

## **ICAP UK Chapter Annual Dinner Report from the Managing Committee**

ICAP UK Chapter held its Annual Dinner at the Royal Nawaab Restaurant in London on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2015, a hugely successful event bringing together more than two hundred ICAP members and associated friends based here in the UK along with their families. His Excellency Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and a number of other dignitaries attended the event from the Pakistani accountancy, business and professional community. Other guests included Sarmad Khan, Council Member of ICAP, Ajay Agarwal, Chairman Indian Chartered Accountants Institute UK Chapter, and Amir Thahim, Commercial Counsellor of the Pakistan Embassy in Manchester. The Event was jointly sponsored by UBL UK with Najib Rehman, Head of Retail and Corporate Banking, and Farhan Farani of Farani Javid Taylor Solicitors leading their respective teams.

Malik Raheel, Joint Secretary to the UK Chapter, was the moderator of the evening which began with the recitation of verses of the Holy Quran.

Mohammad Shoaib Memon, Secretary to the UK Chapter, welcomed all the distinguished guests to the evening. He shared a brief profile of the members of the UK Chapter and their successful career paths noting the presence of our members at some of the largest financial institutions, corporates and professional services firms here in the UK, a hallmark of the ethos and professionalism inculcated in Pakistani accountants. The community being settled here in the UK is making an active contribution towards the UK society and on the other hand having a continuous affinity with Pakistan is promoting its positive image to the rest of the world.

Kamran Ahmed Qazi, the President of the UK Chapter, thanked His Excellency Syed Ibne Abbas for accepting the invite and attending the dinner with his spouse. He focused on the success the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan has achieved not just in Pakistan but also globally with more than twenty percent of its members actively working outside Pakistan. Our members in the UK are already playing a key role in various organisations they are associated with and conducting their roles with exemplary professionalism. He touched on the activities undertaken by the UK Chapter especially during the last one year and provided a vision for the future to build on the success of this event. He noted that the platform can be used to facilitate not only interaction amongst the members of the ICAP but can also be utilised for engagement with the wider professional community including members of other accountancy bodies, bankers, lawyers and businessmen. He expressed his delight over the overwhelming response received to the event and requested those present to continue to contribute financial and nonfinancial resources towards making the Chapter more successful in the future. He also requested the Chief Guest to actively engage the Chapter and its members in events and activities undertaken by the Pakistan High Commission as our members can add value towards promotion of various causes related to Pakistan.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner of Pakistan in his speech thanked the Managing Committee of the ICAP UK Chapter for inviting him to the Annual Dinner. Whilst ICAP was widely recognised in Pakistan for quality education, training and professional ethos, he reflected his immense pleasure in learning about the significant contribution ICAP members and Pakistani accountants are making in the UK. He commended the conduct and values upheld by the members of the UK Chapter, a matter of pride for him as an official representative of the Pakistan Government and for Pakistan as a whole. He noted that such events celebrate the success stories of Pakistanis and therefore should take place more often to recognise their achievements and counter the negative narrative associated with Pakistan. He expressed his commitment to foster a new relationship between the Pakistan High Commission in the UK, the UK Chapter and the Pakistani accountancy community to work towards causes related to Pakistan and the Pakistani community here in the UK in the future.

The sponsors of the event UBL UK and Farani Javid Taylor made brief presentations thereafter sharing the services provided by them especially focusing on the Pakistani diaspora.

The Managing Committee then thanked the Chief Guest by presenting an ICAP embossed souvenir, followed by distribution of souvenirs to the sponsors of the event. The UK Chapter, on behalf of its members, also presented a memento to the spouse of a deceased member, Naeem Mandvia, who passed away at an early age and was an active member of the community.

Finally, Abdul Rasheed Shaikh, Vice President of the UK Chapter presented the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude towards the Chief Guest, sponsors, guests and their families for an overwhelming response. He noted the desire to see this event as a beginning of a new future for the UK Chapter, one where it can play an important role with the support of its members and associated friends.

The formal program of the event ended with a sumptuous meal comprising a variety of rich Pakistani dishes.

The dinner was followed by a musical rendezvous with artists carefully chosen by Naresh Jagru, Head of Financial Affairs UK Chapter. The artists mesmerised the audience with a selection of ghazals and songs until late. Separately, entertainment was arranged for the younger children of the families who thoroughly enjoyed the magic show, mini disco and face painting.

The Annual Dinner served as a perfect opportunity for the members of the UK Chapter and associated friends to come together as a community and more importantly raise the profile and highlight the success stories of ICAP, its members and the wider Pakistani accountancy community in the UK.

The Managing Committee of the UK Chapter would like to thank once again its members and associated friends, the Pakistan High Commission in the UK, the sponsors and ICAP Pakistan for their contribution towards making the event a huge success.

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*ICAP UK Chapter Managing Committee Members with ICAP Council Member. L-R Naresh Jagru, Malik Raheel, Abdul Rasheed, Kamran Qazi, Sarmad Khan & Mohammad Shoaib Memon*



*H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK*





