



Dear Assignment/News/Business Section Editor

## **Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants takes disciplinary action against a certified public accountant (practising)**

(HONG KONG, 12 January 2016) — A Disciplinary Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ordered on 29 December 2015 that the practising certificate issued to Ho Lap Wing, Anthony (membership number A18070) in 2015 is to be cancelled and the same shall not be issued to him for the year 2016 due to his failure or neglect to observe, maintain or otherwise apply professional standards issued by the Institute. In addition, Ho was ordered to pay costs of the disciplinary proceedings of HK\$22,226.

Ho is the sole proprietor of Anthony Ho & Company ("Practise") which was selected for practice review in 2012. In 2014, a follow-up visit was scheduled to confirm whether the Practice had taken appropriate actions in response to findings identified during the 2012 practice review. The findings of the follow up visit indicated that the Practice had still failed to implement adequate quality control procedures. Also, a number of significant deficiencies found in two audit engagements were similar to those identified in the first practice review which further demonstrated that the Practise had failed to address the deficiencies identified in the first practice review. After considering the information available, the Institute lodged a complaint against Ho under section 34(1)(a)(vi) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance.

Ho admitted the complaint against him. The Disciplinary Committee found that Ho failed or neglected to observe, maintain or otherwise apply Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1 "*Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*", Hong Kong Standard on Auditing 500 "*Audit Evidence*" and paragraphs 100.5(c) and 130 of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("COE") dealing with professional competence and due care.

Having taken into account the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee made the above order against the respondent under section 35(1) of the ordinance.

Under the ordinance, if the respondent is aggrieved by the order, he may give notice of an appeal to the Court of Appeal within 30 days after he is served the order.

The order and findings of the Disciplinary Committee are available at the Institute's website under the "Compliance" section at [www.hkicpa.org.hk](http://www.hkicpa.org.hk).

Disciplinary proceedings of the Institute are conducted in accordance with Part V of the ordinance by a five-member Disciplinary Committee. Three members of each committee, including a chairman, are non-accountants chosen from a panel appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, and the other two are CPAs.

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

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 practicing certificate, a reprimand, a penalty of up to \$500,000, and payment of costs and expenses of the proceedings.

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### **About the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants**

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 more than 39,000 members and 18,000 registered students. Members of the Institute are entitled to the description *certified public accountant* and to the designation 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.

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