



Dear Assignment / News / Business Section Editor

Hong Kong Institute of CPAs takes disciplinary action Against a certified public accountant (practising) and A corporate practice

(HONG KONG, 11 March 2010) — A Disciplinary Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants reprimanded Ng Kwok Wai, Eric (membership no. F01059) and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited (corporate practice no. M0185) on 19 January 2010, and ordered them to pay to the Institute a penalty of HK\$100,000 as they were guilty of professional misconduct due to their failure or neglect to observe, maintain or otherwise apply professional standards issued by the Institute.

In addition, Ng and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited were ordered to pay costs of the disciplinary proceedings of HK\$15,000.

Ng is the managing director of Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited. The Institute received information about alleged deficiencies in the audit work conducted by Ng and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited on the financial statements of three companies. Ng signed the relevant auditor's reports in the name of Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited. After considering the information available, the Institute lodged a complaint against Ng and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited under section 34(1A) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance.

The Disciplinary Committee found, on Ng's admission, that in conducting the relevant audits, he and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited were guilty of professional misconduct as they failed or neglected to observe, maintain or otherwise apply the Institute's accounting and auditing standards namely:

- (i) Hong Kong Standard on Auditing 500 "Audit Evidence" or Statement of Auditing Standards 230 "Documentation";
- (ii) Hong Kong Accounting Standard 28 "Investments in Associates";
- (iii) Hong Kong Accounting Standard 7 "Cash Flow Statements" and Hong Kong Accounting Standard 1 "Presentation of Financial Statements"; and
- (iv) Statement of Auditing Standards 600 "Auditors' Reports on Financial Statements".

Having taken into account the evidence and circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Ng and Eric Ng C.P.A. Limited:

- (1) be reprimanded;
- (2) pay a penalty of HK\$100,000 to the Institute; and
- (3) pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings of HK\$15,000.

Findings of the Disciplinary Committee are available at the Institute's website under the "Compliance" section at <http://www.hkicpa.org.hk>.

Disciplinary proceedings of the Institute are conducted in accordance with Part V of the Professional Accountants Ordinance by a five-member Disciplinary Committee. The majority (three members) of each committee, including the chairman, are non-accountants chosen from a panel of lay persons appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, and the other two members are CPAs.

Disciplinary hearings are held in public unless the Disciplinary Committee directs otherwise in the interests of justice. A hearing schedule is available at the Institute's website. A CPA who is aggrieved by an order made by a Disciplinary Committee may appeal to the Court of Appeal, which may confirm, vary or reverse the order.

The Disciplinary Committees have the power to sanction members, member practices and registered students. Sanctions include temporary or permanent removal from membership or cancellation of a practising certificate, a reprimand, a penalty of up to \$500,000, and payment of costs and expenses of the proceedings.

- End -

Note to editor

About the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs

The Hong Kong Institute of CPAs is the only body authorized by law to register and grant practising certificates to certified public accountants in Hong Kong. The Institute has nearly 30,000 members and 13,000 registered students. Members of the Institute are entitled to the description *certified public accountant* and to the designatory letters *CPA*.

The Hong Kong Institute of CPAs evolved from the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, which was established on 1 January 1973.

The Institute operates under the Professional Accountants Ordinance and works in the public interest. The Institute has wide-ranging responsibilities, including assuring the quality of entry into the profession through its postgraduate qualification programme and promulgating financial reporting, auditing and ethical standards in Hong Kong. The Institute has responsibility for regulating and promoting efficient accounting practices in Hong Kong to safeguard its leadership as an international financial centre.

The Hong Kong Institute of CPAs is a member of the Global Accounting Alliance – an alliance of the world's leading professional accountancy bodies, which was formed in 2005. The GAA promotes quality services, collaborates on important international issues and works with national regulators, governments and stakeholders.

Hong Kong Institute of CPAs' contact information:

Stella To
Deputy Director, Communications
Phone: 2287 7209
Mobile: 9027 7323
Email: stella@hki CPA.org.hk