



ABWA e-BULLETIN

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ABWA Council

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DEVELOPING THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION- ONLINE EXAMINATIONS

Assessments are a key feature of the journey to becoming a professional accountant. Every year, thousands of aspiring professional accountants write low- to high-stakes in-person paper-based or computer-based examinations.

Until recently, very few examinations have been taken remotely. But with COVID-19 forcing many examination centres across the world to close, professional accountancy organisations (PAOs) have had to either postpone or pivot to remote online examinations.

PAOs that have already embarked on this journey (albeit at a slower pace), with a higher risk tolerance, and with the necessary resources were able to transition more rapidly to remote online examinations. This required agility, a high level of collaboration amongst key stakeholders, and an adaptive mindset-or short: blood, sweat and tears.

Whether they pivoted or postponed, most PAOs agree that the landscape has changed forever: there is no turning back; remote online examinations are the future. Those that have pivoted are eager to enhance their processes and systems, and those that have postponed are eager to learn from those who have pivoted.

@Culled from IFAC Knowledge Gateway October 30, 2020.

ICAN ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF ABWA

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) formally assumes the leadership of ABWA on August 8, 2020 for a 2-year tenure during the 87th Council meeting.

ICAN took over from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ghana (ICAG) which was in the saddle between 2017-2019.

The ICAN was unanimously elected as the ABWA President at the 86th ABWA Council meeting held on Dec 4, 2019 in Banjul, The Gambia.

The handing over ceremony earlier scheduled for March, 2020 in Monrovia, Liberia could not hold due to COVID-

19 pandemic which negatively impacted international travels, Council and other economic activities.

In his valedictory address, the ABWA/ICAG President, Prof Kwame Frimpong observed that when ICAG assumed the leadership of ABWA in 2017, there were a lot of challenges which ABWA had to grapple with. These included poor finances, inability to meet obligations to staff, lack of Strategy plan, internal crisis of confidence, refusal of PAFA to accommodate the existence of ABWA, lack of reciprocity between professional accountancy organisations (PAOs) in the subregion, etc.

He added that given these challenges which actually predated the ascension to the ABWA presidency by ICAG, the Council under the leadership of ICAG took decisive steps to address as many of them as possible.

He expressed great delight that with the cooperation of member-bodies, ABWA was able to overcome many of the these challenges. He urged member-bodies to continue to pay their subscriptions while he advised the Council to revive its committees for greater effectiveness.

In her acceptance address, the ICAN President expressed gratitude to ICAG for the achievements recorded during their tenure. She promised that ICAN will strive to build on the foundation laid by leveraging its influence not only to bring back ONECCA,

Senegal which withdrew its membership in 2013 but also consolidate on the relationship with ECOWAS.

She assured that ICAN will leverage its wealth of experience, technical expertise and resources to mentor and support less endowed but fledgling PAOs within the subregion. According to her, ICAN was aware that some PAOs were not yet members of IFAC while some of those who are IFAC members were having challenges discharging their responsibilities as required by the global body's Statements of Membership Obligations (SMOs). During its tenure, ICAN will work with ABWA to ensure that PAOs that were not yet members of IFAC are mentored and eventually sponsored to attain the cherished global recognition as well as technically support them to comply with the SMOs.

ICAN will be in the saddle between Aug, 2020-July, 2022.

LICPA Hosts 88th ABWA Council Meeting

The 88th ABWA Council meeting was successfully held in Monrovia, Liberia on January 8, 2021. It was hosted by the Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA).

The meeting which was earlier scheduled for March 24, 2020 in Monrovia, Liberia had to be postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic

and travel restrictions imposed by many nations to combat the health challenge.

The Council meeting was attended physically by ICAN, ICAG, OECCA, Benin and LICPA while ONECCA, Niger and ONECCA, BF, joined virtually. During the meeting, the Council reaffirmed the hosting rights of the 2nd ECOWAS-ABWA joint Congress it tentatively granted LICPA on August 8, 2020 during the 87th Council meeting. At the end of the Council meeting, the leadership of LICPA had an elaborate Dinner to celebrate its success as well as honour the international delegates. The ABWA President, Dame Onome Joy Adewuyi and Prof Williams Atuilik (President, ICAG) were specially honoured and given LICPA Merit Award plaques.

ABWA VISITS ONECCA, Senegal

The ABWA President, Dame Onome Joy Adewuyi, FCA led a 3-man delegation to visit the leadership of ONECCA, Senegal on March 30, 2021. The ABWA delegation comprised Messrs Cosme Goundete, President, OECCA, Benin and Dr. Abel Aig. Asein, Executive Secretary. The reconciliation meeting was held at the Secretariat of ONECCA, Senegal, Dakar.

After extensive deliberations, the President and Council members of ONECCA, Senegal assured the ABWA delegation that they would make a case for the return of their PAO to the ABWA at their next Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 31, 2021. They indicated interest in the CPD being planned by ABWA and promised to revert to the Secretariat on a suitable date in June, 2021 for the training programme.

The ABWA delegation enjoyed the hospitality of Senegalese as they were treated to a sumptuous lunch in one of beach hotels in Dakar after deliberations

ONECCA, BURKINA FASO RE-ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were recently re-elected into the governing body of ONECCA, Burkina Faso: M. Yacouba Traore (President), M. Alassane Ouedrago (1st Vice President), Koniba Soma (Secretary General) and Motandi Moussa Bougma (Treasurer).

On behalf of the Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa, we wish them a very successful tenure.

LICPA RE-ELECTS ITS OFFICERS

Mr. Victor Tanwone, CPA and his Executive Team were

recently re-elected for another term. Their inauguration took place at a colourful ceremony in Monrovia on March 26, 2021. ABWA congratulates and wishes them a very successful tenure.

PIX FROM MEETING HELD IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA





PIX: ABWA's VISIT TO ONECCA, SENEGAL



ABOUT ABWA

The Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa was established in 1982 by PAOs in the sub-region. *At inception, the body had only 2 members.* But today, it has 15 PAOs:

1. *ONECCA, Benin*
2. *ONECCA, Burkina Faso*
3. *ONECCA, Cameroon*
4. *ONECCA, Cote D'Ivoire*
5. *ICA, Ghana*
6. *ONECCA, Guinea*
7. *ORDEM, Guinea Bissau*
8. *Liberia, ICPA*
9. *ONECCA, Mali*
10. *ONECCA, Niger*
11. *ANAN*
12. *ICA, Nigeria*
13. *ICA, Sierra Leone*
14. *ICA, The Gambia*
15. *ONECCA, Togo*

ABWA is an IFAC-recognized regional body.

ABWA's VISION

To be the premier voice of the Accountancy Profession in West Africa .

ABWA's MISSION

- To ensure that accounting standards and practices are benchmarked on best global practices.
- To ensure that the accountancy profession consistently delivers on its public interest mandate with great ethical disposition.
- To partner with IFAC and PAFA to drive the development of the Accountancy Profession in the sub-region.
- To set the tone of public sector financial management practices

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OBJECTIVES

- Provide professional information that will enhance the efficiency and technical competence of members.

- Set professional standards for business, and ethical code and monitor compliance.
- Create an interactive forum for professional peers in business
- Continuously educate members of their statutory duties and responsibilities as directors, non-executive directors, chief finance officers, internal auditors, in order to promote good corporate governance
- Assist members in professional practice to appreciate the unique needs of members in business
- Eliminate apathy and arouse members' interest in the Institute's activities

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