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Certificate course

Kamalika Bhattacharya reports on a forthcoming programme aimed at the accounting and finance fraternity in India

IN collaboration with NIIT Imperia, KPMG in India has announced the launch of an Advanced Certificate Programme on International Financial Reporting Standards, a six-week certificate arrangement commencing on 2 December 2009 and designed to assist companies and individuals on the forthcoming convergence from Indian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to International Financial Reporting Standards.

The programme will involve KPMG's senior professionals using the NIIT's modern virtual classroom formats to deliver training that will be conducted simultaneously across several cities using the NIIT's Synchronous Learning Technology. This will allow practising and on-job professionals to be in a classroom close to their place of work. In addition, they can manage their day-to-day work since there will be only a day's training in each of the six weeks. This well-paced programme is geared towards a better understanding and absorption of the transition process and will help practising and on-job professional to implement IFRS smoothly and on time. The Indian accounting and finance fraternity and others who are interested in enriching themselves on IFRS transition may join this programme.

Commenting on the launch of the Advanced Certificate Programme, Jamil Khatri, head of Accounting Advisory Services, KPMG in India, said, "The training covers critical IFRS concepts along with case studies and will culminate with an exam at the end, which will enable participants to obtain the

certificate." Shraman Jha, head, NIIT Imperia, remarked, "Through this alliance, IFRS training will be offered in 19 cities simultaneously over the NIIT Imperia network, thus helping professionals overcome the challenges of

mobility and time and gain from the insights of KPMG's professionals" Corporates, accounting and finance professionals would need to swiftly understand IFRS and assess the implications in their work environment. This is because current Indian accounting practices and standards differ from IFRS in several areas. First, the accounting for M&A activities and for financial instruments is largely

driven by the "fair value concept" under IFRS, a fundamental shift from the historical cost accounting under Indian Gaap. Second, there are subtle but important differences in several other areas; for example, the concept of control over an entity, capitalisation principles relating to property, plants and equipment, accounting for gratuity plans, the way reportable segments are identified, etc. And, third, IFRS lays equal emphasis on qualitative disclosures in addition to the quantitative disclosures that Indian companies are well used to.

All stakeholders, from promoters to finance executives, from investors to analysts and from government agencies to bankers, need to become aware of the critical differences.

The six week Advanced Certificate Programme will enable Indian corporates to swiftly move towards IFRS and further ascertain it as a common language for accounting and financial reporting. By 2011, more than 150 countries are expected to adopt IFRS, including India, China, Brazil and South Korea. The Security and Exchange Board of India has already announced a proposal that may soon allow Indian listed companies the option to prepare consolidated accounts under IFRS Instead of Indian Gaap. Several Indian companies, from both the public and the private sector, have already started preparing IFRS consolidated financial statements to determine the impact on numbers, convergence effort, impact on systems, processes and related areas.

KPMG in India operates from its offices in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi.

For more, check out www.in.kpmg.com

