

IOD & ACCA Think Ahead RECEPTION

30 January 2018, New Delhi



Ms. Helen Brand OBE, CEO, ACCA with H.E. Mr. Ranjan Mathai, IFS, former High Commission of India to UK Lt. Gen. J. S Ahluwalia, President IOD and Md. Sajid Khan, Head of International Development, ACCA



Ms. Helen Brand OBE, being welcomed at the Dinner



Ms. Helen Brand OBE, Addressing the Dinner

Dinner Address by Ms. Helen Brand OBE

Thank you to Lieutenant General Ahluwalia for that very kind welcome. A very good evening to you all and thank you for joining us tonight. It's a real pleasure to be here and I am honoured that the IoD is holding this evening's reception.

Over the years, ACCA has developed a firm and deep friendship with the IoD. The welcome I and my ACCA colleagues have received from Lieutenant General Ahluwalia and his colleagues during our visits to India has been unfailingly warm and we consider IoD one of most valued allies.

We also see India as a hugely important market for ACCA. And, over the past few years, the investment we've made in our operations in India has continued to grow so ACCA can play its part in developing the accountancy profession India needs.

And this expansion is enabling us to work more collaboratively with those we rely to help us create the professional accountants of the future and develop the conditions needed for the modern profession to excel domestically and on the world stage.

We are heavily dependent on educators in India – both universities and specialist learning partners – to prepare this next generation of finance leaders for the challenges ahead.

And, because the speed of the change we're seeing is unprecedented, those challenges of remaining relevant and adding value to organisations are amplified. To help ACCA plan for the future, we are more reliant than ever on our global network of current and next generation professional accountants in 180 countries. Their experience and expertise, drawn from every type of business and at every level of the profession, gives us an unrivalled body of collective knowledge to draw on to develop our qualification and our support. It's helping us plan what economies need from professional accountants to drive them forward and ensure that the profession remains relevant for the world of tomorrow.

Because of the scale and the speed of change, we've invested significantly in developing the ACCA Qualification over the past three years – not only what we examine but how we examine



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it. We've found that global connectivity, smart machines and new media have reshaped how people think about work and the competencies that will be needed to add value in the future. The advances we've made in how we test – with both the increased use of computer-based exams and new, advanced ways of digitally assessing complex skills – mean we are at the cutting edge of the global profession.

And so I'd like to use tonight to also thank all those learning providers who are working with to absorb and implement these changes so that

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