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Readiness of Accountant in Suphanburi Province for Preparing in Liberalization of the Accounting Service for ASEAN

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Abstract: The purpose of this research was to study level of readiness of accountants in Suphanburi Province for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN. And to study demographic factors that influencing to readiness of accountants in Suphanburi Province. A sample of 170 accountants in the case study province was surveyed using a questionnaire methodology to collect primary data. Collected data was initially analyzed to provide descriptive statistics, such as mean, median and standard deviation. Subsequently, t-test, f-test and Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test were also applied to test accountant effectiveness [1-6].

Most respondents in this study were female, aged between 21-30 years old, possessed a bachelor degree and had professional working experience in the industry of less than 5 years. The average numbers of clients for each respondent was 15. This study also found that this group of accountants had a high level of effectiveness. It was found that the level of education, work experience and number of clients were significantly associated ($P < 0.05$) with the level of readiness of accountant [5-9]. Recommendations for this study were Academic Institutions need to provide knowledge regarding accounting professions. Moreover, Accounting offices need to increase skills in operation for accountants. They should accept the work that is within the limit to their potentials in providing services of the offices. They should also increase number of customers in ASEAN countries [10-12].

Keywords: readiness of accountant, liberalization of the accounting profession

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PROBLEM

Accounting is one of the seventh subjects in the agreement regarding free labor transfer. This means that when Thailand begins the AEC in the year 2015, there will be one or other accountants in ASEAN countries enter Thailand. They will

be able to work as an accountant freely in Thailand; on the other hand, Thai accountants can also have their occupations in ASEAN countries as well. Mega Project is a strategic plan of other 15 countries. It is a challenging project for Thai accountants to services the international corporations. This is especially with Tawai pier project and industrial estate. The researcher is interested in studying about ways to increase capacity of Thai accountants by using case study at Suphanburi province. It is also another province that is considered as gate way connect with NamLuekTawai Pier to 6 countries in ASEAN. (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore) This is so Thai accountants will have potential in competing in the regions in the future.

1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study level of readiness of accountants in Suphanburi Province for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN.
2. To study demographic factors that influencing to readiness of accountants in Suphanburi Province.

1.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

In accordance with this research, the author has set the hypothesis as follows:

1. The readiness of Accountant in Suphanburi Province for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN is at high level.
2. Differences of accountant's age show having different readiness for preparing.
3. Differences of accountant's education level show having different readiness for preparing.
4. Differences of accountant's working experience having different readiness for preparing.
5. Differences of accountant's number of clients having different readiness for preparing.

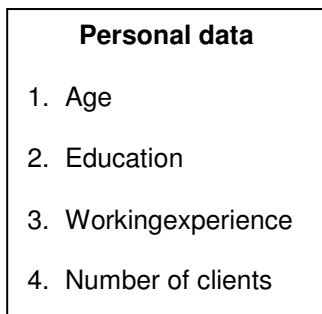
2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 POPULATION AND SAMPLES

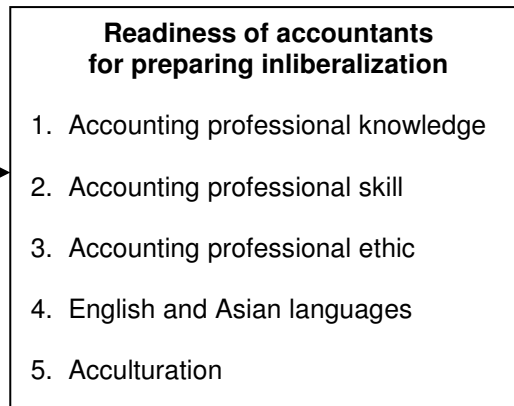
The population used in this study included 277 accountants in Suphanburi Province. The study was conducted with 170

group samples. Determination of size was used in relation to Krejcie and Morgan’s Table (1979) via the Simple Random by determining the deviation at 5% and level of confidence at 95%. Following the combination of concepts and theories from documents and related research works, the framework for the study was determined as follows:

Independent variables



Dependent variables



2.2. RESEARCH TOOLS DESIGN

This research used the questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two parts as follows:

Part 1 Personal data.

Part 2 Data on readiness of accountants for preparing in liberalization.

The characteristics of questionnaire is the Rating Scale Questionnaire with 5 levels for measuring the level of readiness (1 = having lowest readiness to 5 = having highest readiness).

In terms of measurement of readiness of accountants in Suphanburi Province for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN on each aspect, the author has calculated the levels of readiness’ means by using the criteria on comparison of levels as follows:

- 4.51 – 5.00 = Level of having highest readiness
- 3.51 – 4.50 = Level of having high readiness
- 2.51 – 3.50 = Level of having moderate readiness
- 1.51 – 2.50 = Level of having low readiness
- 1.00 – 1.50 = Level of having lowest readiness

The author has prepared 30 copies of sampling questionnaire for testing with the target group and the gained results of the test were then corrected of the points of error in order to correct and improve the questions, obviously and enabled to achieve the data matching with the research objectives.

The statistics used in the study:

1. Basic statistical statistics used for data analysis of the questionnaire, Part 1 and 2:
 - 1.1 Percentage.
 - 1.2 Mean.
 - 1.3 Standard deviation.
2. Statistics used for finding the tool quality:
 - 2.1 Analysis for finding the discrimination of question by Item-Total Correlation Method.
 - 2.2 Analysis for the reliability of question by using the Cronbach’s Coefficient Formula.
3. Statistics used for testing the hypothesis:
 - 3.1 Testing of hypothesis 1, the statistics used included Mean () and Standard deviation (S.D.)
 - 3.2 Hypothesis 2, 4 and 5, the statistics used included One-way ANOVA when finding statistically significance, then the comparison was conducted by using the paired mean with Fisher Fisher's Least Significant Difference.
 - 3.3 Hypothesis 3 the statistics used included Independent-Samples t- test.

3. RESULTS

Resulting from a summary of gained personal data after receiving 170 copies of questionnaires, it found that the majority of respondents were female between 21-30 years of age, finished bachelor degree, experience working was less than 5 years and provided accounting service for 15 clients.

It has concluded that the respondents had readiness for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN in overall aspects at high level (Mean = 4.12) and in each aspect of readiness for preparing in liberalization was also at the same high level as shown in Table 1;

TABLE 1: A summary of testing results of the hypothesis, readiness for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN

Hypothesis of research		\bar{x}	S.D.	Results
Readiness for preparing in liberalization of each aspect				
	Accounting professional ethic	4.36	0.60	Accept
	Acculturation	4.28	0.44	Accept
	Accounting professional skill	4.14	0.50	Accept
	Accounting professional knowledge	4.09	0.51	Accept
	English and Asian languages	3.66	0.91	Accept
Readiness for preparing classified by accountant data		Statistics used	Sig. value	Results
Accounting professional knowledge				
	Age	ANOVA	0.054	Refuse
	Education	t-test	0.03*	Accept
	Working experience	ANOVA	0.011*	Accept
	Number of clients	ANOVA	0.114	Refuse
Accounting professional skill				
	Age	ANOVA	0.868	Refuse
	Education	t-test	0.58	Refuse
	Working experience	ANOVA	0.102	Refuse
	Number of clients	ANOVA	0.015*	Accept
Accounting professional ethic				
	Age	ANOVA	0.090	Refuse
	Education	t-test	0.09	Refuse
	Working experience	ANOVA	0.249	Refuse
	Number of clients	ANOVA	0.137	Refuse
English and ASIAN languages				
	Age	ANOVA	0.063	Refuse
	Education	t-test	0.69	Refuse
	Working experience	ANOVA	0.063	Refuse
	Number of clients	ANOVA	0.374	Refuse
Acculturation				
	Age	ANOVA	0.076	Refuse
	Education	t-test	0.08	Refuse
	Working experience	ANOVA	0.012*	Accept
	Number of clients	ANOVA	0.117	Refuse

* At a significance level of 0.05

The following Table 2 showed the results of testing the levels of readiness for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN in each aspect were different in relation to personal data (age, education, working experience and a number of clients).

TABLE 2: Results of testing the levels of readiness for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN classified by personal data

Personal data	Categories of readiness for preparing in liberalization				
	Knowledge	Skill	Ethic	Languages	Acculturation
Age	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Education	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Working experience	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Number of clients	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

Remarks: ✗ = Having no correlation, ✓ = Having correlation

4. DISCUSSION

According to the research, it displays the readiness of accountants in Suphanburi to prepare the free services of accounting in ASEAN. In the overall perspective and in each area is in a rather high level, in which they are ready in knowledge regarding accounting, accounting principles for usage, accounting record, and problem solving when there are errors in accounting. This is due to the needs for responsible of accountants to operate based on standard of accounting. This is because there is a law which is corresponding to OrawanPasura-aree (2010) that studied the need for skill development in accounting employees at Chiangmai University. It is found that accountants have the need to develop their skills in accounting in minor area, knowledge development regarding accounting principle. This is so they can use it for their professions and monetary report for each sector.

In the area of accounting profession skill, they are ready in the innovative technology field to adjust for further usage. This is because in the present day, most businesses use technology to promote potential in competitions. Therefore, the accountants need to adjust themselves to prepare for these business activities. This is corresponding to SorasukThananchai (2008) that studied the measurement of accounting profession skills in the Northern Industrial Estate at Lamphoon province. There is an information technology usage to assist in accounting record. It is found that the accountants have skills regarding information technology in high level.

For the area of ethics for accounting, they are ready in the field of protecting customers' information in the highest level. This is because accounting profession is about control. Therefore, the accountants need to always understand the specified ethics based on Accounting Professions Act 2004. This is corresponding to ChutamasSuntorn (2009) that studied the effect of individual behaviors, characteristics of organizations, and environment toward profession ethics for SMEs business accountant in Kalasin province. It is found that the accountants have opinions regarding profession ethics and responsibilities toward customer and protect the information of customer in high level.

In the area of English language and local language, they are ready to adjust using English for their works in the highest level. This is because the Thai accounting standard and other ASEAN all based on the international accounting standard. Every academic institution strictly provides knowledge regarding the standard of accounting. Most accountants absorb the vocabulary and principles of accounting in English version ever since they were students. They can easily apply it with their professions. This is corresponding with WeerayutSukmak and KanoksakSukawattanasinith (2013) that found English and other ASEAN languages to have positive correlations toward the value of accounting professions. This is to prepare for AEC.

In the area of ability to adjust in the society and culture, they are flexible in working and listening to others opinions and perspective. It is found to be the highest level as in the present day, the perspective of accountants from working as the recorder and data collector to provide information for decision making. Thus, accountants are able to adjust for coordination which is corresponding to the research by SorasukThananchai (2008) that studied the measurement of accounting profession skills in Northern Industrial Estate at Lamphoon province. It is found that the accountants have ability to work with other to solve problems and able to work cross-culturally in high level.

After characterized the readiness of accountants based on their personal information, it is found that age differences do not affect readiness of accountants in different fields differently. However, the academic level and different experiences lead to the different in readiness of their professions. This is corresponding to PratsaneeKaiyaphan and NatheeHemmin that studied about Thai accountants with AEC. It is found that the academic levels and work experiences lead to different skills in profession. Moreover, different experiences lead to different adjustment to social and culture. This is corresponding to Black et al. (1991) and Shaffer et al. (1999) that studied and collected factor that influenced the adjustment of international employees during their times working in the host countries. It is found that experiences had positive influences toward international employees' adjustments. Additionally, the number of business provided also lead to different readiness in their professions. This is because when accountants provide large

numbers of customer, it will lead to slow operation until they are more experienced. This is corresponding to theory by David C. McClelland which stated that Skill is what individual can achieved and if they practice it will result in more experiences.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Academic Institutions need to provide knowledge regarding accounting professions that is up-to-date before the students finished their studies. Moreover, Federations of Accounting Professions need to find the issues and new, up-to-date knowledge for the accountants.
- 5.2 Accounting offices need to let the senior accountant to share their experiences to junior accountants.
- 5.3 The Academic Institution should input the knowledge of adjustment to ASEAN culture to their students that are about to graduate and become future accountants.
- 5.4 Accounting offices need to provide opportunity for accountants to learn to adapt in the ASEAN culture by seminar or training at other work places.
- 5.5 Accounting offices need to increase skills in operation for accountants. They should accept the work that is within the limit to their potentials in providing services of the offices. They should also increase number of customers in ASEAN countries.

6. CONCLUSIONS

It has concluded that the respondents had readiness for preparing in liberalization of the accounting service for ASEAN in overall aspects at high level (Mean = 4.12) and in each aspect of readiness for preparing in liberalization was also at the same high level.

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