



21 August 2009

To: **Members of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs**
All other interested parties

**INVITATION TO COMMENT ON IASB EXPOSURE DRAFT OF PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO IAS 19 – DISCOUNT RATE FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Comments to be received by 18 September 2009

The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (Institute) Financial Reporting Standards Committee (FRSC) is seeking comments on the IASB Exposure Draft which has been posted on the Institute's website at:

www.hkicpa.org.hk/professionaltechnical/accounting/exposedraft/content.php.

The Exposure Draft seeks to address a problem that the global financial crisis has made increasingly significant. IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* requires an entity to determine the rate used to discount employee benefits with reference to market yields on high quality corporate bonds. However, when there is no deep market in corporate bonds, an entity is required to use market yields on government bonds instead. The global financial crisis has led to a widening of the spread between yields on corporate bonds and yields on government bonds. As a result, entities with similar employee benefit obligations may report them at very different amounts.

To address the issue expeditiously, the Exposure Draft proposes to eliminate the requirement to use yields on government bonds. Instead, entities would estimate the yield on high quality corporate bonds. If adopted, the amendments would ensure that the comparability of financial statements is maintained across jurisdictions, regardless of whether there is a deep market for high quality corporate bonds.

The IASB intends to permit entities to adopt the amendments that arise from this Exposure Draft in their December 2009 financial statements.

In accordance with the Institute's Convergence Due Process, comments are invited from any interested party. The FRSC would like to hear from both those who do agree and those who do not agree with the proposals contained in the IASB Exposure Draft.

Comments should be supported by specific reasoning and should be submitted in written form.

To allow your comments on the IASB Exposure Draft to be considered, they are requested to be received by the Institute on or before **18 September 2009**.

Comments may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail to:

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Comments will be acknowledged and may be made available for public review unless otherwise requested by the contributor.