy the benefits in both jurisdictions.

This is a significant step for the HKIAAT to enhance its status in the international arena. I wish to thank Trevor and Jane for their effort in reaching this important milestone and the team from our side whose concerted efforts have made this very first RMA a reality.

As a professional body of vision, our examination syllabuses are under constant review to ensure that it is up-to-date and meet the market's needs. We will soon be publishing a consultation paper on our proposed new examination structure and invite all of you to offer us your valuable comments.

In the coming months, we will be launching a series of activities to raise public awareness of our new name and logo. We will also be stepping up our promotional campaigns to increase the awareness of the AAT profession in Hong Kong. All these are achieved with the support of my fellow Board members and relevant committees, which I would like to specially thank them. I would like to thank the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, represented by the President, Mr Paul Chan and a number of Council members today, for its special role in guiding the HKIAAT. Thanks also to the Secretariat, headed by Ms Winnie Cheung, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs, who is also our Institute Secretary.

I trust that you find the exciting new developments I outlined sufficient to demonstrate that HKIAAT live up to our pledge to provide premier services to our members and students. I hope that you will continue to give us your support in bringing the HKIAAT to a new era of success!

Without further ado, I would like to introduce our Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Fanny Law and the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB). Our rapport with the EMB went back some ten years ago in 1996 when the Accounting Knowledge Competition (which is now known as the Accounting Case Competition) was first organised. The competition is well-received by secondary school students and tonight we will be presenting prizes to the winners. Recently, we have also been working very closely with the EMB in the development of the Career Oriented Curriculum and the proposed elective subject “Business, Accounting and Financial Studies” under the new 3-3-4 curriculum. Our aim is to offer secondary school students an opportunity to learn the ‘tools of the trade’ for accounting at an early stage and to provide them with clear pathways to join our professional examinations.

Sharing the same goal with EMB of nurturing the younger generation for the future of Hong Kong, we are very honoured to have Mrs Fanny Law, Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower, to be our guest of honour tonight. Mrs Law joined the Administrative Service of the Hong Kong Government in 1977. She became the Director of Education of the Hong Kong SAR in November 1998. She was appointed Secretary for Education and Manpower in July 2000 and assumed the present position of Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower in July 2002. She was closely involved in a comprehensive review of the education system in Hong Kong which resulted in a blueprint for

education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century promulgated by the Chief Executive in October 2000. As Permanent Secretary, Mrs Law is assisting the Secretary for Education and Manpower in implementing the education reforms, which aim to nurture a new generation of knowledge workers, and lay the foundation for a lifelong learning society.

Now we all put our hands together to welcome Mrs Fanny Law to the stage to give her speech. Mrs Law please. Thank you very much.