The Impact of Adopting International Accounting Standards on the Jordanian Environment: The Perspective of Accountants, Auditors and Academicians
"An Exploratory Study"

By
Malek Ahmad Al-Sharairi
B.Sc. Accounting, Yarmouk University, 2003

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Department of Accounting, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

Approved by:
Riyadh J. Al-Abdullah.......................Chairman
Professor of Accounting, Yarmouk University

Mahmoud Qaqish.............................Member
Associate Professor of Accounting, Yarmouk University

Munther Mαmany............................Member
Associate Professor of Accounting, Yarmouk University

Yousif Sa'adeh.................................Member
Professor of Accounting, The University of Applied Sciences

July 5, 2005
ABSTRACT


Motivated by the perception, or even the mere fact, that accounting is a social science, which is involved in the process of globalization through the issuance of International Accounting Standards (IASs), this study is conducted in order to examine the impact of adopting the IASs on the Jordanian environment through three dimensions, namely, social, economic and political, from the perspective of accountants auditors and academicians. It is hypothesized that such an impact does exist while adopting IASs in Jordan. A relevant questionnaire is designed and administered to an equal-size-stratified sample consisting of 240 subjects selected from Jordanian accountants, auditors and academicians, 80 each, follow-on a response rate of 67.5%. The major findings denote that adopting IASs by Jordan implies social, economic and political impacts, which can be sorted by being based on the magnitude of the population's agreement on them as follows; economic, political, and then the social. In addition, all the study groups have responded consistently to the economic and political dimensions but not to the social one. It is noticed that the academicians are barely in agreement on the social impact compared to the accountants and auditors. It is also found that the academicians group has responses with the highest variation, compared to both accountants and auditors. It is suggested that these differences are due to variations in age, education and the nature of the profession of the members of each group. It is recommended that the differences between countries have to be considered when setting any standards related to any social science beside examining their appropriateness and impacts before the application. Moreover, the advantage of economic globalization should be carefully handled, since it holds double-sided effects.