

**A Vision Paper of the Asian-Oceanian
Standard-Setters Group (AOSSG)
2011**

-A Driving Wind for IFRS from Asia-Oceania-

Chairman's message

Over recent years, the economy in the Asia-Oceania region has expanded significantly; this region is now widely recognised as the “engine of the world economy.” In addition, a number of jurisdictions have intensified efforts in converging with the IFRSs, and begun to apply the IFRSs either voluntarily or on a mandatory basis.

The Asian-Oceanian Standard-Setters Group (AOSSG), a group of accounting standards setters in the region, was established in 2009 to leverage the knowledge on globalising financial reporting standards and share experiences on implementation of the standards amongst each other. Since its formation, the organisation's relevance has quickly been acknowledged, in particular, with regard to its comments on proposals issued by the IASB and other bodies of the IFRS Foundation. The AOSSG organised under the motto of “*A Driving Wind for IFRS*” has dedicated itself to contributing to global financial reporting standard setting. We continue to strive to achieve our objectives, taking greater responsibility to be seen as a flag-bearer of global standard settings. The following are selected ideas regarding how we look to the future:

Immediate initiatives:

- The AOSSG will devote more resources for capacity building of its members, while enhancing its membership to better reflect regional views;
- The AOSSG will continue to increase communication with the IASB and other bodies of the IFRS Foundation both in terms of technical and strategic agendas; and
- The AOSSG will promote stakeholder engagements to increase the awareness of the group.

Vision towards the future:

- For its effective operation, the AOSSG will seek to bring together members' knowledge and experience across the region in a more coordinated manner, taking into account effective use of the IFRS Foundation's liaison office;
- The AOSSG may assist its members to promote consistent application of standards and identify common issues so as to refer them to the IASB and/or Interpretations Committee;
- The AOSSG may assist the IASB in undertaking its post-implementation review, field-visits, and effect analysis by utilising the resources and experiences of member jurisdictions;
- The AOSSG may consider advising its members on significant issues for consideration before and after standards are published;
- The AOSSG may consider strengthening its secretariat's function, which would be facilitated by ensuring the continuity of secretariat roles; and
- The AOSSG may consider expanding its role to accounting standards for non-profit and public sector entities, while acknowledging the inherent challenges.



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Chairman, the AOSSG
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I. Introduction

As capital markets continue to develop, the importance of financial reporting has become paramount in ensuring investor confidence as well as in assuring the sound growth of national and international economies. It is now widely recognised that one of the important measures through which investors could be protected is the development and application of a single set of high quality globally accepted accounting standards. Under these circumstances, a number of jurisdictions around the globe are in the process of converging with or applying a set of accounting standards that are acknowledged to be of high quality. This is not an exception for the region of Asia and Oceania, where the economy is growing vigorously and its influences on the world economy and capital markets are steadily increasing.

This paper discusses who the Asian-Oceanian Standard-Setters Group (AOSSG), a body consisting of accounting standard-setters in the region, is and how it may evolve in the future to meet its objectives. This paper may be of interest to various stakeholders both inside and outside the AOSSG membership and can be referenced in a number of ways including the following:

- For AOSSG members, to stimulate debate regarding how to advance the group's activities in the future;
- For potential new members and observers, to properly understand the AOSSG's operations before participating in the group and to consider what type of contribution can be feasible;
- For the IASB, the IFRS Interpretation Committee, and the IFRS Foundation Trustees, to better understand how the AOSSG can cooperate with their activities in the development of global financial reporting standards;
- For other regional bodies or national standards setters in other regions, to better understand whether and how to collaborate with each other;
- For jurisdictions that are looking to a similar model of the AOSSG, to understand how to create a regional structure and carry out effective operations; and
- For stakeholders in each jurisdiction, to better understand why and how national standards setters should be working with the AOSSG.

II. Who we are - outline of the AOSSG -

1. Recent development in the Asia-Oceania region - Establishment of the AOSSG -

The Asia-Oceania region consists of both advanced and developing economies at various stages of development. A large number of economies in the region are classified as developing economies and have been experiencing rapid economic growth – with a double digit or high single digit growth of GDP in recent years. GDP in the region is approximately 19 trillion USD, which accounted for more than 30% of the world GDP in 2009.

Moreover, the region is populous and rich in natural resources – more than 60% of the world's population or 4.2 billion people live in the region. Regional and international trade is more vibrant and extensive than ever before, and the market share of trading goods and services to the world is increasing. One can also observe that market capitalisation of companies in the region has largely risen and the speed of the recent increase in market capitalisation has surpassed that of the world economy. For instance, market capitalisation of listed entities in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East increased by more than 21% from 17 trillion USD in 2009 to 21 trillion USD in 2010, while market capitalisation in the world increased by approximately 15% during the same period. These facts indicate that the regional economies are gaining strength and becoming ever competitive and influential in the global economy.

In addition, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are increasingly accepted in this region, and other jurisdictions are considering adoption of the IFRSs or making progress towards convergence with the IFRSs. In the past decade, it has been seen that Europe and the US have played a central role in global accounting standard setting. The global standards agenda has been largely driven firstly by Europe and secondly by the convergence programme between the IFRSs and US GAAP. Given the growing importance of the Asia-Oceania region, stakeholders have increasingly suggested that accounting standards setters in the region should play a greater role in global standard-setting, to maintain the momentum towards global standards and ensure the credibility and responsiveness of the IASB. With that background, the AOSSG, a group of recognised accounting standard-setters from jurisdictions in the Asia-Oceania region was established in 2009.

Currently, the AOSSG consists of the following 25 members:

Table 1: List of the AOSSG members¹

1	Accounting Standards Board of Japan (ASBJ)
2	Accounting Standards Board of Nepal
3	Accounting Standards Council of Singapore
4	Australian Accounting Standards Board
5	China Accounting Standards Committee
6	Dubai Financial Services Authority
7	Financial Reporting Standards Board of New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants ²
8	Financial Reporting Standards Council of Philippines
9	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA)
10	Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan
11	Iraqi Union of Accountants and Auditors
12	Korea Accounting Standards Board
13	Malaysian Accounting Standards Board
14	Ministry of Finance of Brunei Darussalam
15	Ministry of Finance of Vietnam
16	Mongolian Institute of Certified Public Accountants
17	National Accounting Council of Cambodia
18	National Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan
19	Saudi Organisation for Certified Public Accountants
20	The Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Kazakhstan
21	The Committee for the Registry of Auditors and Accountants of Macao SAR
22	The Financial Accounting Standards Board – Indonesian Institute of Accountants
23	The Federation of Accounting Professions of Thailand
24	The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
25	The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka

¹ Members in the table are listed in an alphabetical order.

² From July 2011, New Zealand Accounting Standards Board (NZASB) will be empowered in accounting standard setting.

Jurisdictions of the AOSSG members cover a large part of the Asia-Oceania region and are highlighted in blue in the map below.

Map 1: Jurisdictions of the AOSSG members



Table 2: Application of the IFRSs³

Jurisdiction	Domestic Listed Companies						Audit Report States Compliance with IFRSs
	Being converged with IFRSs	Fully converged with IFRSs	IFRSs Not Permitted	IFRSs Permitted	IFRSs Required for Some	IFRSs Required for All	
Australia						X	Yes
Brunei	No stock exchange in Brunei						
Cambodia	No stock exchange in Cambodia						
China		X					
Dubai						X	
Hong Kong						X	Yes
India	X						
Indonesia	X						
Iraq						X	Yes
Japan	X			X			
Kazakhstan						X	Yes
Korea						X	Yes
Macao	No stock exchange in Macao						
Malaysia	X						
Mongolia						X	Yes
Nepal	X						
New Zealand						X	Yes
Pakistan						X	Yes
Philippines						X	Yes
Saudi Arabia					X		Yes
Singapore	X						
Sri Lanka				X			Yes
Thailand			X				
Uzbekistan			X				
Vietnam	X						
Total	7	1	2	2	1	10	11

³ This table is developed based on publicly available information or the information AOSSG members submitted, without performing examination of underlying information on a standard-level.

(Notes to the table)

- The new Chinese Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises (CASs) were published by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in 2006, effective January 1, 2007. These standards are substantially converged with IFRSs, except for one modification (i.e. disallow the reversal of impairment loss on long term assets) which reflects China's unique circumstances and environment. In April 2010, the MoF released the roadmap for continuing convergence of CAS with IFRSs. Currently, CASs have achieved full convergence with IFRSs. The CASs are now mandatory for entities including PRC-listed companies, financial institutions and all other large and medium-sized enterprises.

In December 2007, the HKICPA recognised CASs equivalence to HKFRS, which are identical to IFRSs. In December 2010, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange decided to allow mainland-incorporated companies listed in Hong Kong to have an option to present financial statements using CASs and audited by an approved mainland audit firm. The EU Commission permits Chinese issuers to use CAS when they enter the EU market without adjusting financial statement in accordance with IFRS endorsed by EU.

- Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China. Hong Kong accounting standards are fully converged with IFRSs effective 1 January 2005. The Hong Kong standards contain wording identical to the equivalent IFRS except that the transitional provisions in a few standards that were converged initially with effect from 1 January 2005 were changed to provide the transition from the requirements in the previous HK GAAP. Since 1 January 2005, all HKFRSs issued have the same IFRS effective dates and transitional provisions.
- India has announced a plan to converge with IFRSs for various entities in a phased manner during 2012-2014.
- Indonesia has made significant progress on the IFRS convergence. Indonesian GAAP is expected to be substantially identical with IFRS in January 2012.
- ASBJ has made significant progress on convergence of Japanese GAAP with IFRSs in accordance with “Tokyo Agreement” of 2007. In December 2009, the Financial Services Authority of Japan (FSA) published Cabinet Office Ordinances that allow some Japanese listed companies to voluntarily use IFRSs as designated by the Commissioner of the FSA in their consolidated financial statements starting from the fiscal year ending 31 March 2010. In auditing such companies’ consolidated financial statements, auditors are required to state compliance of this designated set of standards in audit reports, but may state compliance with IFRSs (as issued by IASB) when both standards are identical.
- Korea has adopted all IFRSs as issued by the IASB as Korean Financial Reporting Standards effective 2011, with early adoption permitted from 2009.
- Foreign companies listed on Bursa Malaysia may use IFRSs. Malaysia has announced a plan to bring Malaysian GAAP into full convergence with IFRSs effective 1 January 2012.
- All banks and insurance companies listed on the Saudi Stock Exchange must use IFRSs.
- In Singapore, foreign companies listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) are permitted to use IFRS. For local companies, IFRS is permissible if approved by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority of Singapore (ACRA). Singapore has adopted most IFRSs essentially word for word as Singapore equivalents of IFRS (SFRS). In May 2009 the Singapore Government announced its plan to fully converge SFRS with IFRS by 2012. The fully-converged standards will apply to all local companies listed on the SGX.
- In Thailand, the Federation of Accounting Professions (FAP) has announced a plan to fully adopt IFRSs as the Thai GAAP for the fifty actively trading listed companies in the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET 50) in 2011. Thereafter, full adoption of IFRSs by SET 100 is planned for 2013. The rest of the listed companies and the companies listed in the Market Alternative Investment (MAI) are required to fully adopt IFRSs in 2015.

2. Objectives of the AOSSG

As stipulated in its Memorandum of Understanding, the AOSSG is entrusted with the following four objectives:

(1) Promoting the adoption of, and convergence with, the IFRSs by jurisdictions in the region

The AOSSG aims to promote the adoption of, and convergence with, the IFRSs by jurisdictions in the region.

(2) Promoting consistent application of the IFRSs by jurisdictions in the region

The AOSSG aims to promote consistent application of the IFRSs in resolving common accounting issues to enhance transparency of financial markets in the region.

(3) Coordinating input from the region to the technical activities of the IASB

The AOSSG aims, in the public interest of the region, to play an active role in technical activities of the IASB and contribute to a single set of high quality global financial reporting standards.

(4) Cooperating with governments, regulators and other regional and international organisations to improve the quality of financial reporting in the region

The AOSSG aims to establish relationships with governments, regulators, and other regional and international organisations to improve accounting practices, enhance the quality of financial reporting and facilitate cross-border trade, investments, and governance in the region.

3. Organisational structure and members

The AOSSG is structured as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Working Groups together with Chairman's Advisory Committee (See the figure below).

The Chairman and Vice Chairman play key roles in operating the organisation. The Chairman assumes the secretariat role of the AOSSG for a designated period and is responsible for coordinating discussions and activities among the AOSSG members. The role of chairman is rotated amongst members of the AOSSG who are willing and able to fulfil the role.

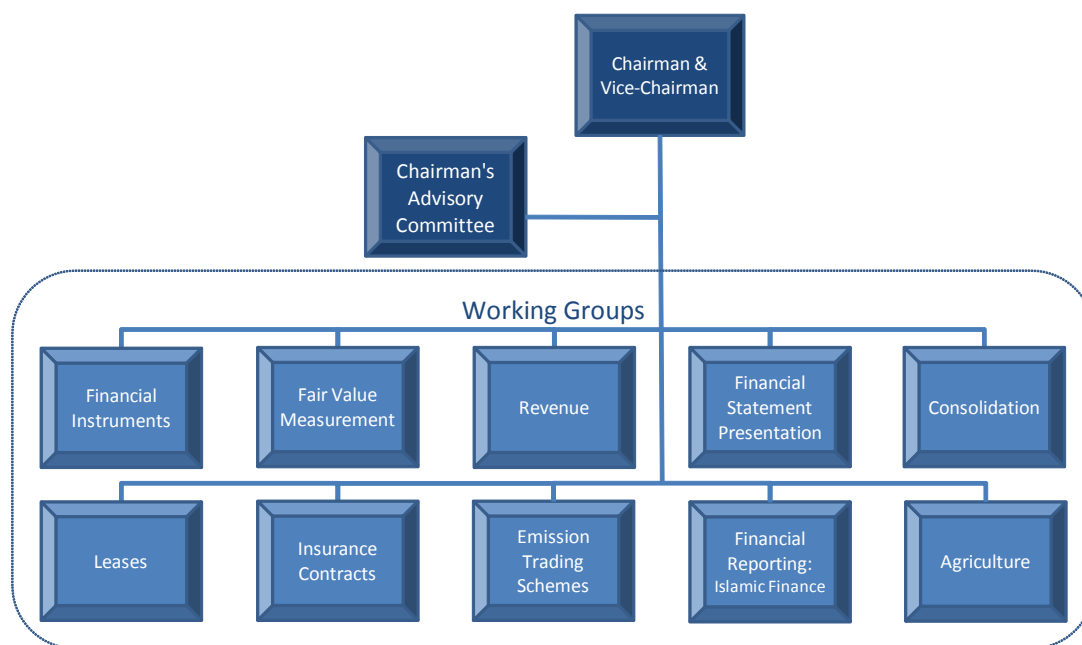
Working Groups have been established in order to coordinate regional views to comment on the IASB's technical activities. The Chairman monitors progress/functions of the Working Groups and serves as a liaison with other organisations, governments, and regulators in the region and in the world for the purpose of learning other stakeholders' circumstances and advancing the interests of the AOSSG. As of May 2011, there are ten Working Groups, of which one (Agriculture) was established recently.

- 1) Financial Instruments
- 2) Fair Value Measurement
- 3) Revenue

- 4) Financial Statement Presentation
- 5) Consolidation
- 6) Leases
- 7) Insurance Contracts
- 8) Emission Trading Schemes
- 9) Financial Reporting relating to Islamic Finance
- 10) Agriculture

A Chairman’s Advisory Committee was established to support organisational operations conducted by Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to deal with activities that the organisation’s Working Groups do not cover. The Committee consists of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and other members appointed by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

Figure 1: Organisational Structure of the AOSSG



III. Achievements to date

Since its establishment, the AOSSG has been engaged in various activities in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives. Such activities include discussions with the IASB, submissions of comments and formulation of documents through Working Groups and the Chairman's Advisory Committee, and other meetings/communication with major stakeholders, media relations, and so forth.

1. Outline of activities

Since inception, the AOSSG's membership has quickly grown from 16 to 25, which shows the heightened interest in the group. The AOSSG believes the more that regional views are gathered and consolidated; the stronger the AOSSG's voice can be through expressing collective views toward the IASB's technical activities.

The AOSSG initiated four Working Groups: Financial Instruments, Fair Value Measurement, Revenue, and Financial Statement Presentation. Taking into account the developments at the IASB, the organisation added five more Working Groups on the following subjects: Consolidation, Leases, Insurance Contracts, Emission Trading Schemes, and Financial Reporting relating to Islamic Finance by the second annual meeting. With consideration of the post-2011 projects, a Working Group on Agriculture was established in late 2010. These Working Groups have provided inputs to the IASB.

In addition to the aforementioned Working Group activities, the AOSSG published a research paper on the application of the IFRSs on Islamic finance. The AOSSG also conducted a survey regarding the status of the IFRSs application by members, possible issues that the organisation should address, and the organisation's additional activities, so as to explore its future activities. A fact-finding survey, information sharing, and education sessions have been conducted on various topics amongst members in order to improve our knowledge on those topics.

2. Communicating regional views to the IASB and IFRS Foundation

(Working Groups)

Working Groups aim to monitor the ongoing work of the IASB and identify conceptual and practical issues for consideration by the AOSSG members. The members also aspire to facilitate the AOSSG's contribution (including submitting ideas and recommendations) to the IASB's Exposure Drafts and other consultations. Furthermore, in order to meet these aims, the Working Groups prepare issues papers, and present them to the AOSSG, and establish contacts amongst relevant stakeholders and within the IASB. For more details, please see our comment letters posted on the AOSSG website (<http://www.aossg.org/>). Working Group members and work performed by each Working Group are listed in Appendix 1.

(Chairman’s Advisory Committee)

The Chairman’s Advisory Committee responds to consultative documents issued by relevant organisations (such as the IASB, IFRS Foundation Trustees, and IFRS Foundation Monitoring Board) to address issues not covered by the Working Groups. Refer to Appendix 1 for the Chairman’s Advisory Committee and its comment letters.

3. Sharing knowledge and information

The AOSSG is exploring how it can effectively deepen understanding of IASB’s proposals in the region as well as better identify implementation issues in the region. To this end, the AOSSG has occasionally held education sessions. The region contains jurisdictions with different levels of IFRS implementation – some jurisdictions have already adopted IFRSs while others are in the process of adopting or converging with IFRSs.

Through the education sessions, members try to build capacity in such a way that leading jurisdictions assist others by sharing their implementation experiences and examples.

4. Communicating with stakeholders

To promote awareness of the organisation’s activities, the AOSSG Chairman and Vice-Chairman have had speaking engagements at various forums such as national conferences and the World Congress of Accountants. As the AOSSG activities have gained recognition, national standard setters from other regions in the world have begun to enquire how the organisation was developed and operations carried out. Naturally, the AOSSG is happy to share our experiences with interested stakeholders.

Consistent with its objective, the AOSSG establishes close links with governments and regulators. The AOSSG and its members communicate with such parties by a number of means including sharing challenges and experiences at the IFRS Regional Policy Forum. Such communication and collaborative undertakings are particularly important, since standard-setting processes often involve legal or regulatory due-process before standards are endorsed, while regulators usually turn to the expertise of standard setters on technical accounting matters. Securities regulators may have particular interests in the AOSSG’s activities, as the International Organisation of Securities Commission is working on the development of IFRS database to share enforcement experiences of IFRS-based financial reporting among its members. As standards alone cannot remedy all shortcomings relating to financial reporting, such collaborative works are of public interest in light of improving the quality of financial reporting in the region.

The AOSSG launched its website in November 2010 to enable effective and efficient communication among its members and to raise awareness of the AOSSG among other

stakeholders. The AOSSG, on a timely basis, intends to update information on the website on a wide range of accounting standard setting issues relevant to entities in the Asia-Oceania region, including activities of the AOSSG Working Groups and AOSSG comment letters to the IASB. Magazine articles on the organisation can also be accessed through the website.

5. Research activities

The AOSSG conducts research and publishes documents. To date the organisation has published a research paper on financial reporting relating to Islamic finance in 2010, which is available on the website. The purpose of the research paper is to examine and explain issues in applying the IFRSs to Islamic financial transactions in a more holistic manner. The paper describes fifteen issues, to familiarise the reader with differing views in accounting for Islamic transactions. This paper was referenced by the IASB at its meeting in May 2011 to better understand the Islamic finance issues in the context of lease accounting. The AOSSG believes that this publication is a model for its future activities and considers more research activities should be undertaken in this proactive manner.

IV. Immediate initiatives

The AOSSG has placed its priority on providing inputs on consultative documents (including discussion papers and exposure drafts) of the IASB and other bodies of the IFRS Foundation. Over the next couple of years, we envision that we can strengthen our membership and enlarge the scope of our activities. This section discusses what we will do in the foreseeable future in the context of our objectives.

1. Broadening the membership

At present, the AOSSG has members from 25 jurisdictions in the region, and the level of understanding of the IFRSs from respective jurisdictions differs significantly. We believe that it is paramount for the AOSSG to raise the level of our understanding of the IFRSs as well as to consolidate the regional issues more effectively, to enable us to provide quality input for global standard setting, while making continuous attempts to expand our membership.

Additionally, more members are encouraged to participate in Working Groups so that members can benefit from knowing diverse opinions for the betterment of our comments. Although diversity of the membership brings challenges for the AOSSG in summarising collective views of the organisation, we think that the diversity creates opportunities for the members to identify important issues that may otherwise not be addressed.

Moreover, information sharing via education sessions at the Working Group level should be facilitated more frequently. The organisation has so far convened sessions on selected topics, and plans to cover more areas in order to improve the level of our understanding of IFRSs. Further, we may also support members who wish to reduce variances that might arise from translating IFRSs, so as to facilitate the consistent application of the standards.

Finally, holding workshops or seminars on key topics, either through the leadership by respective jurisdictions or the collective efforts of the AOSSG, may be effective as well. As some IFRSs are considered to be complex, such workshops or seminars for interested members would be valuable in fostering the further application of IFRSs in the region.

2. Enhancing communications with the IASB and other bodies of the IFRS Foundation

We believe that more frequent, direct, and meaningful communications with the IASB and its staff would bring about mutual understanding of each other's concerns and standard setting environments.

To date, the AOSSG has been using its comment letters to communicate its suggestions or concerns to the IASB, together with occasional face-to-face meetings with the IASB. It has been found that

face-to-face meetings are more effective for conveying our views and concerns to the IASB, and the AOSSG will review how we could increase the frequency of such meetings to once every three to four months. Such meetings could be scheduled in conjunction with other international or regional meetings so as to allow members to participate in such meetings.

In addition, the IASB may informally request inputs from the AOSSG members as to whether the Board's tentative decisions on new or revised standards have any fatal flaws. In this respect, the AOSSG members can act as a sounding board in assisting the IASB to decide on the general direction or to identify specific implementation issues that may emerge from the region. Timely communication between the AOSSG and IASB leadership is also important to enable us to put our views on strategic objectives of the IASB. In particular, as the convergence programme with US GAAP nears its conclusion, and the IASB considers its future agenda, there is an opportunity for the AOSSG to raise issues of particular concern to the region on the IASB's post-2011 agenda, by providing proactive inputs to the IASB on its forthcoming triennial public consultation with regard to post-2011 projects.

The AOSSG also believes there is a need to construct systematic channels through which issues concerning members' business, legal and regulatory environments are communicated to the IFRS Interpretations Committee (the Committee) or the IASB on a timely basis.

3. Promoting awareness of outside stakeholders

In addition to enhancing communications among the AOSSG membership and with the IASB, it is necessary for the AOSSG to strengthen its ties with other organisations. For instance, the AOSSG may want to consider inviting key stakeholders or interested parties as observers to its meetings. Extensive communications with other parties enable us to obtain opportunities to express our concerns and interpretations. Key stakeholders can also confer with the AOSSG on their thoughts or concerns. Depending upon member consensus, observers may include international or regional regulatory organisations or other institutions with a public interest mandate. This will not only help the AOSSG to keep up with the current progress in other regions, but also help improve the quality of financial reporting in the region.

V. Vision towards the future

As a group of organisations with expert knowledge of standards and in-depth understanding of issues in the region, the AOSSG may wish to consider extending our scope even broader in meeting our objectives.

A survey conducted among the AOSSG members in September 2010 revealed that 40% of the respondents adopted or converged with the IFRSs, whereas another 40% have made announcements about adopting or converging with the IFRSs.

Challenges faced by the members were observed in difficulties in application/practice of the standards, a lack of technical expertise, a lack of support from the community, and so forth. In order to address such issues, the members would like the AOSSG to be more actively involved in conveying concerns to the IASB, advocating thought-leadership, and undertaking implementation assistance. The following are some ideas as to how we would evolve to be a more effective regional organisation in the future.

1. Leadership role in global accounting standard setting

Taking into account the development of the economy as well as an accelerated trend towards the adoption of or convergence with the IFRSs in the Asia-Oceania region, the AOSSG may wish to become the flag-bearer of global accounting standard setting. As mentioned in our response to the IFRS Foundation Trustees' strategy review, we welcome further opportunities in the medium-term to provide our views on the future of global standard setting.

It is important to emphasise that the strength of the AOSSG is in its capacity to bring together the knowledge and experience across the region and to provide improved input to the global standard setting process. The AOSSG can act as an integrated "think-tank" in accounting standards through its study of how future financial reporting should be, as well as its assistance regarding identification of emerging issues. In doing so, the AOSSG may also consider whether and how we can consolidate our views more effectively. Our voice may become even stronger if the AOSSG can formulate a "regional view" through obtaining consensus among its members, rather than merely providing various suggestions for consideration.

In addition, all IASB meetings are currently held in London where technical resources are centred. In the future; however, one can envision that holding the IASB meetings in other regions as well would facilitate meaningful communication and enhanced outreach with various stakeholders, which could aid in deepening the understanding of regional issues at first hand. In this regard, the AOSSG is eager to cooperate with the liaison office of the IFRS Foundation that will be established in Tokyo in 2012 and utilise its resources to work more closely with the IASB. The AOSSG

expects that the liaison office will play a pivotal role in further enhancing the link between its activities and the IFRS Foundation, including effective identification of the business practices that are prevalent in the region. Before the liaison office commences operation, the AOSSG will give further thought as to how the office will be best used.

2. Proactive research and thought-leadership activities

As one of the regional standard setting groups in the world, the AOSSG wishes to enhance its proactive research in or publicise discussion papers on outstanding and prospective issues relating to global accounting standard setting, underlying principles in the accounting standards, and topics that would be of interest to both the AOSSG and IASB.

Selecting appropriate topics requires careful consideration, as priorities differ depending upon the respective jurisdictions' environments, for instance, the strength of specific industry segments and market trends. Nevertheless, sharing a common understanding of the appropriate topics is instrumental before a project is undertaken to ensure the best use of the members' valuable resources. In this context, while appreciating the need for timeliness, an agreement between the AOSSG and the IASB, whether formal or by implicit acknowledgement, would be helpful before extensive work is undertaken. Greater involvement in the strategic discussion may aid in achieving this desired effect.

In selecting research topics, the most important criterion is the relevancy for the AOSSG members and how the research can be utilised for the benefit of the AOSSG members. Research topics could therefore focus on specific accounting topics such as Islamic finance and Agriculture or areas where more conceptual or proactive thought-leadership activities are needed (e.g., financial statement presentation and disclosure or integrated reporting). If there is a lack of expertise within the AOSSG to conduct the research, the research could be undertaken by tapping into other interested research networks or centres.

3. Regional initiatives regarding consistent application

The IFRSs are a set of principle-based accounting standards, where application may vary depending upon the situation. However, the benefits of a single set of high quality global accounting standards can be achieved only when the standards are implemented consistently throughout the world. While the IASB has expressed its preference not to provide interpretations on individual standards, jurisdictions and/or accounting firms have established their own views that sometimes differ from one another.

Consistent application in the region will only be achieved when all parties share common understanding of issues in the region. Having acknowledged the commonality of business or

social environments, if deemed necessary or appropriate, the AOSSG members could formulate joint proposals for consideration by the IASB or IFRS Interpretations Committee. Where appropriate, the AOSSG can also invite the Committee members to its meetings or interact with technical staff of the liaison office. In addition, if there are divergent views among standard setters and stakeholders in practice, it may be useful to organize an opportunity where all major stakeholders including the AOSSG members, technical teams of major accounting firms – both global and local, the IASB members and its staff come together and discuss particular issues to achieve a common understanding. Such communication may be facilitated with the aid of the liaison office staff.

In addition, the AOSSG could utilise its technology/website to facilitate active discussions among members regarding topics including case studies and implementation experiences via a chat room or bulletin board system. Outcomes of the discussion may be shared among members as a source of reference or published on the AOSSG website. Maintenance of strong domestic standard setting is vital for the successful application of the IFRSs, and the AOSSG may consider offering online technical resources which could include provision of advice on supporting infrastructure and arrangement of access to consultation to those in need. Furthermore, the group may want to accommodate member requests to add educational activities for members in the emerging economies as such members would be likely to need useful information and examples on implementation.

4. Other assistance to the IASB

The AOSSG may also want to assist the IASB in its post-implementation reviews so as to identify implementation challenges by cooperating with the IASB staff either from London or the Tokyo liaison office. Such reviews could assist the IASB to identify areas that have been understood differently from the manner originally intended or areas where standards were regarded as insufficient in promoting sound financial reporting.

In addition, the AOSSG could assist the IASB to develop and implement an agreed methodology for field visits/tests as well as effect analysis (or impact assessment) by utilising the resources and experiences of member jurisdictions. Such collaboration would be helpful, since the AOSSG or its members are better placed to find right persons in respective initiatives.

5. Advice and consultation for member jurisdictions

In order to successfully apply the IFRSs in the region, development of solid domestic standard setting is essential. While the AOSSG respects standard setting in each member's jurisdiction, the AOSSG could take advantage of members' collective views in providing advice/consultation without interfering with the authority of domestic standard setters regarding whether and how to

apply the standards proposed or published by the IASB. Through this exercise, the AOSSG could help promote the development of domestic standard setting, gain more leverage in terms of a regional view/voice, and help establish the organisation as a well-functioning regional group of standard setters.

6. The AOSSG Secretariat

The AOSSG's membership is geographically broad, and it is not as easy as in Europe for the members to come together in face-to-face meetings. The secretariat therefore plays a vital role in coordinating the organisation's work and in representing it in communications with the outside world. Currently, the AOSSG secretariat rotates among its members in tandem with the annual change in chairmanship. The AOSSG is a voluntary group of standard setters, and it is important for the group to ensure the continuity of secretariat functions such as maintenance and organisation of activities, regardless of the capacity of a jurisdiction undertaking the chairmanship. Taking into account the diversity of the membership, a stronger secretariat with continuity would be vital to formulate the AOSSG's views and express them to stakeholders outside of the region.

In future, we can consider adopting one or more of the following options:

- (a) Utilise experiences accumulated to date that include administrative matters and relationship building skills. We could consider setting up a "virtual secretariat" - a group of supporting staff consisting of experienced personnel so that they could provide collective assistance to the AOSSG leadership. Such mechanism would contribute to the continuity of secretariat operations and provide a platform for lasting relationships with outside stakeholders including the IASB members and its staff.
- (b) We can employ a "troika system" where the immediate past Chairman and Vice-Chairman assist the current Chairman in order to ensure continuity and strengthen the leadership functions of the secretariat.
- (c) Depending upon future discussion, the AOSSG might explore possibilities of establishing a permanent secretariat if deemed appropriate.

7. Others

At present, the AOSSG should mainly focus on the IASB's projects; however, the AOSSG members suggested that the organisation consider issues regarding accounting standards for non-profit/public entities in the future. In some jurisdictions, accounting standards are traditionally developed to be applicable to all kinds of entities: for-profit, non-profit, and public sector. Although it may take some years to develop common global accounting standards for all kinds of reporting entities, we should recognise the need to do so and consider the issue in the future, as the IFRS Foundation is doing in its own strategic review.

The AOSSG may also consider opportunities in fostering the use of XBRL by examining whether and how the development of the XBRL taxonomy can be integrated in the standard setting process, while maintaining that IFRS taxonomy can be effectively used in non-English speaking jurisdictions. Further, we may look to the use of a common set of auditing standards to improve financial reporting practices and enhance the quality of financial reporting as stated in our objectives.

VI. Concluding remarks

Development of a set of globally accepted high quality accounting standards is critical in ensuring investor confidence, protection, and transparency of capital markets. Many members of the AOSSG are in the process of implementing the IFRSs and are facing various challenges such as difficulties in application and practice, a lack of technical expertise, lack of support from the community, financial constraints, language barriers, and so forth.

In view of such circumstances, it is useful to call on the experience of others to improve the quality of reporting. The contribution from our region to global accounting standard setting has gained greater significance, and the AOSSG will continue to pursue various activities to fulfil its mission.

Organised under the theme “*A Driving Wind for IFRS from Asia-Oceania*”, similar to the one introduced at the second AOSSG Annual Meeting held in 2010, we believe this organisation will soon be acknowledged as one of the leading players in global accounting standard setting.

Appendix 1: Membership of the AOSSG's subgroups and submissions

Working Groups

Financial Instruments

Lead: Australia

Members: China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand

Fair Value Measurement

Lead: China

Members: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia

Revenue

Lead/Co-lead: Japan/Singapore

Members: Australia, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand

Financial Statement Presentation

Lead/Co-lead: Korea/China

Members: Australia, Hong Kong, Iraq, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand

Consolidation

Lead/Co-lead: Singapore/China

Members: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan

Leases

Lead/Co-lead: Singapore/Indonesia

Members: Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan

Insurance Contracts

Lead/Co-lead: Korea/China

Members: Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Emission Trading Schemes

Lead/Co-lead: China/Japan

Members: India, Korea

Financial Reporting relating to Islamic Finance

Lead: Malaysia

Members: Australia, China, Dubai, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

Agriculture

Lead/Co-lead: India/Malaysia

Members: China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea

Chairman's Advisory Committee (2011)

Chair: Japan

Vice-Chair: Australia

Members: China, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore

Submissions by Working Groups and Chairman's Advisory Committee

Working Groups

Financial Instruments

The Financial Instruments Working Group submitted comments on the following documents:

IASB ED/2009/12 regarding *Financial Instruments: Amortised Cost and Impairment*;

IASB ED/2010/4 regarding *Fair Value Option for Financial Liabilities*;

IASB Request for comments on FASB ED regarding *Accounting for Financial Instruments and Revisions to the Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*

IASB ED/2010/13 regarding *Financial Instruments: Hedge Accounting* in March 2011

IASB Supplement to ED/2009/12 regarding *Financial Instruments: Impairment* in April 2011; and

IASB ED/2011/1 regarding *Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* in April 2011.

Fair Value Measurement

The Fair Value Measurement Working Group submitted comments on IASB Staff Draft of the forthcoming IFRS on *Fair Value Measurement* in December 2010.

Revenue

The Revenue Working Group submitted comments on the IASB ED/2010/6 regarding *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* in October 2010.

Financial Statement Presentation

The Financial Statement Presentation Working Group submitted comments on the IASB Staff Draft of the Exposure Draft regarding *Financial Statement Presentation* in January 2011.

Consolidation

The Consolidation Working Group submitted comments on the IASB's tentative decision taken on *Consolidated Financial Statements* in December 2010.

Leases

The Leases Working Group submitted comments on the IASB ED/2010/9 regarding *Leases* in December 2010.

Insurance Contracts

The Insurance Contracts Working Group submitted comments on the IASB ED/2010/8 regarding *Insurance Contracts* in November 2010.

Emission Trading Schemes

The Emission Trading Schemes Working Group conducted a survey among the AOSSG members and proposed several suggestions to the IASB.

Financial Reporting relating to Islamic Finance

The Islamic Finance Working Group submitted comments on the following documents:

IASB ED/2010/6 regarding *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* in October 2010;

IASB ED/2010/8 regarding *Insurance Contracts* in November 2010;

IASB ED/2010/9 regarding *Leases* in December 2010;

IASB ED/2010/13 regarding *Financial Instruments: Hedge Accounting* in March 2011;

IASB Supplement to ED/2009/12 regarding *Financial Instruments: Impairment* in April 2011; and

IASB ED/2011/1 regarding *Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* in April 2011.

Agriculture

The Agriculture Working Group is newly established, with issues currently being discussed.

Chairman's Advisory Committee (2011)

Chairman's Advisory Committee submitted comments on the following documents:

IASB Request for Views on *Effective Dates and Transition Methods* in January 2011;

IFRS Foundation Trustees Consultation on *IFRS Interpretation Committee Review* in January 2011;

IFRS Foundation Trustees Consultation on *Strategy Review* in February 2011; and

IFRS Foundation Monitoring Board Consultation on *Review of the IFRS Foundation Governance* in April 2011.

Appendix 2: Data

Table 3: 2009 GDP in Billion USD

Country	USD bn	Country	USD bn	Country	USD bn
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	14.483	Germany	3,338.68	Norway	378.592
Albania	12.224	Ghana	15.33	Oman	46.115
Algeria	139.763	Greece	330.78	Pakistan	161.994
Angola	74.474	Grenada	0.615	Panama	24.859
Antigua and Barbuda	1.118	Guatemala	37.661	Papua New Guinea	7.907
Argentina	310.057	Guinea	4.55	Paraguay	14.216
Armenia	8.541	Guinea-Bissau	0.839	Peru	126.766
Australia	994.246	Guyana	2.056	Philippines	161.196
Austria	382.073	Haiti	6.56	Poland	430.736
Azerbaijan	43.076	Honduras	14.268	Portugal	233.478
The Bahamas	7.377	Hong Kong SAR	210.57	Qatar	98.313
Bahrain	20.59	Hungary	129.54	Romania	161.521
Bangladesh	94.602	Iceland	12.138	Russia	1,231.89
Barbados	3.895	India	1,236.94	Rwanda	5.245
Belarus	48.975	Indonesia	539.377	Samoa	0.558
Belgium	472.103	Islamic Republic of Iran	325.938	São Tomé e Príncipe	0.189
Belize	1.352	Iraq	65.838	Saudi Arabia	376.268
Benin	6.65	Ireland	222.356	Senegal	12.789
Bhutan	1.269	Israel	195.39	Serbia	42.967
Bolivia	17.464	Italy	2,118.26	Seychelles	0.79
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17.043	Jamaica	12.64	Sierra Leone	1.856
Botswana	11.684	Japan	5,068.89	Singapore	182.231
Brazil	1,574.04	Jordan	25.113	Slovak Republic	88.21
Brunei Darussalam	10.405	Kazakhstan	107.891	Slovenia	48.6
Bulgaria	47.101	Kenya	30.143	Solomon Islands	0.657
Burkina Faso	8.105	Kiribati	0.13	South Africa	287.219
Burundi	1.33	Korea	832.512	Spain	1,467.89
Cambodia	10.871	Kosovo	5.387	Sri Lanka	42.203
Cameroon	22.189	Kuwait	98.416	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.557
Canada	1,336.07	Kyrgyz Republic	4.57	St. Lucia	0.973
Cape Verde	1.576	Lao People's Democratic Republic	5.598	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.571
Central African Republic	1.986	Latvia	25.927	Sudan	54.644
Chad	6.853	Lebanon	34.528	Suriname	2.955
Chile	161.621	Lesotho	1.623	Swaziland	3
China	4,984.73	Liberia	0.879	Sweden	406.072
Colombia	232.403	Libya	60.238	Switzerland	491.923
Comoros	0.537	Lithuania	37.118	Syrian Arab Republic	52.635
Democratic Republic of Congo	11.108	Luxembourg	52.432	Taiwan Province of China	378.524
Republic of Congo	9.605	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9.371	Tajikistan	4.982
Costa Rica	29.318	Madagascar	8.589	Tanzania	21.308
Côte d'Ivoire	22.496	Malawi	4.723	Thailand	263.979
Croatia	67.695	Malaysia	192.955	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste	0.556
Cyprus	23.603	Maldives	1.307	Togo	3.151
Czech Republic	190.321	Mali	8.986	Tonga	0.313
Denmark	310.093	Malta	8.008	Trinidad and Tobago	19.626
Djibouti	1.049	Mauritania	3.029	Tunisia	43.523
Dominica	0.362	Mauritius	8.589	Turkey	614.466
Dominican Republic	46.714	Mexico	874.81	Turkmenistan	n/a
Ecuador	55.553	Moldova	5.403	Uganda	15.804
Egypt	187.954	Mongolia	4.203	Ukraine	117.404
El Salvador	21.101	Montenegro	4.152	United Arab Emirates	223.874
Equatorial Guinea	12.219	Morocco	91.374	United Kingdom	2,178.86
Eritrea	1.873	Mozambique	9.831	United States	14,119.05
Estonia	19.305	Myanmar	34.262	Uruguay	31.511
Ethiopia	32.319	Namibia	9.394	Uzbekistan	32.816
Fiji	2.948	Nepal	12.894	Vanuatu	0.637
Finland	238.607	Netherlands	796.651	Venezuela	325.678
France	2,656.38	New Zealand	117.794	Vietnam	93.164
Gabon	11.015	Nicaragua	6.149	Republic of Yemen	25.131
The Gambia	0.969	Niger	5.273	Zambia	12.805
Georgia	10.745	Nigeria	168.843	Zimbabwe	4.62
GDP in the AOSSG member region	19,312	World GDP	57,825	Regional GDP as % of World GDP	33.4%

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2010

Note: Data include estimates.

Table 4: 2009 World Population in Millions

Country	mn	Country	mn	Country	mn
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	28.89	Germany	81.767	Norway	4.843
Albania	3.186	Ghana	23.108	Oman	2.883
Algeria	34.977	Greece	11.162	Pakistan	163.774
Angola	17.312	Grenada	0.103	Panama	3.465
Antigua and Barbuda	0.085	Guatemala	14.013	Papua New Guinea	6.339
Argentina	40.134	Guinea	10.079	Paraguay	6.277
Armenia	3.267	Guinea-Bissau	1.61	Peru	29.101
Australia	21.955	Guyana	0.77	Philippines	92.227
Austria	8.363	Haiti	9.923	Poland	38.111
Azerbaijan	8.977	Honduras	7.468	Portugal	10.627
The Bahamas	0.341	Hong Kong SAR	7.065	Qatar	1.639
Bahrain	1.039	Hungary	10.031	Romania	21.47
Bangladesh	162.221	Iceland	0.319	Russia	141.9
Barbados	0.276	India	1,199.06	Rwanda	9.792
Belarus	9.48	Indonesia	231.547	Samoa	0.181
Belgium	10.78	Islamic Republic of Iran	74.1	São Tomé e Príncipe	0.163
Belize	0.328	Iraq	31.234	Saudi Arabia	25.519
Benin	9.381	Ireland	4.459	Senegal	12.82
Bhutan	0.675	Israel	7.27	Serbia	7.382
Bolivia	10.227	Italy	59.779	Seychelles	0.085
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.904	Jamaica	2.699	Sierra Leone	5.7
Botswana	1.815	Japan	127.551	Singapore	5.009
Brazil	191.481	Jordan	5.98	Slovak Republic	5.418
Brunei Darussalam	0.41	Kazakhstan	15.568	Slovenia	2.016
Bulgaria	7.569	Kenya	35.884	Solomon Islands	0.518
Burkina Faso	14.365	Kiribati	0.1	South Africa	49.32
Burundi	8.108	Korea	48.758	Spain	45.828
Cambodia	14.148	Kosovo		Sri Lanka	20.242
Cameroon	19.926	Kuwait	3.536	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.054
Canada	33.69	Kyrgyz Republic	5.37	St. Lucia	0.172
Cape Verde	0.513	Lao People's Democratic Republic	6.32	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.107
Central African Republic	4.442	Latvia	2.261	Sudan	39.117
Chad	9.973	Lebanon	3.857	Suriname	0.522
Chile	16.984	Lesotho	2.496	Swaziland	1.026
China	1,334.74	Liberia	4.134	Sweden	9.299
Colombia	44.978	Libya	6.333	Switzerland	7.742
Comoros	0.666	Lithuania	3.339	Syrian Arab Republic	20.127
Democratic Republic of Congo	64.772	Luxembourg	0.495	Taiwan Province of China	23.12
Republic of Congo	3.756	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2.061	Tajikistan	7.469
Costa Rica	4.62	Madagascar	20.754	Tanzania	40.538
Côte d'Ivoire	21.385	Malawi	13.931	Thailand	66.983
Croatia	4.429	Malaysia	27.761	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste	1.115
Cyprus	0.797	Maldives	0.315	Togo	6.791
Czech Republic	10.425	Mali	13.667	Tonga	0.103
Denmark	5.511	Malta	0.416	Trinidad and Tobago	
Djibouti	0.804	Mauritania	3.105	Tunisia	10.435
Dominica	0.073	Mauritius	1.281	Turkey	70.538
Dominican Republic	9.7	Mexico	107.551	Turkmenistan	5.353
Ecuador	14.117	Moldova	3.568	Uganda	32.797
Egypt	76.704	Mongolia	2.71	Ukraine	45.706
El Salvador	5.824	Montenegro		United Arab Emirates	4.908
Equatorial Guinea	1.276	Morocco	31.703	United Kingdom	61.798
Eritrea	5.162	Mozambique	21.162	United States	307.374
Estonia	1.34	Myanmar	59.981	Uruguay	3.345
Ethiopia	82.812	Namibia	2.082	Uzbekistan	27.911
Fiji	0.883	Nepal	27.913	Vanuatu	0.241
Finland	5.352	Netherlands	16.525	Venezuela	28.611
France	62.632	New Zealand	4.321	Vietnam	87.211
Gabon	1.475	Nicaragua	5.742	Republic of Yemen	23.687
The Gambia	1.672	Niger	14.191	Zambia	11.97
Georgia	4.385	Nigeria	151.874	Zimbabwe	11.732
Population in the AOSSG member region	4,271	World Population	6,732	Regional Population as % of World Population	63.4%

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2010

Note: Data include estimates.

Table 5: Market Capitalisation in Million USD: 2009 and 2010

Exchange	End 2009	End 2010	YoY % Change
Americas			
Bermuda SE	1,360	1,535	12.9%
BM&FBOVESPA	1,337,248	1,545,566	15.6%
Buenos Aires SE	45,745	63,910	39.7%
Colombia SE	140,520	208,502	48.4%
Lima SE	71,663	103,347	44.2%
Mexican Exchange	352,045	454,345	29.1%
NASDAQ OMX	3,239,492	3,889,370	20.1%
NYSE Euronext (US)	11,837,793	13,394,082	13.2%
Santiago SE	230,732	341,799	48.1%
TSX Group	1,676,814	2,170,433	29.4%
Asia - Pacific			
Australian SE	1,261,909	1,454,491	15.3%
Bombay SE	1,306,520	1,631,830	24.9%
Bursa Malaysia	286,157	408,689	41.3%
Colombo SE	9,547	19,924	108.7%
Hong Kong Exchanges	2,305,143	2,711,316	17.6%
Indonesia SE	214,941	360,388	67.7%
Jasdaq	89,567	-	-
Korea Exchange	834,597	1,091,911	30.8%
National Stock Exchange India	1,224,806	1,596,625	30.4%
New Zealand Exchange	35,507	-	-
Osaka SE	138,330	271,831	96.5%
Philippine SE	86,349	157,321	82.2%
Shanghai SE	2,704,778	2,716,470	0.4%
Shenzhen SE	868,374	1,311,370	51.0%
Singapore Exchange	481,247	647,226	34.5%
Taiwan SE Corp.	657,610	818,490	24.2%
Thailand SE	176,956	277,732	57.0%
Tokyo SE	3,306,082	3,827,774	15.8%
Europe - Africa - Middle East			
Amman SE	31,827	30,864	-3.0%
Athens Exchange	112,632	67,586	-40.0%
BME Spanish Exchanges	1,434,540	1,171,625	-18.3%
Borsa Italiana	655,848	-	-
Budapest SE	30,037	27,708	-7.8%
Cyprus SE	10,269	6,834	-33.5%
Deutsche Börse	1,292,355	1,429,719	10.6%
Egyptian Exchange	91,207	84,277	-7.6%
Irish SE	61,291	60,368	-1.5%
Istanbul SE	233,997	307,052	31.2%
Johannesburg SE	799,024	925,007	15.8%
Ljubljana SE	12,141	9,383	-22.7%
London SE	2,796,444	3,613,064	4.6%
Luxembourg SE	105,048	101,129	-3.7%
Malta SE	4,080	4,194	2.8%
Mauritius SE	6,582	7,753	17.8%
MICEX	736,307	949,149	28.9%
NASDAQ OMX Nordic Exchange	817,223	1,042,154	27.5%
NYSE Euronext (Europe)	2,869,393	2,930,072	2.1%
Oslo Børs	227,233	295,288	30.0%
Saudi Stock Market - Tadawul	318,734	353,410	10.9%
SIX Swiss Exchange	1,064,687	1,229,357	15.5%
Tehran SE	59,184	86,642	46.4%
Tel Aviv SE	188,734	227,614	20.6%
Warsaw SE	150,962	190,232	26.0%
Wiener Börse	114,076	126,032	10.5%

Area	End 2009	End 2010	YoY % Change	% Share (2010)
Region (Asia-Pacific & Middle East)	17,525,376	21,288,984	21.5%	37.5%
World	49,145,688	56,752,790	15.5%	100.0%

Source: World Federation of Exchanges