



Dear Assignment / News / Business Section Editor

## **Hong Kong Institute of CPAs takes disciplinary action Against a certified public accountant**

(HONG KONG, 9 December 2011) — A Disciplinary Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ordered on 28 November 2011 that the name of Yuen Kwok Keung (membership number A01589) be removed from the register of certified public accountants for a period of five years with effect from 7 January 2012, due to his conviction in Hong Kong of an offence involving dishonesty.

In addition, Yuen was ordered to pay the full costs of the disciplinary proceedings amounting to HK\$17,795.

Yuen was an equity partner of a firm of certified public accountants (practising). He was found to have dishonestly made duplicated claims to the firm for reimbursement of business expenses amounting to about HK\$492,000 over the period from 2002 to 2009. In November 2010, Yuen was convicted in the District Court of one count of theft and he was sentenced to imprisonment for two years. In light of the conviction and after considering the information available, the Institute lodged a complaint against Yuen under section 34(1A) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance. A Disciplinary Committee was constituted in August 2011.

The Disciplinary Committee found, on evidence submitted and Yuen's admission, that the complaint against him was proven. Having taken into account the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee made the above order against Yuen under section 35(1) of the Ordinance.

Under the Professional Accountants Ordinance, if Yuen 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 Professional Accountants Ordinance by a five-member Disciplinary Committee. The majority (three members) of each committee, including the chair, are non-accountants chosen from a panel 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 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.

The Disciplinary Committees have the power to sanction members, member practices and registered students. Sanctions may include temporary or permanent removal from membership or cancellation of a practising certificate, a reprimand, a penalty of no more than \$500,000, and payment of costs and expenses of the proceedings.

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### **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 33,000 members and 16,000 registered students. Members of the Institute are entitled to the description *certified public accountant* and to the designation of *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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