



CMA Amit Apte
Chairman, Committee
for Accounting Technicians

Dear Professional Colleagues,

This is my second communication to you after assuming the Chair of Committee for Accounting Technicians. In my earlier communication I had briefed about the various plans that we are trying to implement. In this communication I seek to share with you the progress that we have made so far. Certificate in Accounting Technicians Course (CAT) was introduced by the Institute in the year 2009 in consultation with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The major objective of the CAT has been to provide an opportunity to the students' community from rural and semi-urban areas who could not get the benefit of professional courses so far. "Reach the unreached" is the slogan that we have coined for this course. Another objective of the CAT has been to provide trained entry level accounting professionals to the Industry.

With these objectives in mind, it was imperative that the course in the offering had to be employment oriented rather than being just an academic course. With this objective, we have gone about and revamped the entire syllabus. The revised CAT syllabus has been structured keeping the expectation of the Industry from the entry level functionaries. The Course has two stages- Foundation (Entry level 1) and Competency Level. The CAT Students have to undergo 60 hours Computer Training in Tally ERP, 5 days Orientation Course and 3 months Internship with industry. The Institute has entered into an MOU with Tally and has developed a 60 hour Computer Training course for the students.

The examination pattern for CAT Level I has been successfully changed to Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) to be answered in OMR sheets with effect from June 2012 attempt. Examination centres have also been established in remote locations like, Palampur in HP, Shajahanpur and Baduan in UP, Raigarh in Chatisgarh and Srinagar in J&K, for the benefit of the students. CAT Competency Level examination has also gone on-line from December 2012 attempt. The success of the MCQ pattern examinations is now being replicated to our foundation level examination as well with effect from June 2013 exams. The CAT examinations in the meanwhile will upgrade itself to "On-line" examination from the OMR pattern.

During August 2012 we have entered into a path breaking understanding with the Government of Kerala for implementation of Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP).

ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition Programmed) is a Program being implemented jointly by the General Education

and Higher Education Department of Government of Kerala to enhance the employability of students of Higher Secondary and Under Graduate Course in the State of Kerala by equipping them with Industry / Business relevant skills; Certificate in Accounting Technicians of our Institute will be one of the optional modules of the program. The course is being offered across 141 Higher Secondary schools in Kerala.

The program was officially launched at the auspicious hands of Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala Mr. Oommen Chandy on 6th November 2012. I must place on records the extra ordinary efforts put in by Mr. H. Padmanabhan, Secretary SIRC for coordinating the entire activity with the Kerala Government. We are hopeful that the Kerala project will help us set a foundation for similar projects in various other states as well.

The Institute has in the mean while entered into an MOU with FISME (Federation of Indian Small and Medium Enterprises) so that our CAT students can be offered the internship options in the member organisations.

Following the footsteps of Kerala's success story in terms of collaborating with the State Government I am happy to inform that head way has also been made in the State of Rajasthan. The entire process started when our President met Hon'ble Minister for State Ministry of Corporate Affair, Shri Sachin Pilot when he assumed office. President briefed him about the active involvement of the Institute in the Skill Development Programme of Kerala, the Hon'ble Minister immediately desired to have such Programmes in States like Rajasthan.

Further Director (Higher Education) of Rajasthan called a meeting of Colleges authorities from 26 Colleges across the State of Rajasthan on 11/2/2013. I was able to deliberate with these officials and the concept of launching CAT Course along with B.Com in the Colleges of Rajasthan was discussed. After detailed discussion, the Director of Higher Education and the participants agreed in principle to the introduction of CAT Course in all the Government Colleges of Rajasthan. The final and official decision of Government of Rajasthan is now awaited about the further course of action.

I assure you that these partnerships with various state governments will also help in the Brand Building exercise of our Institute where the recognition to our courses is received from across the society.

I wish to state here that all this would not have been possible but for the sincere efforts put in by the CAT directorate who have strived to bring the CAT course to the new trajectory. The support I have received from my council colleagues and the President is also of paramount importance.

With warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amit Apte', written over a horizontal line.

CMA Amit Apte
1st March 2013