

MINORITY SHAREHOLDER WATCHDOG GROUP

BADAN PENGAWAS PEMEGANG SAHAM MINORITI BERHAD

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MIA aims to double accountants to 60,000

by **TANU PANDEY**

THE Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) is aiming to double the number of professional accountants in the country to 60,000 from the current over 30,000 by year 2020—the year when Malaysia targets to become a developed nation.

“We will make concerted efforts to increase the number by engaging schools and universities and tell them that accountancy is a good profession that provides them a good career,” said MIA president Johan Idris yesterday on the sidelines of the Corporate Board Leadership Symposium 2014 yesterday.

Although it seems an uphill task to increase the number by 30,000 in just six years, Johan said that the country has the strength in its diversity to get good talent into the profession.

Meanwhile, the institute is also looking at increasing the number of Bumiputera



Johan (left) with Sulaiman at the Corporate Board Leadership Symposium 2014 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

accountants to 25% in 2020 from the current level of only 8%.

“To increase the number of Bumiputera members, we (MIA) are at a planning stage. There is a draft on how to increase the numbers. We will

be consulting the council members, schools, universities and other agencies for the plan,” said Johan.

The dearth of accounting professionals in the country can be estimated by the fact that for a country of 30 million,

Malaysia has only about 31,000 accounting professionals as MIA members.

At the symposium, the speakers discussed on the role of corporate board in corporate governance. They also talked about the current corporate

governance landscape where there is greater expectation for higher transparency and accountability from the boards.

“In this connection board-room diversity has also been recognised not only as an essential component of good governance and risk management but also a key strategic issue,” said Minority Shareholders Watchdog Group chairman Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob.

In terms of gender diversity as well, Malaysia still has very few number of women directors on corporate boards at only 8.6% as of 2013. It aims to raised the number by 30% by 2020.

However, women may soon outnumber men in the number of accounting professionals in the country currently.

“The male and female ratio in the profession is currently 50:50 and the number of women may be slightly edging higher soon,” said Johan.

Pic by Hafzi Mohamed