



Middle East

PERSONAL STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	NAME
1.	Syed Asif Zaman
2.	Noor Karim Afridi

Seats up for election – 1
Total constituency seats – 1

Unsuccessful Candidates - Naeema Mulla – 2 nominations



1. Syed Asif Zaman

Firm/Occupation/Business: Firm & Business

Personal introduction:

I am having more than 25 years' experience including 16 years in UAE.

Affiliations

Associate Member	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Fellow Member	Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan
Associate Member	Information System Audit & Control Association (ISACA) –USA
Fellow Member	The Association of International Accountants- UK
Fellow Member	Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants
Member	Accountants & Auditors Associations- UAE

Certification in

Oxford Blockchain Strategy, Fintech & Artificial Intelligence Programmes from University of Oxford

Lead Auditors- ISO 27001 The International Register of Certificated Auditors-UK

Diploma in Computer Programming

Appointments

Managing Partner – Ahmad Alagbari Chartered Accountants - UAE & Malaysia

CEO- Alif Technologies, UAE, Canada & UK

CEO- LEA Consultants, UAE

CEO- Chem N Finishes Trading FZ LLC

Delivered lecture on Taxation & Local Laws & Regulations in UAE & KSA, on Fintech and Emerging Technologies.

My YouTube Channels

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AlifTechnologiesUAE>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AhmadAlagbariCharteredAccountants>

Business Memberships

Member	Canadian Business Council Dubai and Northern Emirates
Member	Malaysian Business Council Dubai and Northern Emirates
Member	Pakistan Business Council – Dubai and Northern Emirates
Board Member	Pakistan Business & Professional Council – Abu Dhabi

Your involvement with ICAEW:

Our firm Ahmad Alagbari Chartered Accountants is ICAEW authorized training employer in UAE, our trainee Ahsan Talat was the Chair for the Student Committee ICAEW (MESA) 3years back. I myself is involved in educating members of other professional bodies how to opt for pathways, in last year helped out around 60 plus to become ICAEW members through pathways. Conducted webinars with Doug Withington- Senior Global Business Development Manager at ICAEW. Coordinated with ICAEW MESA Team specially Michael Armstrong-



Head of Middle east in the past. I am continually in touch with all the members activities been done by ICAEW in Dubai.

Motivation and ability to be a Member of Council:

I foresee that a lot of disruption is taking place around us due to fintech and other emerging technology, it is affecting and will affect more in future the way accounting and auditing is been done.

We as accountants must be equipped with the required training and knowledge, I think I can contribute in this regard as I have been seeking knowledge to confront this problem.

The way in which accountants and practitioners are educated and trained are critical to the ability of the profession to develop and perform its duties and responsibilities.

My aim being a council member will be recommending required training and education programs to equip the accountants with right knowledge and skills to combat the disruption and adopt the necessary change.

I had served as Management committee member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan- UAE Chapter for 8 years who have around 1,000 members in UAE, its my passion to contribute to my profession and fellow beings.

Strategic focus:

As a Managing partner of an Auditing Firm and CEO of businesses including that of a Technology firm (I hold Diploma in Blockchain, Fintech & Artificial Intelligence from Oxford University) I foresee the challenges that the accountants/auditors are facing and what changes will be required in their role in near future. There will be massive changes in how we perform audits. "Sampling" will fall by the wayside as data can be ingested and catalogued in total, with the computing power we have today. The concept of the continuous, real-time audit will come into play, and we'll be assisted in our judgments – although the human element won't entirely disappear. Fraud detection will be easier and far faster. Blockchain will move the auditor's role away from having to check transaction data, and it will be used to test audit assertions as well.

The next 5-10 years will see the profession evolve very rapidly. In short, it will be a very different profession from what we see today. Everything that we do will be different. We at ICAEW have to focus on these issues and make a strategy to equip out members with right knowledge on time.

Communication with Members in your constituency:

- Identifying and categorizing members based on geographical location and industry
- Organizing networking events locally
- Working for members career developing opportunities combined with doing something good for the society.
- Introducing new communication platform likewise Mobile App which will have category of section to post their query, suggestion and related news for the benefit of other members
- Regressively following up the query or request raised by any members till it is resolved
- Organizing seminar and training sessions
- Making ICAEW members in the region a single community
- Interaction with other professional bodies

Nominators:

- Fasal Bashir
- Salman Sajid Rathore
- Naveed Ali
- Usman Muhammad Alam Chaudhary
- Muhammad Alam



DECLARATION OF INTERESTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE BUSINESS OF ICAEW



<p>Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies:¹</p>	<p>Member Canadian Business Council Dubai and Northern Emirates Member Malaysian Business Council Dubai and Northern Emirates Member Pakistan Business Council – Dubai and Northern Emirates Board Member Pakistan Business & Professional Council – Abu Dhabi</p>
<p>Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:</p>	<p>Managing Partner – Ahmad Alagbari Chartered Accountants - UAE & Malaysia CEO- Alif Technologies, UAE, Canada & UK CEO- LEA Consultants, UAE CEO- Chem N Finishes Trading FZ LLC</p>
<p>Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with ICAEW:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any other matters you feel should be identified (For example, any pending regulatory and/or disciplinary proceedings):</p>	<p>None</p>

¹ This includes employment by a professional body.



2. *Noor Karim Afridi*

Firm/Occupation/Business: NOKAAF Auditors

Personal introduction:

As a multi-disciplinary professional in the fields of audit, business advisory, VAT and ERP, I spent the last 18 years advising clients across varied sectors such as Banking, finance, manufacturing, education, trading and social services.

Besides consulting on UNDP projects, as a Board of Supervisors (BOS) Member, I am the Audit Committee Chairman at Afghan United Bank Ltd and a certified compliance officer for the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), UAE and currently a licensed Auditor with Ministry of Economy, UAE.

Key career highlights:

- Nominated for Prestigious UAE Golden Visa for Experts by Prime Minister office of UAE and covered in National media.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/chartered-accountant-granted-uae-golden-visa>

Member Board of Supervisors (equivalent to Board of Directors) at Afghan United Bank

- Chairman Audit Committee Afghan United Bank
- Member Board of Supervisor's Nomination Committee (equivalent to Board of Directors)
- Founder at APT Consultants & Business Advisers, a multi-disciplinary firm offering audit consultancy, business advisory, VAT and ERP services
- Established the Crowe Horwath office in Kabul as Country Managing Director
- Vice-President, BNI Champions (2017-18)

Corporate and Professional Trainings

- Trainer for CAT (UK), ACCA (UK) and CIMA (UK) certifications in Islamabad and Dubai.
- Trainer for International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA)
- Trained employees at RTA, Dubai and SCA, UAE
- Visiting faculty member at leading training institutes in UAE.

Mentoring

- 1) Vice Chair – ICAEW Middle East Student Committee 2017-2018
- 2) Founding President SM PROs Toastmasters Club, Dubai, UAE.

Certifications

- Fundamental of transfer pricing - PwC Academy Middle East (2019)
- VAT Compliance diploma - Association of Taxation Technicians, UK (2019)
- Compliance Specialist - SCA (2019)
- Chartered Accountant - ICAEW, UK (2017)
- CA-UAE (2016)
- FCCA, UK (2015)
- ACCA, UK (2010)

Your involvement with ICAEW:

1. Vice Chair – ICAEW Middle East Student Committee 2017-2018
2. My firm NOKAAF auditors is approved Training Employer – ICAEW
3. Volunteer in CABA community welfare initiatives.
4. Actively engaged with ICAEW Fraternity and wider Finance professionals in UAE from the various professional forums.

**Motivation and ability to be a Member of Council:**

As a Senior professional and having regular engagements with various professionals in Middle East, there are various venues and areas where I can contribute for the improvement in increasing meaningful engagement between the ICAEW members, understanding their concerns and expectations for ICAEW and providing the best possible support ICAEW can provide as a leading professional body. I wish to contribute towards the ICAEW Council and accountancy profession at large.

Strategic focus:

The importance of review of strategic direction is more important than ever due to the ever-changing business outlook, disruptive technology and geo-political events having wider impact on business and finance professionals worldwide.

As Managing Partner of a firm affiliated with a Global Network, Board Member of a Financial institution, active member of the accountancy profession in UAE and well recognized and Golden Visa awardee I am confident that I can provide the best input to ICAEW Counsel regarding the key issues affecting ICAEW Members and wider accountancy profession in the UAE.

Some of the major areas of consideration are as follows,

- ✓ Insight Sharing, exploring developments as well as planning for emerging issues and opportunities from local and international perspective.
- ✓ Commitment for contribution to ICAEW Members and wider accountancy professionals in navigating the ever-changing business environment due to numerous factors.
- ✓ Effective representation of local perspective at ICAEW Counsel.
- ✓ More focus on Professional Ethics in practice, role of ICAEW in strategy for the Audit practices to stay abreast with technology development in the practice sector.
- ✓ Enhancement of ethics and transparency for increased public confidence in audit

Communication with Members in your constituency:

As an Elected member of ICAEW Counsel, I wish to increase the networking between the ICAEW Members in the areas of professional, social, and technical areas.

- Discuss and elevate the issues faced by the members in practice and industry.
- Discuss and propose the matters of consideration in various forums, local ICAEW member groups, ICAEW UAE office and ICAEW Counsel considering the newly Compliance requirements (AML, UBO, ESR etc) and the challenges and opportunities in the historic times of introduction of Corporate Tax in UAE for the first time.
- Managing and meeting the ICAEW Members expectations in the changing compliance Paradigm of UAE (AML, UBO, ESR etc) .
- Providing as much support as possible in the challenges and opportunities presented by the current historical time of introduction of Corporate Tax in UAE for the very first time.



Nominators:

- Arslan Rasheed
- Nabil Butt
- Khalid Mehmood
- Khurram Shahzad
- Hamid Shaikh

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE BUSINESS OF ICAEW



<p>Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies:²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental of transfer pricing - PwC Academy Middle East (2019) • VAT Compliance diploma - Association of Taxation Technicians, UK (2019) • Compliance Specialist - SCA (2019) • Chartered Accountant - ICAEW, UK (2017) • CA-UAE (2016) • FCCA, UK (2015) • ACCA, UK (2010)
<p>Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Board of Supervisors AU Bank • Chair Audit committee AU Bank.
<p>Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with ICAEW:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any other matters you feel should be identified (For example, any pending regulatory and/or disciplinary proceedings):</p>	<p>None</p>

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