



ICAEW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Ru-Ying Ritson ACA

Business Appointment: Founder/MD, RJY Holding Limited

Personal introduction

I am the founder and Managing Director of a business connecting world experts, sustainable development policy makers, research hubs and private investors on a mission to achieve a fair and low carbon future and to create positive impact through the ethical business practice.

Previously a financial regulator and capital expert in Bank of England, I worked across a wide range of responsible issues, leading projects of UK leverage framework, market repo review and ring-fenced banks review, and successfully organised BoE Market Forum 2018, 'an exceptionally professionally organised event keeping the Bank visibly at the forefront of the important issues', a remark from the BoE Governor.

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/events/2018/may/markets-forum-2018>.

I qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC in asset management, followed by HSBC in the areas of large transactions, capital planning, financial risks and regulatory policies.

Being a British Chinese, I embrace both culture and fully appreciate the advantage of being diverse, balanced and inclusive. As a committed advocate for business in sustainable development, I thrive on working collaboratively, and developing mutually beneficial relationships.

I am a keen runner, an amateur skier, and have completed a partial training to become a cox. Reading and cycling are the two new hobbies I develop for 2020.

Your involvement with ICAEW

As part of my CPD, I have always been proactive on accounting technical updates and various skill development with ICAEW. In the past few years, I actively engaged with our local ICAEW member meetings; and participated AGMs for both London Society of Chartered Accountants and for the local members.

I am Member of several ICAEW communities including Women in Finance, Sustainability and Climate Change, Diversity etc.

As an active member, I donated tickets of Pan Accountancy Lunch for both 2018 and 2019, in support of the institution and to raise fund for Glenfell Tower fire relief.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council

As a committed advocate for business in sustainable development to create positive impact on our living environment, I see the urgency for every organisation to align its objectives with UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

I believe the professional bodies, such as ICAEW, should take leadership to better reflect the intangible value of business and shifting corporate behaviour towards a more sustainable, long term horizon. The next 10 years, UK - along with other nations that signed up the Paris Agreement - is at the pivotal point to deal with climate risks. At this critical moment, businesses are also working towards a more diverse and inclusive governance culture, to tackle issues such as gender equality and the likes.

I am committed to devote time, skills and efforts to the Council in aims of promoting these two priorities with members of ICAEW and its associated organisations. These are the two issues very close to my heart, and I am very passionate to working collaboratively across the institution and with its wider community.

As a business owner, in addition to my time, not only I bring in a range of competence, experience and skills to the demand and the responsibilities of a Council member; also I provide a diverse thinking and perspective to ICAEW Council.

Strategic focus

Today we see unprecedented momentum for real change. Since the role of finance in the crisis, accountancy profession and wider community are facing the immense challenges, both inwardly and outwardly related.

The accountancy professional bodies should rise to the challenges to take the leadership. The top two issues are centred around climate and diversity. In the coming years, business will be accelerating the allocation of capital resources towards positive development on climate, while enabling mitigation actions on negative impact sectors. Opportunities come with the impact of the change - individual ICAEW member and wider community will need to learn to build solutions, likely with experts outside of the finance sector itself; and to help assembling solutions across sectors. Members will increasingly work more inclusively and more outwardly.

Another main challenge affecting members of institution and the wider accountancy profession is to adapt to the changing technological advancements within the industry. ICAEW, and other professional bodies, need to embark on a new journey at the tipping points of industrial transition with new technologies, formulating the business, re-skilling to understand the new technologies and equipping us with skills to advise.

With my experience in regulation, banking and big 4 practice, I have developed good technical understanding, sound analytical skills and judgement; I believe my experience are directly relevant with strategic thinking, operational planning and budgeting. All of the skills are imperative in my business, in order to perform and deliver the consistent returns to the shareholders and to the key stakeholders.

With my connection with international climate experts, research hubs and business contacts in both public and private sectors, I can contribute to establishing a conduit for collaborative cross-sector learning centre in the field of climate risks and help members to adapt to new technologies.

To achieve this, I would aim to set up more regular on-line webinars to help foster re-skilling and collaboration; and subject-driven events to inspire and to reinforce the integrity and governance programme in support the two agenda that I passionately campaign for.

Communication with members in your constituency

As a representative, it is paramount to give constituency members the opportunity to speak. The purpose of good engagement is to listen to members, promote two-way interaction, so that the representation body, the Council can be more effective. I set out the interaction activities in several approaches, as follows:

- Tap into the existing network for interaction and direct dialogue, where the members can express their opinions on key issues, and exchange views;
- Email briefings, for transparent communication and information. Keeping up to date will help members to feel confident and well informed in their interactions with the Council and the Governance Board;
- Informal focus groups at which members can discuss specific aspects of the issue in smaller, informal groups. The focus group provides opportunity to express their views on important topics and provide rich feedback to the Council;
- Workshop sessions/seminars, when necessarily to address some pressing issues, with platform speakers who understand the views of members;
- Using social media, offering a direct and more interactive relationship and connecting content to a specific topic, event, theme or conversation. Wider community associated with ICAEW can also easily discover posts around specific topics with hashtags that aggregate all social media content under the same subjects;
- When Council may not be the best people to respond to the feedback, in this case Council member will pass on the issues to the right party in a more appropriate way, including lobbying with the policy and decision makers so that the members' voice can be heard, or to demonstrate our support for the things we value.

Nominators

Shailen Patel

Lei Tao

Shu Zhu

Liling Pan

Anca-Maria Cornea

Declaration of interests which are relevant to the business of ICAEW

Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies ⁱ :	Institute of Directors
Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:	No
Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:	Founder / Managing Director (Job title)
Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with the ICAEW:	No
Any other matters you feel should be identified:	No

ⁱ This includes employment by a professional body.