

## The Asia Pacific International Conference on Forensic Accounting and Financial Criminology 2009

- A special international conference to remember forever!

By

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The opening ceremony for The Asia Pacific International Conference on Forensic Accounting and Financial Criminology 2009 was held during dinner on 16 June 2009, with the guest of honour attended by YDH CP Dato' Koh Hong Sun, the Director of Commercial Crime Investigations Department of Royal Police Malaysia, who represented Tan Sri Musa Dato' Hassan Azahari, the Inspector General of Police, Malaysia. From UiTM, Professor Dr Mustaffa Mohd Zain, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) represented the Vice-Chancellor of UiTM. Our book, 'Combatting Financial Fraud through Forensic Accounting and Financial Criminology' was launched by CP Dato' Koh.

The dinner was also attended by our Dean Prof Dr Ibrahim Kamal Abdul Rahman, Prof Dr Hjh Normah Hj Omar and Professor Dr Syed Noh Syed Ahmad, Associate Professor Dr Ismail Ramli, Associate Professor Dr Faizah Darus, together with special guest speakers.



After planning for several months, AFARe presented the conference on 15 -17 June 2009 at the Menara Kuala Lumpur. The conference started off with a doctoral colloquium on accounting and governance was held in UiTM. This program included two talks by two special guests from overseas, namely Prof Zabi

Rezzae from University of Memphis, U.S.A. on 'Researchable topics for accounting research' and Prof Glen Moyes from University of Texas Pan-American, U.S.A. on 'Sustaining the Phd Journey'. This colloquium was indeed honoured to have two other foreigners, Prof Keith Maunders from University of South Pacific, Fiji, and Mr Rob McCusker, University of Teesside, U.K.. The four visitors were involved in the assessment of Phd progress presentations at the colloquium. We were also facilitated by professors from local universities too, including Prof Dr Takiah Iskandar (UKM), Prof Dr Fauziah (USM) and Prof Dr Norman (UKM). This full one-day colloquium was attended by 100 participants from far and near.



For the first time, Faculty of Accountancy and Accounting Research Institute UiTM, organized the conference at the Menara Kuala Lumpur on 16-17 June 2009. A conference above the sky, at the height of 288 meters off the ground, we recorded 13 papers which were presented by academics and practitioners. With the conference theme of 'Financial Fraud and Crime – Key to Mitigating White Collar Crime', the presentations covered interesting insights into financial fraud and investigations, ethics and governance. The presenters for the first day included Tn Hj Azhar Sulaiman (Director, Tax Investigations Department), Mr. Sukdev Singh (Director of Forensics, KPMG), Mr K.Y. Liew (Head of Market and Corporate Surveillance, Securities Commission), Rob Mc Cusker (Reader in Transnational Crime, University of Teesside).

The main organizer for the conference was UiTM, Faculty of Accountancy, AFARe and co-organised by University of Teesside, Centre for Fraud and Financial Crime, ACFE Malaysia Chapter and MAREF. Among the sponsors included Menara Kuala Lumpur, Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia, Ambank Bhd, Amanah Raya Berhad, PEKEMA, Harmoni Publications Sdn Bhd, AKRAP Setia Sdn Bhd, RNB TOTAL

LOGISTIC Sdn.Bhd, TJM Sdn Bhd, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Malaysia, Malaysia Institute of Accountants, Pacific Regency Hotel Suites, Kuala Lumpur.



The second day conference included presentations by Tn Hj Akhbar Satar (President, ACEF – Malaysia Chapter), Ms Foo Lee Mei (Senior Manager of General Counsel, Securities Commission), Supt. Harjinder Kaur (Head of Banking Fraud Investigations, Commercial Crime Investigations Department of Royal Police Malaysia), Associate Professor Dr Rohaya Mohd Noor (Head of UiTM’s Consultancy Unit for the Research Management Institute), Kapt (R) Syed Nasir Alsagoff (National Defence University), Professor Dr Azham Ali (UPSI) and Associate Professor Dr Zaiton Hamin, Faculty of Law, UiTM, who is the first expert in Cyber Crime Law in Malaysia.

For the two days, delegates enjoyed extravaganza lunch at the Rasa Sri Angkasa revolving restaurant which they enjoyed a 360-degrees bird’s eye view of Kuala Lumpur. Even though haze, a good glimpse of ‘wide-angle’ KL was captured, followed with beautiful two nights of glittering lights, a wonderful experience indeed!



Among the delegates at the conference were from U.K., Australia, U.S.A., Iran, Yemen and Indonesia. Several sub-themes were presented in the parallel sessions which were workshop-based which delegates enjoyed lively question-and-answer sessions with the speakers.

The conference ended with a forum of 4 panelists who summarized the presentations and provided their insights relating to forensic accounting and financial criminology based on their experiences. The forum was chaired by Professor Dr Hj Normah Hj Omar, Director of ARI, and Professor Dr Syed Noh (Professor of Accounting and Panel Member of MACC), Tn Hj Akhbar Satar and Puan Nurhayati Baharuddin (Technical Director of IIAM).

#### PICTURES DURING FORUM



The closing ceremony was held about 4pm with closing remarks by Prof Dr Normah Omar and Prof Dr Ibrahim

