

# Certified IFRS Professional Sample Material

# **V-Skills Certifications**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of guidelines circulated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), an international standard-setting body based in London.

The IASB stresses on establishing a benchmark based on sound, clearly stated principles, from which interpretation is necessary. This contrasts with sets of standards, like U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the national accounting standards of the United States, which contain significantly more application guidance. IFRS normally does not provide details when distinguishing among circumstances in which different accounting requirements are specified. This reduces the chances of structuring transactions to achieve particular accounting effects.

It is believed that while IFRS are primarily principles-based standards, the IFRS approach focuses more on the business or the economic purpose of a transaction and the underlying rights and obligations instead of providing prescriptive rules (or guidance). IFRS provides guidance in the form of principles. This significant difference in approach to standard setting between IFRS and U.S. GAAP is a prime reason that the length of the text of the IFRS is less than that of U.S. GAAP.

In the Indian context, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 2010 had set-up the plan for the efficient implementation of IFRS in the country.



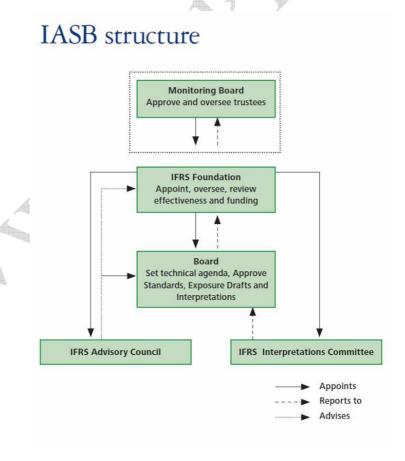
# 1.1. IASB Structure

# **Monitoring Board**

The primary purpose of the Monitoring Board provides a mechanism for formal interaction between capital markets authorities responsible for the form and content of financial reporting and the IFRS Foundation (IFRSF). In particular, it assures public accountability of the IFRSF through a formal reporting line from the IFRSF through a formal reporting line from the IFRSF Trustees to the Monitoring Board.

The responsibilities of the Monitoring Board include:

- ✓ Participating in the process for appointing trustees and approving the appointment of trustees according to the guidelines set out in the IFRSF's Constitution;
- ✓ To review the adequacy and appropriateness of Trustee arrangements for financing the IASB;
- ✓ Review the Trustees' oversight of the IASB's standard-setting process. In particular, with respect to its due process arrangements;
- ✓ To confer with the Trustees regarding the responsibilities, particularly in relation to the regulatory, legal and policy developments that are pertinent to the IFRS Foundation's oversight to the IASB; and
- ✓ Referring matters of broad public interest related to financial reporting to the IASB through the IFRS Foundation.



#### **IFRS** Foundation

Composition: 22 individual trustees, one appointed as Chair and up to two as Vice-Chairs. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term, renewable once.

Regardless of prior service, a trustee may be appointed to serve as Chair or Vice - Chair for a term of three years, renewable once, provided total years' service as a trustee does not exceed nine years. Geographical balance: six trustees from the Asia/Oceania region; six from Europe; six from North America; one from Africa; one from South America and two from any area (subject to maintaining overall geographical balance).

Backgrounds of trustees: the IFRSF Constitution requires an appropriate balance of professional backgrounds, including auditors, preparers, users, academics, and other officials serving the public interest. Two will normally be senior partners of prominent international accounting firms.

### 1.2. IFRS Standards

The IASB has the complete responsibility for all IASB technical matters including preparation and issuing of IFRS and Exposure Drafts that precede issuance of the final standards (i.e., the IFRS). IFRS Issued by the IASB to December 31, 2009

- ✓ IFRS 1, First-Time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards
- ✓ IFRS 2, Share-Based Payment IFRS 3, Business Combinations
- ✓ IFRS 4, Insurance Contracts
- ✓ IFRS 5, Noncurrent Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations
- ✓ IFRS 6, Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources
- ✓ IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures
- ✓ IFRS 8, Operating Segments
- ✓ IFRS 9, Financial Instruments

| Notified<br>Ind AS | Title of Ind AS   | Co        |  |
|--------------------|---|-----------|--|
|                    |   | IAS/ IFRS |  |
| Ind AS 101         | First Time Adoption of Indian Accounting<br>Standards           | IFRS 1    |  |
| Ind AS 102         | Share-based Payments  | IFRS 2    |  |
| Ind AS 103         | Business Combinations   | IFRS 3    |  |
| Ind AS 104         | Insurance Contracts   | IFRS 4    |  |
| Ind AS 105         | Non-current Assets Held for Sale and<br>Discontinued Operations | IFRS 5    |  |
| Ind AS 107         | Financial Instruments: Disclosures                              | IFRS 7    |  |
| Ind AS 108         | Operating Segments  | IFRS 8    |  |

Table: List of Ind AS and corresponding IFRS

#### IFRS for SMEs\*\*

In July 2009, the IASB promulgated the much-awaited IFRS for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). It provides standards applicable to private entities (those that are not public accountable as defined in this standard).

### **International Accounting Standards Board**

Composition: 16 Board Members, of whom one is appointed as chair and up to two as vice-chairs. Up to three members may be 'part-time' members. IASB members are appointed for an initial term of five years, renewable for a further three years. The chair and vice-chairs may serve second terms of five years, subject to an overall maximum term of ten years.

Geographical balance: to ensure a broad international diversity, there will normally be four members from the Asia/Oceania region; four from Europe; four from North America; one each from Africa and South America; and two appointed from any area, subject to maintaining overall geographical balance.

Backgrounds of Board members: the main qualification for membership is professional competence and practical experience. The group is required to represent the best available combination of technical expertise and diversity of international business and market experience.

# 1.3. Abbreviations

**DI** - Draft interpretation

**DP-** Discussion paper

**EC-** European Commission

**ED-** Exposure draft

**EEA-** European Economic Area (EU 28 + 3 countries)

**EFRAG-** European Financial Reporting Advisory Group

**ESMA-** European Securities and Markets Authority

**EU-** European Union (28 countries)

**FASB** - Financial Accounting Standards Board (US)

**FEE-** Federation of European Accountants

**GAAP -** Generally Accepted Accounting Principle(s)

**IAS(s)** - International Accounting Standard(s)

**IASB** - International Accounting Standards Board

**IASC-** International Accounting Standards Committee (predecessor to the IASB)

**IASCF - IFRS** Foundation (predecessor to the IFRSF)

**IFRIC** - IFRS Interpretations Committee (previously "International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee of the IASB, and Interpretations issued by that committee")

**IFRS(s)-** International Financial Reporting Standard(s)

**IFRSF-** IFRS Foundation, parent body of the IASB

**IOSCO-** International Organization of Securities Commissions

NCI RFI - Non-controlling interest(s) (previously "minority" interests) Request for information

SAC- IFRS Advisory Council (previously "Standards Advisory Council") - advisory to the IASB

**SEC** Securities and Exchange Commission (US)

**SIC-** Standing Interpretations Committee of the IASC, and Interpretations issued by that committee

**SME**(s) Small and medium-sized entity (ies)

#### 1.4. IASB Due Process

In developing IFRSs (including Interpretations), the IASB follows a comprehensive, open due process. The due process requirements are built on the principles of transparency, full and fair

consultation - considering the perspectives of those affected by IFRSs globally - and accountability. The IFRS Foundation Trustees, through its Due Process Oversight Committee, is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the due process procedures of the IASB and the Interpretations Committee (IC), and for ensuring that those procedures reflect best practice.

Transparency is provided by holding all technical discussions in public (and usually webcast), providing public access to staff papers, ensuring that the IASB and IC have sufficient information to be able to make decisions based on the staff recommendations. A final Standard or Interpretation must be approved by at least 10 of the 16 members of the IASB.

Full and fair consultation includes mandatory steps

- ✓ Conducting, every three years, a public consultation on the IASB's technical work programme;
- ✓ Debating any standard-setting proposals in public meetings;
- ✓ Issuing an exposure draft of any proposed new Standard, amendment to a Standard or proposed Interpretation, with the related basis for conclusions and alternative views ('dissenting opinions'), for public comment, and subject to minimum comment periods;
- ✓ Considering in a timely manner those comment letters received on the proposals. Comment letters are placed on the public record;
- ✓ Considering whether the proposals should be exposed again;
- ✓ Issuing final Standards together with a basis for conclusions and any dissenting opinions;
- ✓ Consulting the Advisory Council on the technical programme, major projects, project proposals and work priorities; and
- ✓ Ratification of an Interpretation by the IASB.

In addition, the IASB is committed to conducting post-implementation reviews of each new Standard or major amendment of an existing Standard.

In addition, and subject to a 'comply or explain' condition, the IFRS Foundation Constitution includes the following steps that are not mandatory:

- ✓ Consulting on major projects with the accounting standards advisory forum (ASAF);
- ✓ Publishing a discussion document (for instance, a discussion paper) before an exposure draft is developed. This document will usually include the iasb's preliminary views on issues in the project;
- ✓ Establishing consultative groups or other types of specialist advisory groups;
- ✓ Holding public hearings; and
- ✓ Undertaking fieldwork.

Accountability is provided through such means as effects analysis and the basis for conclusions (and dissenting views) accompanying an IFRS.

# 1.5. List of IAS

Below is a brief list of the IAS measures followed internationally in company accounts. As this book focuses primarily on IFRS, the details of each IAS have not been given. The standards are thoroughly explained on the IFRS website (www.ifrs.org).

- **IAS 1** Presentation of Financial Statements
- **IAS 2** Inventories
- **IAS 7** Statement of Cash Flows
- IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- IAS 10 Events After the Balance Sheet Date
- **IAS 11** Construction Contracts
- **IAS 12** Income Taxes
- IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment
- IAS 17 Leases
- IAS 18 Revenue
- **IAS 19** Employee Benefits
- IAS 20 Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance
- IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates
- **IAS 23** Borrowing Costs
- IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures
- IAS 26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans
- **IAS 27** Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements
- **IAS 29** Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies
- **IAS 32** Financial Instruments: Presentation
- IAS 33 Earnings per Share
- IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting
- **IAS 36** Impairment of Assets
- IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- IAS 38 Intangible Assets
- IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
- **IAS 40** Investment Property
- IAS 41 Agriculture

There are certain IAS that are no longer in practiced because they have either been superseded by other standards or they have been withdrawn. The list for such IAS is listed below:

- IAS 3 Consolidated Financial Statements (Superseded by IAS 27 & 28 in 1989)
- **IAS 4** Depreciation Accounting (Withdrawn on 1999)
- **IAS 5** Information to be disclosed in Financial Statements (Superseded by IAS 1 in 1998)
- IAS 6 Accounting Responses to Changing Prices (Withdrawn in 2003)
- IAS 9 Accounting for Research and Development Activities (Superseded by IAS 38 in 1999)
- **IAS 13** Presentation of Current Assets and Current Liabilities (Superseded by IAS 1 in 1998)
- **IAS 14** Segment Reporting (Superseded by IFRS 8 in 2009)
- **IAS 15** Information Reflecting the Effects of Changing Prices (Withdrawn in 2003)
- IAS 22 Business Combinations (Superseded by IFRS 3)
- IAS 25 Accounting for Investments (Superseded by IAS 39 & 40 in 2001)
- **IAS 28** Investments in Associates (Superseded by IFRS 12 in 2013)
- **IAS 30** Disclosures in Financial Statements of Banks and Similar Financial Institutions (Superseded by IFRS 7 in 2007)
- IAS 31 Interests in Joint Ventures (Superseded by IFRS 11 & 12 in 2013)
- **IAS 35** Discounting Operations (Superseded by IFRS 5 in 2005)

### 1.6. IASB History

1973: Agreement to establish IASC is signed by representatives of the professional accountancy bodies in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom/the Republic of Ireland and the United States. Steering committees for the IASC's first three projects are appointed.

**1975:** First final IASs published: IAS 1 (1975) Disclosure of Accounting Policies, and IAS 2 (1975) Valuation and Presentation of Inventories in the Context of the Historical Cost System.

**1982:** IASC Board is expanded to up to 17 members, including 13 country members appointed by the Council of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and up to 4 representatives of organizations with an interest in financial reporting. IFAC recognises the IASC as the global accounting standard-setter.

**1989:** The Federation of European Accountants (FEE) supports international harmonisation and greater European involvement in the IASC. IFAC adopts a public-sector guideline to require government business enterprises to follow IASs.

**1994:** IASC Advisory Council is established, with responsibilities for oversight and finances.

1995: European Commission (EC) supports the agreement between IASC and IOSCO to complete core standards and concludes that IASs should be followed by European Union multinationals.

**1996:** US SEC announces its support of the IASC's objective to develop, as expeditiously as possible, accounting standards that could be used in preparing financial statements for the purpose of cross-border offerings.

**1997:** SIC is formed with 12 voting members. Mission to develop interpretations of IASs for final approval by IASC

Strategy Working Party is formed to make recommendations regarding the future structure and operation of IASC.

**1998:** IFAC/IASC membership expands to 140 accountancy bodies in 101 countries. IASC completes the core Standards with approval of IAS 39.

**1999:** G 7 Finance Ministers and International Monetary Fund urge support for IASs to "strengthen the international financial architecture."

IASC Board unanimously approves restructuring into 14-member board (12 full-time) under an independent board of trustees.

**2000:** IOSCO recommends that its members allow multinational issuers to use IASC standards in cross - border offerings and listings.

Adhoc nominating committee is formed, chaired by USSEC Chairman Arthur Levitt, to nominate the trustees who will oversee the new IASB structure.

IASC member bodies approve IASC's restructuring and a new IASC Constitution.

Nominating committee announces initial trustees.

Trustees name Sir David Tweedie (chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board) as the first Chairman of the restructured IASB.

2001: Members and new name of IASB are announced.

IASC Foundation is formed. On 1 April 2001, the new IASB assumes its standard - setting responsibilities from the IASC. Existing IASs and SICs adopted by IASB.

IASB meets with chairs of the eight liaison national accounting standard - setting bodies to begin coordinating agendas and setting out convergence goals.

**2002:** SIC is renamed as the IFRIC with a mandate not only to interpret existing IASs and IFRSs but also to provide timely guidance on matters not addressed in an IAS or IFRS.

Europe requires IFRSs for listed companies starting 2005. IASB and FASB issue joint agreement on convergence.

**2003:** First final IFRS and first IFRIC draft Interpretation are published.

2004: Webcasting of IASB meetings begins.

2005: Constitutional changes.

Meetings of Working Groups opened to the public.

2006: IASB/FASB updates agreement on convergence.

IASB issues statement on working relationships with other standard setters.

2007: IFRIC is expanded from 12 to 14 members.

Board proposes separate IFRS for small and medium: sized entities (SMEs).

**2008:** IASB's response to global financial crisis includes new fair value measurement guidance, fast-track amendments to IAS 39; acceleration of projects on fair value measurement and consolidation; enhanced financial instrument disclosures; and establishment of two expert advisory groups.

**2009:** IASB is expanded to 16 members (including maximum three part-time) and geographic mix established.

IASCF forms a Monitoring Board of public authorities.

Response to global financial crisis continues, with projects on the replacement of IAS 39, including measurement of loan impairments.

**2010:** Trustees complete part 2 of 2008-2010 Constitution Review, including name changes as follows: IFRS Foundation (formerly the IASC Foundation); IFRS Interpretations Committee (formerly the IFRIC) and IFRS Advisory Council (formerly the Standards Advisory Council).

**2011:** Hans Hoogervorst takes over the Chairmanship of the IASB from Sir David Tweedie. IASB issues request for views on its first three-yearly agenda consultation.

**2012:** Report of the Trustees' Strategy Review 2011, IFRSs as the Global Standards: Setting a Strategy for the Foundation's Second Decade, is issued.

IASB and FASB set a new target for completing the remaining major convergence projects to the first half of 2013 in their report to G20.

Trustees complete their review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the IFRIC.

IFRSF issues invitation to comment on the new due process to be followed by IASB and IFRI Caswell as Due Process Oversight Committee (DPOC) of the IFRSF.

The first international office outside of London was opened in Tokyo.

2014: IASB establishes the ASAF which holds its first meeting in April.

### 1.7. Use of IFRSs around the world

IFRSs are now used extensively around the world as the basis for preparing financial reports. The status of IFRS in major capital markets is discussed below.

# Use of IFRSs in Europe

European Accounting Regulation- Listed companies to implement a 'financial reporting strategy' adopted by the European Commission (EC) in June 2000, the EU in 2002 approved a Regulation (the 'IAS Regulation') requiring all EU companies listed on a regulated market (about 8,000 companies in total) to follow IFRSs in their consolidated financial statements starting in 2005. The IFRS requirement applies not only in the 28 EU member states but also in the three European Economic Area (EEA) countries. Most large companies in Switzerland (not an EU or EEA member) also use IFRSs.

Non-EU companies listed on an EU regulated market must file financial statements prepared using either IFRSs as adopted by the EU, IFRSs as issued by the IAS Bora GAAP designated by the EC as equivalent to IFRSs . This includes companies from jurisdictions that have adopted IFRSs as their local GAAP, as long as the companies state a full compliance with IFRSs in their audited financial statements. As at July 2012, the GAAPs of the United States, Japan, Canada, China and South Korea have been designated as equivalent to IFRSs and financial statements prepared using the national GAAP of India accepted for a transitional period ending 31 December 2014.

Unlisted companies and separate-company statements: EU Member States may also extend the IFRS requirement to non-listed companies and to separate (i.e. company-only) financial statements. Nearly all Member States permit some or all non-listed companies to use IFRSs in their consolidated financial statements and some permit it in separate financial statements.

**Endorsement of IFRSs for use in Europe-** Under the EUIAS Regulation, IFRSs must be individually endorsed for use in Europe. The endorsement process involves the following steps:

✓ EU translates the ifrss into all European languages;

- ✓ The private-sector European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) gives its endorsement advice to the EC;
- ✓ The EC's Accounting Regulatory Committee (ARC) makes an endorsement recommendation; and the EC submits the endorsement proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU. Both must not oppose (or in certain circumstances approve) endorsement within three months, otherwise the proposal is sent back to the EC for further consideration.

By the end of June 2013, the EU had to endorse all IFRSs and all Interpretations with the exception of:

- ✓ Endorsement of IFRS 9 has been postponed.
- ✓ Amendments in respect of investment entities to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 27 are expected to be endorsed in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- ✓ Amendments to IAS 36 in respect of disclosures of recoverable amounts for non-financial assets are expected in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- ✓ Amendments to IAS 39 in respect of innovation of derivatives and continuation of hedge accounting are expected in the first quarter of 2014.
- ✓ IFRIC Interpretation 21 Levies is expected in the first quarter of 2014.

Enforcement of IFRSs in Europe- European securities markets are regulated by individual Member States. However, since 1 January 2011, EU-level Authorities are responsible for ensuring that rules applicable to the financial sector are implemented adequately to preserve financial stability and to ensure confidence in the European financial system as a whole and sufficient protection of consumers of financial services.

These authorities are the European Banking Authority (EBA), the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), and the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA). The European Parliament and the Council have delegated powers to the Authorities such that the Authorities may draft regulatory technical standards within their areas of competence, which, following a set procedure, the EC may endorse for use throughout the EU. The EC must forward all proposed regulatory technical standards to the European Parliament and the Council and report at various points during the endorsement process. The Authorities are also able to override national decisions that do not conform to EU regulations.

The European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) monitors and assesses potential threats to financial stability that arise from macro-economic developments and from developments within the financial system as a whole.

#### EU-wide regulations include:

- ✓ Standards adopted by the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR), a consortium of national regulators (the predecessor of ESMA). Standard No. 1 Enforcement of Standards on Financial Information in Europe sets out 21 high level principles that EU member states should adopt in enforcing IFRSs. Standard No. 2 Coordination of Enforcement Activities adopts guidelines for implementing Standard No. 1. These Standards remain in force;
- ✓ The Directive on Statutory Audit of Annual Accounts and Consolidated Accounts which was issued in September 2006. The new Directive replaced the 8th Directive and amended the 4th

- and 7th Directives. Among other things, the Directive adopted International Standards on Auditing throughout the EU and required Member States to form auditor oversight bodies;
- ✓ The Transparency Directive established a common financial disclosure regime across the EU for issuers of listed securities; and amendments to EU directives that establish the collective responsibility of board members for a company's financial statements.

In January 2011, the European Commission adopted a first decision in recognising the equivalence of the audit oversight systems in 10 third countries. This decision allows for reinforced cooperation between member states and third countries which have been declared equivalent, so that they can mutually rely on each other's' inspections of audit firms. The countries assessed as equivalent are Australia, Canada, China, Croatia (then an Accession State, now an EU Member State), Japan, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America.

#### Use of IFRSs in the United States

**SEC** recognition of IFRSs - Since November 2007, the SEC permits foreign private issuers to submit financial statements prepared using IFRSs as issued by the IASB without having to include a reconciliation of the IFRS figures to US GAAP.

In addition, the SEC has been exploring whether and, if so, how to incorporate IFRSs into the financial reporting system for US domestic issuers. The SEC issued several consultation documents, including a 'Concept Release' (August 2007), and a proposed IFRS 'roadmap' (November 2008).

In February 2010, the SEC published a 'Statement in Support of Convergence and Global Accounting Standards' in which it directed its staff to develop and execute a 'Work Plan' with a view to enabling the SEC to make a decision regarding incorporating IFRS into the financial reporting system for US issuers. As part of that Work Plan, the SEC issued further staff papers: 'A Possible Method of Incorporation' (May 2011); 'Comparison of US GAAP and IFRS' and 'An analysis of IFRS Practice' (both November 2011).

In July 2012 the SEC issued its Final Staff Report 'Work Plan for the Consideration of Incorporating International Financial Reporting Standards into the Financial Reporting System for U.S. Issuers'. The Final Report did not include a recommendation to the Commission. As at July 2013, the SEC had not signaled when it might make a policy decision about whether (and if so, when and how) IFRS should be incorporated into the US financial reporting system.

#### Use of IFRSs in Canada

Entities that file their financial statements in Canada in accordance with the continuous disclosure or offering document requirements or by a reporting issuer (other than acquisition statements), are required to prepare their financial statements in accordance with Canadian GAAP applicable to publicly accountable entities or IFRS.

SEC issuers, entities that have a class of securities registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act (1934) or that file reports under section 15(d) of that Act, filing their financial statements in Canada may prepare them in accordance with US GAAP.

Foreign issuers, an issuer incorporated or organized under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction, may prepare their financial statements in accordance with (a) IFRS; (b) US GAAP (if they are an SEC foreign issuer); (c) accounting principles that meet the disclosure requirements for foreign private issuers as set out in the Securities Exchange Act (1934); or (d) accounting principles that meet the foreign disclosure requirement of the designated foreign jurisdiction to which the issuer is subject, if the issuer is a designated foreign issuer. Not-for-profit entities and pension plans are excluded and will not be required to adopt IFRSs.

#### Use of IFRSs elsewhere in the Americas

Nearly all countries in South America require or permit IFRSs (or are in the process of introducing such requirements) as the basis for preparing financial statements. Argentina adopted IFRSs for all companies (except banks and insurance companies which continue to apply domestic requirements) from 2012. Brazil adopted IFRSs for all listed companies and banks effective 2010. Chile adopted IFRS for all public interest companies in 2012. IFRS has been adopted in Mexico has adopted IFRSs for all listed entities other than banks and insurance companies which apply Mexican Financial Reporting Standards (MFRS). A convergence project is underway to eliminate differences between MFRS and IFRS. IFRSs are already required in a number of other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

#### Use of IFRSs in Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific jurisdictions are taking a variety of approaches toward convergence of national GAAP for domestically listed companies with IFRSs.

# Use of IFRSs in Japan

The Accounting Standards Board of Japan (ASBJ) has been working with the IASB to converge accounting standards under the August 2007 Memorandum of Understanding known as the "Tokyo Agreement" between two organisations. In June 2011 the IASB and ASBJ jointly announced that two boards have made good progress and agreed to continue effort for convergence.

While convergence is in process, in December 2009, Financial Services Agency of Japan announced that certain listed companies meeting specified criteria were permitted to use IFRSs in their consolidated financial statements starting in 2010. Since that time, voluntary adoptions (where permitted) of IFRSs has been increasing to approximately 20 out of 3,600 companies listed on stock exchanges in Japan have voluntarily adopted IFRS. This trend is expected to continue, in particular, among large public companies with significant market capitalization and international operations.

In June 2013, the Business Accounting Council of Japan issued a report recommending certain initiatives to further increase voluntary use of IFRSs in Japan. Such initiatives, including relaxation on of eligibility requirements to use IFRSs voluntarily, are expected to be reflected in relevant regulations in Japan in due course.

#### Use of IFRSs elsewhere in Asia-Pacific

Requirement for IFRSs in place of national GAAP - Mongolia requires IFRSs for all domestic listed companies.

Similarities in the write-up of all national standards - Australia, Hong Kong, Korea (effective 2011), Malaysia, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka (effective 2011) are taking this approach. Effective dates and transitions may differ from IFRSs as issued by the IASB.

The Philippines and Singapore have adopted most IFRSs word-for-word, but have made some significant modifications. India, Pakistan and Thailand have adopted selected IFRSs quite closely, but significant differences exist in other national standards, and there are time lags in adopting new or amended IFRSs.

In India, the implementation of IFRS is heavily underway with government support. The new accounting standards will deal with mark-to-market projections and valuation of financial assets, among other things. Indian companies listed overseas including the ones doing business abroad currently prepare financial statements as per international standards.

**IFRSs** are looked to in developing national GAAP - IFRSs are considered to varying degrees in Indonesia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

China, in February 2006, adopted the Chinese Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises (ASBE), which is generally consistent with IFRSs with few exceptions.

In May 2009, the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) of Taiwan announced its road map for the full adoption of IFRSs in two phases starting from 2013. Early adoption is permitted for certain companies from 2012.

Some domestic listed companies may use IFRSs- Hong Kong (companies based in Hong Kong but incorporated elsewhere), Laos and Myanmar permit the use of IFRSs for some domestic listed companies.

