February 16, 2016

Presidents of PICPA and all Sectoral Organizations

Dear Fellow CPA:

A Belated Happy New Year (including Chinese New Year).

With the start of 2016, I write to you, on behalf of the BoA, to thank you (or your predecessors for those who assumed as President of their organization this January) for all the cooperation that you and your organization extended the BoA in 2015. We were able to achieve a lot last year. Attached is the **2015 annual report of the BoA** on the projects implemented and other highlights of the activities last year.

I am requesting the same level, if not greater, cooperation and coordination in 2016. We will be able to do this if we are able to communicate better. This will require sharing the directory or information of your officers, secretariat and organization. The information that we will require are the Names of the officers/directors/secretariat and their position, mobile number, email address, business address, company affiliated with, and birthdate. We also request for information on the FB and website address and basic information on your chapters. I request that this directory/information be emailed to boa.secretariat@gmail.com by February 22 so that our BoA secretariat can consolidate all these directories and come up with one unified directory. We will give the consolidated directory to you when this is completed.

I also would like that we communicate to each other the major events that our organization will be holding in 2016. We would like to put this in a consolidated Calendar of Events that will ensure that the major activities do not overlap and that we will be able to promote these events. These major activities include your respective annual conventions and major conferences. On the part of BoA, we will include in the Calendar, among others, the Accountancy Week Celebration in April 2016 and the Accountancy Stakeholders Forum which is scheduled on June 15 and December 10, 2016. I have attached the **Calendar of Events of BoA** as of this date which we will continue to update.

On the matter of communication, we will continue our "Notification release" process where we email to PICPA and all of the sectoral organizations the major pronouncements of the BoA on a regular basis. Upon receipt of that email, we request that you in turn communicate this to your members and stakeholders by means of email, posting in your FB and website, and announcements in your events or newsletters. We also encourage that you do your own notification process where in turn you will advise us all of major activities or news that you would like your fellow accountants to be aware of.

By now you are aware that we have the "Six Point Expanding Horizons Strategic Plan." Attached is the latest version of that Plan. This plan is directed towards our unified vision of elevating our accounting professional and our accountancy profession to a level which will exceed global standards. Some may think that this vision is ambitious. But if we work together as a team and pursue our Six Point EH Strategic Plan, the attainment of this vision will be a matter of time.

To coordinate the Expanding Horizons initiatives, the BoA has assigned the many projects and activities to each member. The Board also agreed that there shall be point persons for the sectoral organization of committee. The assignments for these are indicated in the attached **BoA Assignment Responsibilities**. Please disseminate this information to your stakeholders so that they will be aware who in the BoA that they should directly approach on matters pertaining to the assignments. Please also make it a habit to involve your point person BoA member in the activities of your organization

I would like to update you on some of the activities that are on going where your organization should be involved in.

These activities are:

- 1. Project Acct. Attached is the notification release on this Project where we will pursue for the upliftment of the stature, image, and self-esteem of accountants. We would like Volunteers who can assist in the preparation of the action steps, awareness campaign, etc. for this project. We have already an Audio Video presentation (AVP) material on this project. You can get copies of this AVP from the BoA secretariat so that you can show this during the events of your organization.
- 2. ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Accountancy Services— Attached is the notification release on this important activity. The MRA was signed last November 2014. Our ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountants Coordinating Committee (ACPACC) is meeting regularly to prepare for the full implementation of this agreement by early 2017. By that year, the ASEAN CPAs of the ten ASEAN countries will be ready to cross borders and take advantage of the opportunities in the region. Our accountants should now be preparing for this eventuality. Your organization can help by conducting awareness campaigns of the MRA, putting in place programs that will enhance the competitiveness of the CPAs in your particular sector and in coordinating with the BoA on the many activities that should be conducted. The BoA has initiated its "ASEAN AWARENESS FOR ACCOUNTANTS" series or the "3A series" to help in the information campaign on the MRA. By the way, the Philippines will be hosting the ACPACC meeting in January 2017.

- 3. Quality Assurance Review Program—Attached is BoA Resolution 244-2015 which prescribes the new guidelines and rules for the QAR that will replace the QAR Resolution issued last 2009. The 2009 QAR rules was the subject of a court injunction issued last 2010. We expect that with the promulgation of our new QAR rules, the court will soon lift the injunction previously issued. For the meantime, the BoA is preparing for the implementation of the QAR. PICPA has developed a Voluntary QAR Program. We encourage all CPAs in public practice to support this PICPA initiative. Your organizations can also provide inputs and support in the planning, information dissemination and implementation activities of forthcoming QAR.
- 4. BoA Publications and Newspaper Column—Attached are the notification releases on the three publications/business columns that are available now, namely, the (1) News Ledger magazine, (2) Highest Standards Technical Research Journal and the (3) Debit Credit column featured in the Business Mirror newspaper. which comes out every Monday. We request for support to these publications by making your members and stakeholders aware that they can write and contribute articles/pictures to these publications. Your organizations can also encourage your members to buy the News Ledger and Highest Standards. These are available in PICPA Shaw. Better yet, your organizations or chapters can order these for distribution to your members. You can also order and distribute these during your regular membership meetings or special events.
- 5. Sectoral Surveys—Attached are the notification release on the surveys. We also attach the available surveys for the three (3) sectors. We encourage you to print and disseminate these to your members during your events. These surveys can then be forwarded to the BoA Secretariat which will tabulate the same. The results and feedback from the survey have been used by the Board in formulating its policies and initiatives.
- 6. Regulatory measures—Attached is the listing of the recently issued Resolutions and rules of the BoA. Most of these support the the regulatory authority of the BoA. We admit that these measures may result in some costs and effort on your members and stakeholders. However, we are instituting these measures to pave the way for the attainment of our vision of attaining levels higher than the global standards for our accountancy profession. We are happy to note that there have been a lot of support on these and that a lot of queries have been directed already on how to comply. We are doing our best to simplify and make the compliance easy and expedited. All members of the BoA are ready and available to attend the

sessions that you are organizing to update your members about these new Resolutions. We also appreciate the continuous feedback from you on how to improve further these measures.

- 7. Run After Erring CPAs—Attached is a notification release on this program. There a few rotten eggs (erring CPAs) who continue to operate their evil ways and thrive in our profession. These "super minority" erring CPAs are the ones who tarnish the good image of the "super majority" of our CPAs who continue to follow the tenets of our profession. We should not allow these erring CPAs to take advantage of us, and, more so, to spoil the reputation of our profession. Let us be one and firm in making sure that these erring CPAs will either (1) change their ways, or (2) voluntarily leave the profession for other ventures, or (3) start feeling that their erring ways will not be tolerated anymore and that these will be detected sooner than later and that they will eventually be sanctioned. We are now putting in place a more stringent regulatory framework and environment that will curb the practices of the erring CPAs. The regulatory measures that have recently been issued is towards this objective. Furthermore, we are proactively coordinating with our fellow regulators, ie. COA, BIR, SEC, BSP and others, to share information and cooperate in projects that will deter the evil doers. Finally, expect some more programs and measures that will help us in our cause such as the "Whistle Blower Program" and the adoption of a Schedule of Fines and Penalties in addition to the other sanction mechanisms that are now in place.
- 8. Amendment of our Accountancy Law—Our Accountancy Law, Republic Act No. 9892, is over 12 years old already. There have been so many developments in our profession, locally and globally, that mandates that the archaic provisions should be repealed and that new provisions should be incorporated in a new Accountancy Law that will meet the needs of the times. We will start consultations soon with our stakeholders to get inputs on a bill that will incorporate our recommendations for amendments of our Accountancy Law. We will be ready to submit these recommendations to the next Congress when it convenes in July 2016.
- 9. Most Outstanding EH Sectoral Organization Award—Attached is the notification release on this project. The PICPA, ACPAPP, ACPACI, NACPAE, GACPA, and NFJPIA can participate in this undertaking where a Board of Judges will select the organization which best supports the BoA in its Expanding Horizon initiatives. The Award rules are posted in the BoA website. We suggest that your organizations start the documentation for this search for the MOEHO. The winner will be announced and awarded during the Accountancy Week Celebration on July 2016.

10. Governance and ethics—The accountancy profession will soon be elevated to the Institutionalization category of the Performance Governance System (PGS) upon completion of the assessment process by the Institute for Solidarity of Asia. Once elevated, the accountancy profession will be the first to reach this level. The PGS is the framework for governance that shall govern the key stakeholders of the profession.

The BoA was also instrumental in forging a relationship with Integrity Initiative Inc., directed towards putting in place a culture of integrity and adherence to ethical business practices in the accounting profession. With this agreement, accountants in the various sectors will be taking the Integrity Pledge and committing to faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of an accounting professional.

The Board has instituted a governance oversight over the Accredited Professional Organization of the accountancy profession or PICPA when it applied for the renewal of its accreditation in 2014. Attached is the communication to PICPA and notification release on this matter. The oversight exercise done in the case of PICPA has been institutionalized where the PICPA National officers should be held accountable if they are able to meet the expectations of the PICPA members during their term. The outgoing PICPA National officers and directors will be called by the BoA to a "revalida" session where they will have to respond to the questions raised by BoA and other stakeholders on how they performed during their term of office. This is tentatively scheduled on May 29, 2016. The members of PICPA are enjoined to email their concerns and comments that they would want to be addressed to boa.secretariat@gmail.com

11. BoA Facebook, Website, and Secretariat—We have a very active Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/Professional-Regulatory-Board-of-Accountancy) and Website (boa.com.ph) which you should encourage your members to follow and visit. Communications can be sent also to our Secretariat with email address of boa.secretariat@gmail.com.

These are just some of the ongoing activities and projects in our Expanding Horizons initiatives. Still, there are a lot of things that we all have to do and accomplish.

But if we work together as a team in pursuing our Six Point EH Strategic Plan, we will all be there soon to reap the benefits of our hard work as we attain our vision of attaining higher than global standards.

Yours sincerely,

Att.