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### The Increased Importance of Professional Values, Ethics and Attitudes

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### What is the IAESB mandate?

#### **IAESB**

- Serves the public interest by establishing standards in the area of professional accounting education
- Prescribes technical competence and professional skills, values, ethics, and attitudes.
- Enhances education by developing and implementing International Education Standards<sup>™</sup> (IES<sup>™</sup>), which increase the competence of the global accountancy profession—contributing to strengthened public trust.





*Continued globalization of capital markets* 

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> Increased Importance of Professional Values, Ethics and Attitudes

### Convergence towards IFRS





#### **Professional Competence**











### Corporate Scandals & Professional Accountants

 In recent decades, major corporate scandals around the world have almost always been associated with misuse of entity resources and manipulation of financial statements.

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 A primary reason for professional accountants failing to perform their roles is that they did not apply professional values, ethics and attitudes as part of their work.

- The Satyam case in India:
- Chief Internal Auditor was not independent in performing his duties;
- Chief Executive Officer (and Chief Internal Auditor) collaborated in manipulation of key documents;
- External auditor did not always apply professional skepticism when questioning the integrity of confirmation responses received from Satyam or following-up directly with thirdparties.





Constant change in relevant environment: public expectation, globalization, accounting standards, advances in technology, business complexity, societal changes

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> Need to develop and maintain professional competence

Satisfy users' needs which contributes to an efficent economy and value to society





### Capital market: Enable the Separation of Ownership and Control of Capital

## More efficient capital *Increases* allocation *the risk of*

the risk of wealth expropriation of public shareholders by 'insiders' who have control of the capital

#### Globalization increases the benefits as well the risk





### Role of Professional Accountants: Help Build Investor Confidence in Capital Market

Technical competence, combined with application of professional skepticism, ethical values and a commitment to public interest

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> Design and implement sound internal controls to prevent misappropriation of an entity's resources or fraudulent financial reporting





## The role of professional accountant: Reduce the risk of Principle-Based Approach

*The application of professional skepticism and ethical skills* 

Global convergence to IFRS which adopts the principlesbased approach The use of the principles-based approach relies heavily on professional judgment Insiders can use professional judgement to opportunistically manipulate the financial statements



## Challenge: Insufficient development of professional value, ethics & attitudes

Learning and development on technical competence and professional skills is perceived to be less complex and less costly than those on prof value, ethics & attitudes

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> Assessments should include elements such as observation and feedback on the behavior of the individual and by its very nature it can become complicated and expensive

Most PAOs currently adopt the input based approach in monitoring CPD of their members

Developing professional value, ethics & attitudes is not adequate



# Improving Professional Values, Ethics & Attitudes

- The *curriculum* of professional accounting education programs: integrate and complement technical competence with, professional skills, values, ethics and attitudes.
- The assessment of the achievement of professional competence: not be overly reliant on exams but also on other assessment methods
- **Practical experience** requirements: PAOs are able to effectively evaluate whether aspiring accountants have demonstrated exercise of professional values, ethics and attitudes in an applied context.
- CPD programs: put more emphasis on developing professional values, ethics, and attitudes; transformed from using metric-based 'input' approaches to methods that focus on self-assessment, feedback on the application of learning, or reflection.





### Thank You

