



# **PULSAR Smart Interactive Talk “Accounting Education in the Public Sector: international experiences and PAO engagement 19 May 2022**

**CAPA: SHARING REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT PAOs  
IMPROVE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
Sumita Shah, Executive Director**



[www.capa.com.my](http://www.capa.com.my)



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Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA)

# Our Mission

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To enhance the  
value of the  
accountancy  
profession in  
*Asia Pacific* by:

Contributing to the development of  
Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAOs)

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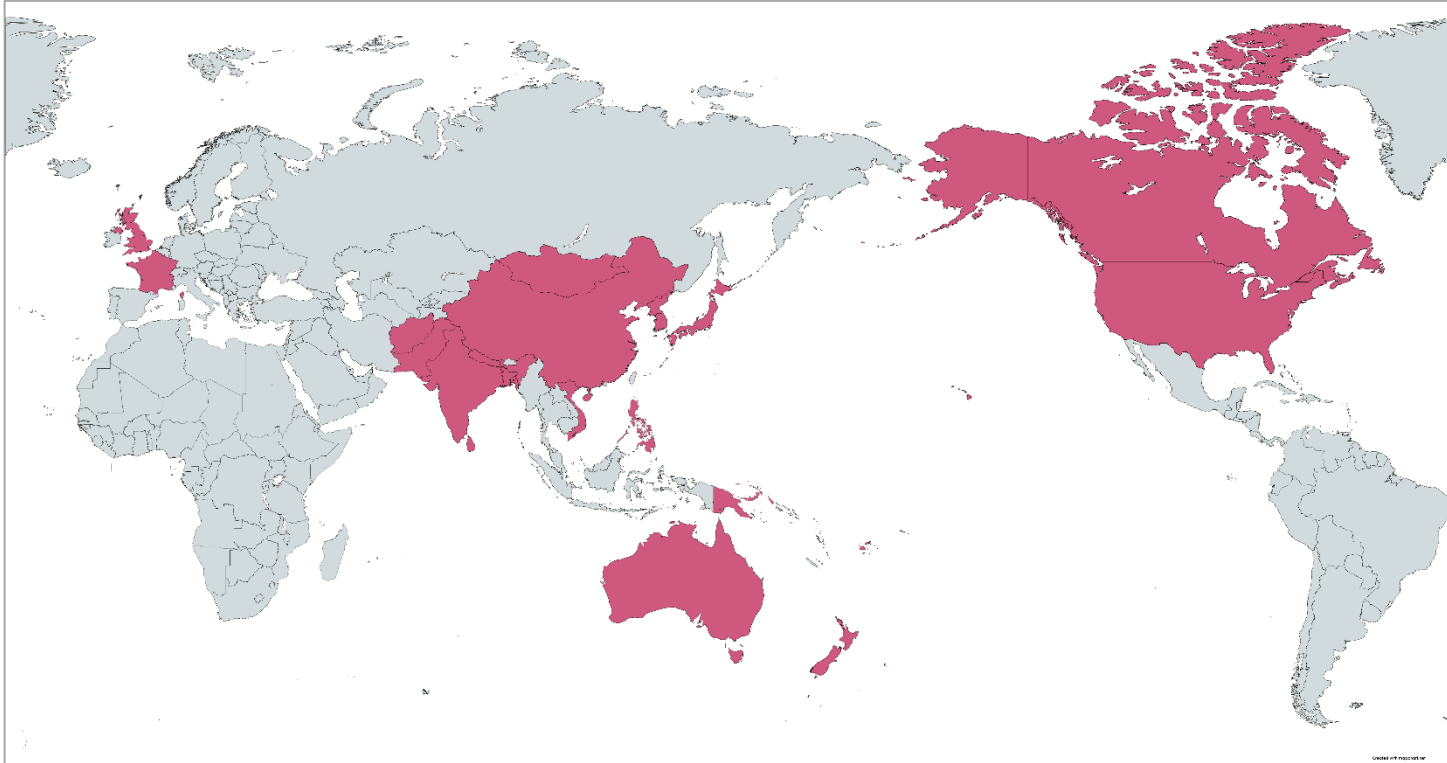
Promoting ethical values and the benefits of  
high-quality accounting, reporting and  
assurance

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Speaking out as a voice of the accountancy  
profession

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# Who We Are



31 PAOs across 23 jurisdictions

The combined membership of these PAOs is over **2 million**

# CAPA's Public Sector Position Statement

**Supports and encourages high-quality financial reporting in the public sector:**

- prepared on accrual-based accounting standards
- audited based on international audit standards

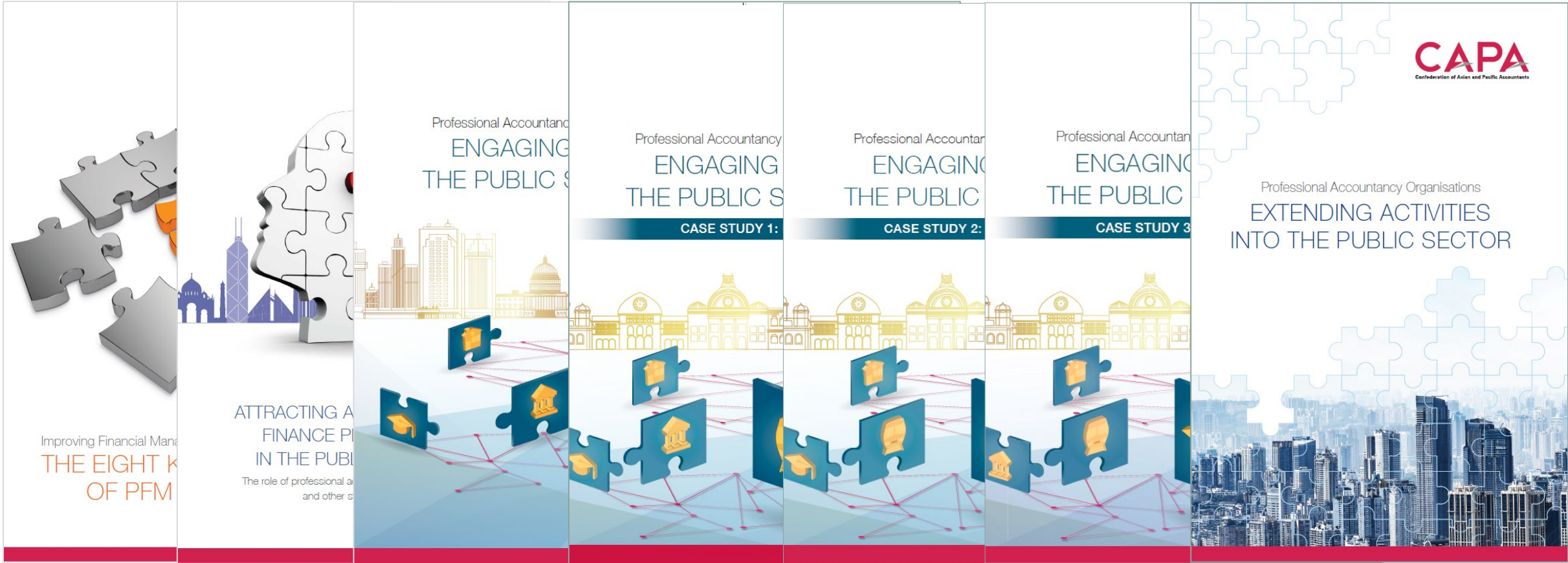
**Desired outcome:**

- Robust financial reporting equal to the private sector
- Better information for decision-making

**Calls for governments to make this happen**

**CAPA  
recognises PAOs  
have a role to play  
and therefore sets  
out to support  
them**

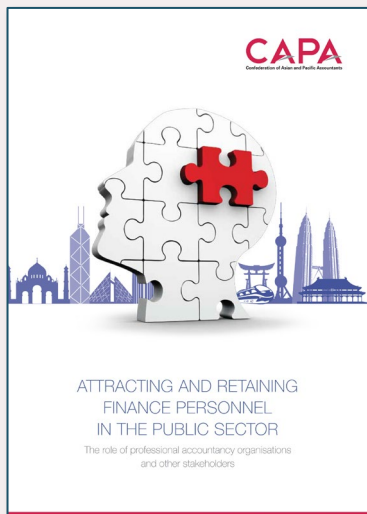
# Public Sector Series



# Publications: Eight Key Elements and Attracting and Retaining



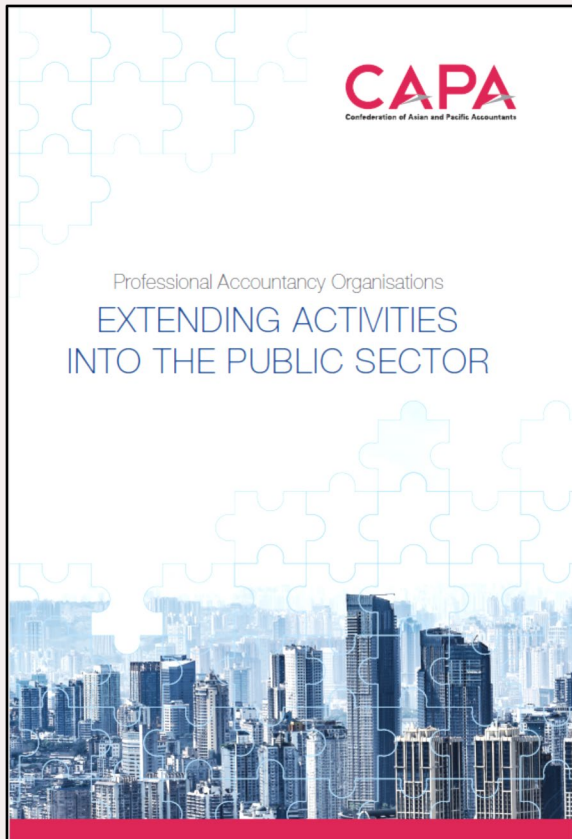
- Assists PAOs understand, and converse with, the public sector
- Guides discussions around the eight identified elements:
  - ✓ The Climate for Reform
  - ✓ Governance – the Legal and Institutional Framework
  - ✓ Governance – The Values System
  - ✓ Capacity and Capability
  - ✓ Fiscal and Policy Framework
  - ✓ Performance Management
  - ✓ Reporting
  - ✓ Scrutiny and Assurance



Focuses on the issues involved in ensuring the public sector has **adequate capacity** and **appropriate capability** in respect to **people**.

- Examines the roles all stakeholders have to play. In respect to Academia, includes roles in:
  - ✓ Educational programs - to cultivate and train public sector finance personnel
  - ✓ Advocacy – to be an independent and credible voice calling for high-quality public sector financial management

# Publication: Extending Activities



- Identifies and describes the activities that a PAO could undertake to properly engage in the public sector, including activities that:
  - ✓ Influence the demand for sufficient and appropriately skilled finance personnel to support good PFM
  - ✓ Create the supply to meet the demand, and provide life-long support

# Public Sector Activity Wheel™

The member perspective aligns the activities to the viewpoint of the individual:

- Personal education

- Career opportunities

- Personal growth

- Strengthening relationships

The PAO perspective aligns the activities to the following four (4) categories of strategic focus (and given the purpose of this publication, these are used as the basis hereafter):

- Creating supply

- Providing opportunities

- Enhancing skills

- Building demand





# Creating Supply



## Range of options

### I. Core Qualification

- a) Offer existing qualification (eg ICAEW)
- b) Public Sector Module (eg ICMAB, ICAP, ICA Ireland)
- c) Develop a PS Specific Qualification (CIPFA, CA Sri Lanka, PIPFA)

### II. Other Education Programs

- a) Specific Certificate Programs (examples include)
  - i. Senior Executive Advance Finance and Accounting Program (CPA Canada)
  - ii. Certificate course on Public Finance and Govt Accounting – (ICA India)
  - iii. IPSAS Certificate – (ACCA, CIPFA)

### Decisions regarding what to offer, will depend on

- ✓ the existing qualifications, skills and competences within the government
- ✓ what the government needs going forward
- ✓ the level of investment required

# Other relevant CAPA publications / Projects



- Professional Qualification Guide
- Can be applied to both professional accountants (PAs) and accounting technicians (ATs)
- Sets out the features for designing and administering effective professional qualification programs

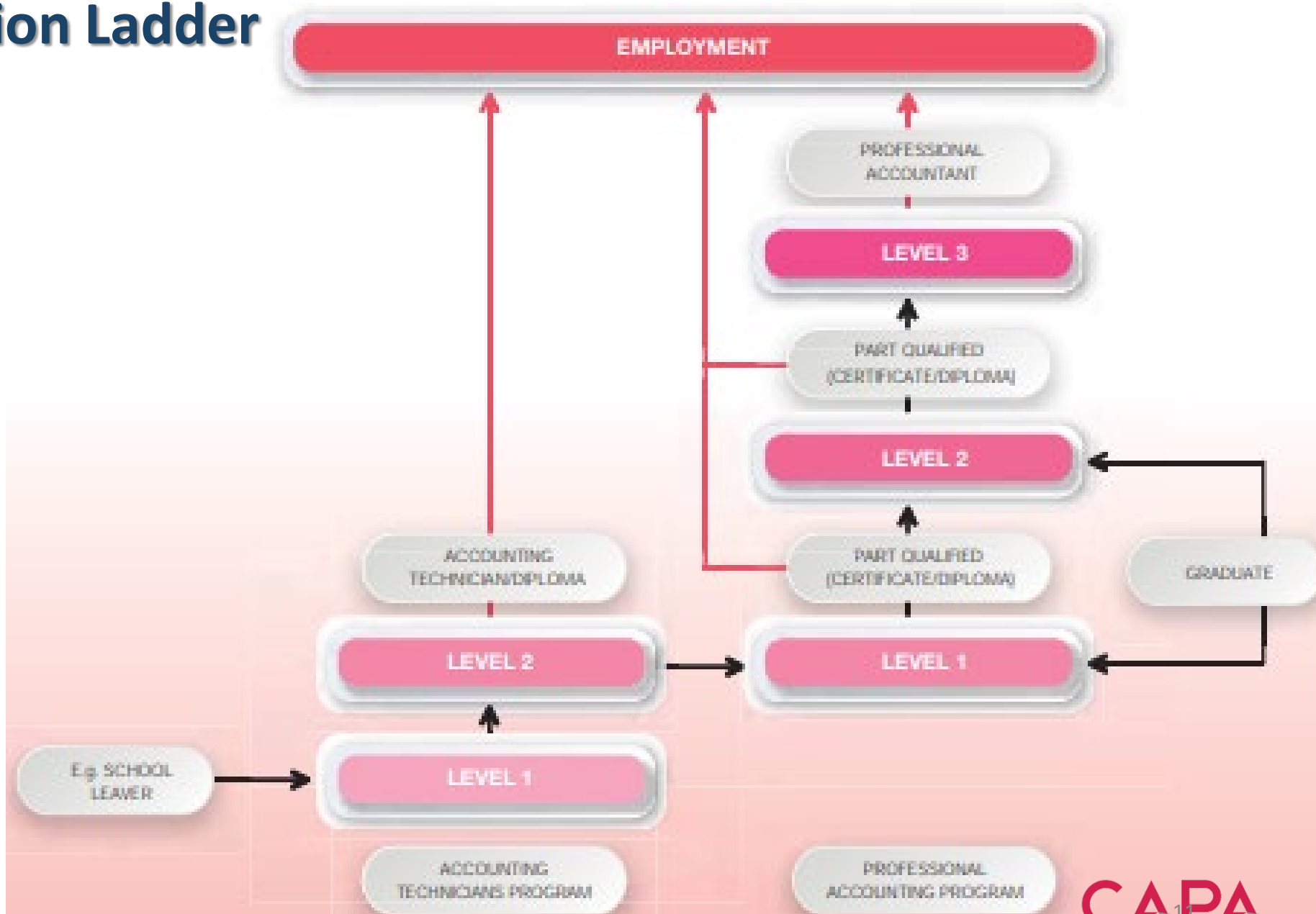


- Accounting Technicians
- Two publications explore:
  - ✓ why ATs are an important component of the accountancy profession
  - ✓ the key features of operational arrangements and programs
  - ✓ opportunities for existing PAOs and their members
- Current CAPA-led project is examining 'Achieving AT Recognition'

# The Qualification Ladder

A 'qualification ladder' opens up opportunities to all and widens access to the profession, often supporting social mobility and helping to narrow the gender equality gap.

The 'qualification ladder' opens up entry and exit routes and minimises barriers to qualifications.



# Key Messages



## Improving PFM is in the spotlight:

- ✓ The public is demanding increased transparency and accountability
- ✓ This requires robust governance, frameworks (standards) and reporting

## Many stakeholders have a role to play:

- ✓ Accountancy profession
  - CAPA – advocate, inspire and support
  - PAOs – influence demand; provide supply
- ✓ Universities can assist with both demand and supply

## The ‘people’ aspect is crucial:

- ✓ Adopting international standards is important
- ✓ Implementing needs the right quantity and quality of people, with appropriate skills
- ✓ Universities play a key role



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