

AMSA Business Bulletin

(May/June 2009)

This Bulletin features some light-hearted articles to soften the current economic climate. However, the topics for our upcoming Business Seminar address more serious issues that are foremost in our mind. Please do make an effort to attend as it can only benefit you.

AMSA Business Seminar – Saturday 20th June 2009

Topics:

“Tax-Smart Investing in Australia” (Graham Crane, Director, Frost Crane & Co, Chartered Accountants)

Graham will make his talk less *taxing*, keeping it short and sweet by focusing on the following presentation structure:

- The key reasons for investing in shares and properties
- The different business structures for your investment in shares and properties
- How to identify ways to minimise your taxable gains and maximise your tax deductions
- How to finance your investments to achieve maximum tax benefits
- Real life examples

“Surviving the Recession: Managing your Cashflow” (Peter Wong, Director, Frost Crane & Co, Chartered Accountants)

Peter will keep his talk *flowing*, with innovative ideas and proven best practices in the following order of presentation:

- Why cashflow is the key to survival in tough times
- What are the common cashflow problems
- What are the best ways to stay on top of your cashflow
- How to cut your costs to improve your cashflow
- How to enhance your business effectiveness in the long term

“Current Financial and Economic Situation in Australia and International Markets” (Gravin Ho, Head of Asian Business Group, Commonwealth Bank)

Gravin will give us an **update** on the current financial and economic downturn from a banker’s perspective. His presentation will be big-picture focused, free-flowing and informal, touching on ‘hotspot’ that are of much concern to ordinary folks. He will also provide different scenarios and offer suggestions on how best to ‘ride the waves’ and field questions.

When: Saturday 20th June 2009, 1.30pm for 2.00pm start, 5.00pm end.

Where: 280 Pitt Street, Sydney (Sydney Mechanics School of Arts), Norman Selfe Room, Level 3. 3 minutes from Town Hall station.

Refreshments: Coffee/tea, biscuits and snacks.

Who should attend: Business owners, professionals, investors and virtually anyone who is concerned with their short to medium term future.

About the presenters:

Graham Crane joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1977 when he was working at Deloitte, where he worked and specialised in the audit and accounting of large businesses for 20 years. He then ran a very successful practice in Gladesville between 1981 and 2000, concentrating on small and medium sized enterprises, individuals and superannuation funds.

Graham is a 30-year veteran in the public accounting industry, having advised thousands of clients on how to structure their investments in the most tax-efficient ways. In this talk, he will enlighten us with the many different tax-smart ways of investing in Australian shares and properties.

Graham's extensive experience covers expert advice on detailed tax business planning to clients that range across many industries, including both local and overseas, in particular those from Malaysia and Singapore.

Peter Wong is a Fellow of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Member of the Australian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He started his audit career with Deloitte England in 1984. He has subsequently worked for multinational corporations in Hong Kong, Malaysia and China, including Coopers & Lybrand, HK Telecom (now PCCW), Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Hong Leong Group and Citibank. He also acted as a key advisor to Shanghai Pudong Development Bank during his 5-year stint in China.

Peter, a chartered accountant-cum-banker, will share with us the various options in surviving the recession by better managing your cashflow. He will provide us with some realistic ways of dealing with your costs and cash inflows/outflows in order to keep your business alive.

Peter's international experience allows him to deal with clients from various nationalities and backgrounds. In addition to his CA qualification, Peter holds MBA and Bachelor of Science degrees. He can speak English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Malay.

Gravin Ho has 25 years experience in the banking industry in Australia and overseas. He has held senior positions at various international banks and responsibility for management of institutional investment, international finance and global markets businesses across the Asian Pacific regions.

Currently Head of Asian Business Group, Institutional Banking and Markets at the Commonwealth Bank, Gravin is a graduate from Hong Kong Polytechnic University with major in banking and holds a Master in Financial Management.

Gravin is a highly regarded banker in the Asian regions and a keen supporter in the development of financial markets and wellbeing of the business community. He regularly promotes trade relationship between Australia and Asia through participation in social activities and as key-note speaker in various organisations such as AMSA.

Book now!

This seminar is FREE for AMSA members and \$10 per person for non-members. It is essential that you **book in advance** for this seminar as it is for those who are seriously concerned about the current economic meltdown and seats will be limited. Please contact Elvan Tong, Dr Bin Yap or an AMSA member friend to ensure your seats. **RSVP by 18/6/09 please.**

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“Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road?”

International answers to this perennial question:

Barack Obama:

The chicken crossed the road because it was time for a CHANGE! The chicken wanted CHANGE!

Hillary Clinton:

When I was First Lady, I personally helped that little chicken to cross the road. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to ensure -- right from Day One! -- that every chicken in this country gets the chance it deserves to cross the road.

Oprah:

Well, I understand that the chicken is having problems, which is why he wants to cross this road so bad. So instead of having the chicken learn from his mistakes and take falls, which is a part of life, I'm going to give this chicken a car so that he can drive across the road and not live his life like the rest of the chickens.

George W. Bush:

We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road or not. The chicken is either against us or for us.

Ernest Hemingway:

To die in the rain ...alone.

Grandpa:

In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough for me

John Lennon:

Imagine all the chickens in the world crossing the road together, in peace.

Bill Gates:

I have just released eChicken2008, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your check book. Internet Explorer is an integral part of the Chicken.

Albert Einstein:

Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?

Bill Clinton:

I did not cross the road with THAT chicken. What is your definition of 'cross the road'?

Colonel Sanders:

Did I miss one?

Singaporean & Malaysian answers:

Lee Kuan Yew:

We have installed crossing lights at all traffic junctions. All chickens should be able to cross the road safely.

Lee Hsien Loong:

Gantry points have been set up. All chickens wanting to cross the road are advised to top up their cash cards first.

Abdullah Badawi:

We have to be fair to all chickens. Some want to cross the road, some do not. zzzzzzzzzzzz. Now what were we talking about? Ah yes, chickens. We will form a Royal Commission to decide whether it is right for them to cross the road.

Dr Mahathir:

What? Now even the non-bumi chickens want to cross the road! How can they disrespect and disregard the bumi chickens? We must be allowed to cross over first. It is our right!

Najib Razak:

Phew!! We UMNO-chickens have finally crossed the road first.

Anwar Ibrahim:

We will have enough different chickens crossing the road in time... I hope.

“Dealing With Rude Customers”

An award should go to the Virgin Airlines desk attendant in Sydney some months ago for being smart and funny, while making her point when confronted by a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo.

A crowded Virgin flight was cancelled after Virgin's 767s had been withdrawn from service. A single attendant was rebooking a long line of inconvenienced travellers. Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, *'I have to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS'*. The attendant replied, *'I'm sorry, sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these people first, and I'm sure we'll be able to work something out.'* The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that passengers behind him could hear, *'DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?'*

Without hesitating, the attendant smiled and grabbed her public address microphone: *'May I have your attention, please, may I have your attention, please,'* she began - her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal. *'We have a passenger here at Desk 14 WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Desk 14.'* With the folks behind him laughing hysterically, the man glared at the Virgin attendant, gritted his teeth and said, *'F... you!'* Without flinching, she smiled and said, *'I'm sorry, sir, but you'll have to get in line for that too.'*

“Money Can Buy You”

a house	.....	but not a home
a clock	.....	but not time
a bed	.....	but not sleep
a book	.....	but not knowledge
a doctor	.....	but not good health
a position	.....	but not respect
blood	.....	but not life
sex	.....	but not love

“Recession Jokes”

Q: What is the difference between Communism and Capitalism?

A: In Communism we nationalise the banks and then push them to bankruptcy.
In Capitalism we push the banks to bankruptcy and then nationalise them.

Q: With the current market turmoil, what's the easiest way to make a small fortune?

A: Start off with a large one.

Q: How would a stock broker sleep these days?

A: Like a baby. He sleeps for an hour, wakes up, and then cries for about an hour.

Q: What's the difference between an investment banker and a large pizza?

A: A large pizza can feed a family of four.

Q: What's the difference between an American and a Zimbabwean?

A: In a few months nothing.

Q: What's the difference between a bond and a bond trader?

A: A bond matures.

Q: Why is a recession worse than a divorce?

A: You lose half your fortune and still have your wife.

Q: Did you hear Goldman Sachs has a new cafeteria?

A: It is called the Warren Buffet.

Q: Did you hear Goldman Sachs and Citi are going to merge?

A: Yes, the new name is "Sachs and the Citi"

Q: What is the Capital of Iceland?

A: About 70 cents.

Update on the Japanese Banking Crisis:

Following last week's news that Origami Bank had folded, we are hearing that Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank plans to cut back some of its branches. Karaoke Bank is up for sale and is going for a song. Meanwhile, shares in Kamikaze Bank have nose-dived and 500 employees at Karate Bank got chopped. Analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank and some staff there fear they may get a raw deal.

“Open Invitation”

The next business seminar is open to AMSA members and their friends to take the floor and speak of their own experience in Australia. Whether it is about your business, your career or a life-changing experience, you have a story to tell. The key words are “**your own experience**”, about the one thing or incidence in your life that was so powerful that you want to share it. The talk will be informal and limited to 15 minutes each. We are planning to have this particular seminar at a restaurant or club over lunch in October/November 2009.

Please contact Elvan Tong directly for enquiries.

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"Ah Beng's Night Courses"

Ah Beng takes night courses in the hope of getting a promotion or a better job. During work Ah Beng likes to show off his knowledge to his friend, Ah Seng.

Ah Beng: *'Ah Seng ah ... I've been taking night courses for 3 months already, next week is the exam.'*

Ah Seng: *'Oh ... good luck ah.'*

Then Ah Beng starts showing off...

Ah Beng: *'Ok, I test you...who is Graham Bell?'*

Ah Seng: *'Don't know.'*

Ah Beng: *'He is the inventor of phone... in 1876. See, if you take night courses you would know this.'*

Ah Seng: *(*speechless*)*

The next day, Ah Beng shows off again...

Ah Beng: *'Ah Seng ah...let me ask you, who is Jean Jacques Rousseau?'*

Ah Seng: *'Wash your toilet one ah?'*

Ah Beng: *'No! He's the author of "Confessions", nah nah ... told you already, if you take night courses you would know this.'*

Ah Seng: *(*speechless and frustrated*)*

The next day, once again...

Ah Beng: *'Ah Seng ah...do you know who is Alexander Dumas?'*

Ah Seng: *'Your gay partner?'*

Ah Beng: *'Choi!!! If you don't know, don't simply answer la. He's the author of 'The Three Musketeers',... if you take night courses you would know this.'*

Ah Seng: *(*speechless, frustrated and irritated*)*

This time Ah Seng cannot tahan (stand) anymore and asks Ah Beng...

Ah Seng: *'Eh ... Do you know who is Ah Kaw?'*

Ah Beng: (Confused) *'Er... No!'*

Ah Seng: *'Aiieya! He's the guy sleeping with your wife! If you STOP night courses you would know this!'*

Ah Beng: *(**fainted**)*

[This Bulletin was prepared by Elvan Tong, AMSA Business Networking.](#)

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