

**Project Final Report for  
Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (“PASS”)**

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<b>1. Project Details</b>
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<b>1.1 Project Reference No.</b>	:	<u>PS202015</u>
<b>1.2 Project Title</b>	:	<u>Professional Enhancement Programme on Forensic Accounting for Hong Kong Accountants</u>
<b>1.3 Grantee</b>	:	<u>The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants</u>
<b>1.4 Collaborating Organisation(s)</b>	:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>1.5 Implementation Agent(s)</b>	:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>1.6 Sponsoring Organisation(s)</b>	:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>1.7 Consultant(s)</b>	:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>1.8 Project Co-ordinator</b>	:	<u>(Name) Peter Tisman (Post title) Director</u>
<b>1.9 Deputy Project Co-ordinator</b>	:	<u>(Name) Wallace Wong (Post title) Deputy Director</u>
<b>1.10 Project Period (duration)</b>	:	<u>from 01/03/2021 to 30/11/2023 (33 months)</u>
<b>1.11 Major Beneficiary Sector(s)</b>	:	<u>Accounting-related</u>
<b>1.12 Approved PASS Grant (HK\$)</b>	:	<u>HK\$390,000</u>

## 2. Project Implementation

### 2.1 Project Summary

*(Please give a summary of the project including objectives, deliverables and target professional service sectors within 100 words.)*

#### Objective

- To develop a structured training in forensic accounting, which is increasingly in demand and to enhance the professional knowledge of local accountants.

#### Deliverables

- Six identical series on forensic accounting topics where experienced practitioners share their knowledge, experience and practical insights in a range of different areas (e.g., investigations, interviewing witnesses, securing evidence, technology, giving expert witness testimony) through the use of training materials and case studies.

#### Target professional service sectors

- It is a specialist training for accountants who wish to develop or enhance their skills in this field.

### 2.2 Project Deliverables

*(Please compare the actual results achieved with the agreed targets for each item.)*

Agreed Targets		Actual Results Achieved <i>(Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. proceedings, attendance records.)</i>	
<i>Date / Deliverables (with quantity)</i>	<i>Beneficiaries (estimated no. of local / non-local participants)</i>	<i>Date / Deliverables (with actual quantity)</i>	<i>Beneficiaries (actual no. of local / non-local participants)</i>
26 Mar 2021 to 23 Sep 2023  Six series of workshops in March and September of 2021, 2022 and 2023  Each series contains four half-day sessions	600 local accountants  (100 participants per series)	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> series: Mar-Apr 2021 (online)  2 <sup>nd</sup> series: Sep 2021 (online)  3 <sup>rd</sup> series: Mar 2022 (online)  4 <sup>th</sup> series: Sept 2022 (online)  5 <sup>th</sup> series: Mar-Apr 2023 (physical)  6 <sup>th</sup> series: Sept 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> sessions: online; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> sessions: physical)	651 participants (including <b>613</b> local accountants)  (For total participants: 109% of the overall target met)  (For Hong Kong professionals: <b>102%</b> of the overall target met.)

## 2.3 Project Promotion and Dissemination

(Please compare the actual means used / outcomes with the agreed activities for each item.)

Agreed Activities	Actual Means Used / Outcomes (Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. posters, leaflets, invitation letters, publications, website printouts, dissemination e-mails, newsletters, feedback surveys and analysis.)
(a) For Project Promotion:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To send a mass email to the Forensics Interest Group (ForensIG) and other HKICPA members</li> <li>To promote the workshops on other e-channels, such as the HKICPA's website, social media platforms, e-newsletters, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We promoted the training through an email to the ForensIG members, which comprises primarily local accountants.</li> <li>Promote the workshops on HKICPA's website.</li> </ul>
(b) For Dissemination of Project Deliverables:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collect feedback from the participants, and share their comments with the speakers for future improvement.</li> <li>Summaries of the course will be shared with the wider membership of ForensIG and the HKICPA through, e.g. newsletters and events</li> </ul>	<p>The summary of each training session:  <a href="https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/EWEB22090101_workshop-flyer_September-2022_220803.pdf">https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/EWEB22090101_workshop-flyer_September-2022_220803.pdf</a></p> <p>The summary of each training session was grouped under a zip file accessible on this webpage link, <a href="https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/Training-summaries/Session2_summary.zip">https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/Training-summaries/Session2_summary.zip</a>, and was shared with other HKICPA and ForensIG members.</p>

## 3. Achievements and Grantee's Evaluation of the Project

### 3.1 Number of participants and eligible beneficiaries

Project Deliverables	Eligible Number of Beneficiaries (if known)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six series of workshops on forensic accounting topics</li> <li>Summary of each training session of the six series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>613 local accountants</li> <li>Over 48,000 accountants have the access to the event summaries on the website</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Feedback from participants / users / professional services sectors

The feedback, overall, was very positive. Five out of the six series received a consolidated feedback score of over 4 out of 5. One series, where the response rate was lower than the other five series, still received a satisfactory score of 3.9. The speakers were generally given high score by the participants, with the majority of them averaging a score of over 4. Participants appreciated the overall grounding in forensic accounting that the course provided and found specific areas, such as interviewing techniques, expert witness work, and forensic technology and investigations to be particularly insightful. In terms of suggestions for future courses, participants would welcome more case studies and, generally, more time for the course, given the amount of material covered. We consider the course a success and a significant milestone in the development of training for accountants in this discipline. We hope to build on this in the future, having regard to the feedback received.

### 3.3 Dissemination of project deliverables to relevant professionals

The summary of each training session was grouped under a zip file accessible on this webpage link, [https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/Training-summaries/Session2\\_summary.zip](https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/-/media/Document/APD/ForensIG/event/Training-summaries/Session2_summary.zip), and was shared with other HKICPA and ForensIG members.

### 3.4 PASS and other objectives reached *(May choose more than one)*

- ☐ Increasing the exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong's professional services with their counterparts in external markets
- ☐ Promoting relevant publicity activities
- ☒ Enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services
- ☐ Others

Please elaborate on how the objective(s) was/were met:

Enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services:

- The workshops provided a practical training course in which experienced practitioners shared their knowledge, experience and practical insights in range of different, fundamental areas of forensic accounting (including, investigations, interviewing witnesses, securing evidence, use of technology, giving expert witness testimony), through the use of training materials and case studies sharing.
- The training helped to expand the pool of accountants with a knowledge and understanding of the key elements of forensic accounting and to enhance the competence and ethical standards of practitioners to undertake domestic and cross-border forensic work, and the skills to investigate and help prevent and detect fraud and misconduct in the corporate sector. This will strengthen the profession and enhance Hong Kong's reputation for high-quality professional services and good governance.
- The participants will be able to apply what they have learned from these courses, including case studies, to their daily work, which will give them a step up to the next level of professional development.
- In making information about the programme more widely available (e.g., through the session summaries), this can also help promote forensic accounting in the wider accounting profession, including students on the HKICPA's qualification programme, as another attractive career path in addition to audit, tax consultancy, insolvency practice, etc. In the long run, this will also assist in expanding the pool of competent practitioners.

### **3.5 Overall achievements of the project**

- Since March 2021, a total of six series of workshops have been held, benefiting a total of 651 participants, including 613 local accountants. The overall positive feedback on the training course from the participants is a testament to the value that they have obtained from it.
- For the trainers, presenting on the course gave them the opportunity, as experienced forensic accounting practitioners to share their knowledge and experience, and hone their skills as trainers in the professional development of less experienced professionals, and practitioners from other backgrounds.
- Session summaries have been produced for all the training series, which will help with outreach to other accountants and accounting students whose interest in forensic accounting may be stimulated by reading about the events.

**The Project Final Report is prepared by the Grantee.**