

safeguard your health

■ **Nobody likes to dwell on the prospect of ill health, but illness and injury can often affect us at the most unexpected times. As a member of the ACCA Private Medical Scheme you can cope with whatever occurs by arranging prompt private treatment to fit around all of your family and business commitments.**

No medical examination is needed to obtain cover, and the scheme is underwritten by BUPA, one of the UK's leading healthcare specialists. Members have access to a choice of specialists, for both in-patient and out-patient treatment, and a range of hospitals offering private rooms with first-class facilities. Bills are settled directly by BUPA and a helpline is available to answer any queries.

The specially negotiated terms of this scheme enable ACCA members to choose from three different levels of cover, for a premium that will remain up to 34% less than BUPA's usual rates for those under the age of 65. Whether you are looking for individual

insurance, a family policy or group cover for you and your employees, the ACCA Private Medical Team will find you all of the protection you need.

As a BUPA member you would also be entitled to a number of specially arranged discounts and offers. Current offers include:

- gym memberships – Fitness Connections is a network of over 1300 BUPA-approved health and fitness clubs across the UK.
- As a BUPA member you could be entitled to a free members day, 25% or more off the joining fee, and a reduced monthly fee
- up to 25% off selected Center Parcs short breaks and Virgin Experience Days
- 25% off RAC Breakdown Cover.

For personal cover contact:

Diane Birrell of Alexander Forbes on 0131 313 6847

For group cover contact:

Sharon Howe of Alexander Forbes on 0131 313 6852 ■

small business carbon reduction toolkit

■ **The British Chambers of Commerce and the Carbon Trust have together produced the 'small business carbon reduction toolkit', a web resource aimed at helping small businesses make the most of their energy expenditure whilst also protecting the environment.**

The website includes a list of energy saving tips, a carbon emissions calculator, information on receiving a free on-site carbon survey, and details of the Carbon Trust's

energy efficiency loan scheme, aimed at helping businesses afford the most energy-efficient equipment. The site also includes links to various energy factsheets, for example on the enhanced capital allowance scheme, energy usage in both offices and industrial sites, and promoting energy awareness throughout your business.

For more details visit www.britishchambers.org.uk/business_services/carbon/. ■

buying or selling a business?

■ We are considering establishing a free "classifieds" section in this publication, in order to assist members who wish to buy or sell a business, or potential managers looking to find a company to acquire. If you would like to include an advert in the next issue please contact Liz Meade on 020 7059 5901 or liz.meade@uk.accaglobal.com ■

non-executive director - course information

■ **Are you a Non-Executive Director? – 2008 Networking Seminar**

ACCA would like to bring to your attention up and coming courses for Non-Executive Directors. Special rates apply to ACCA members.

- **Wednesday, 21 May**
NEDs in the Public Sector
- **Wednesday, 11 June**
Diversity and NEDs
- **Tuesday, 23 September**
Getting Value from NEDs
- **Wednesday, 8 October**
Networking Seminar : Leeds
- **Wednesday, 15 October**
So you want to be a NED?
- **Wednesday, 19 November**
Making Board Committees work

To find out more about these events and for further information please visit: <http://www.non-execs.com/events/NEDSeminar/?mode=AffiliateBooking>.

Information about the benefits of being a Non-Executive Director can be found at <http://www.non-execs.com/> ■

the finance professional in 2020

■ In November 2007 Allen Blewitt, CEO ACCA presented to a large audience of ACCA Corporate Sector accountants on The Finance Professional in 2020.

The presentation was very well received and as an outcome of positive feedback Allen has recorded the presentation for the benefit of the wider membership. The presentation can be found on ACCA TV at http://hosting.twofour.co.uk/acca_archive_secure/Library.aspx?section=ACCA3

Allen's presentation was based on the research undertaken by ACCA and further information on the outcomes of this study amongst others can be found in the Professional Insight Series at http://www.accaglobal.com/employers/approved/services/employers/develop/professional_insight.

If you have any feedback on this broadcast please contact Liz Meade projects advisor on 020 7059 5901 or e-mail Liz at liz.meade@uk.accaglobal.com. ■

new e-learning resource

■ ACCA has released a new e-presentation by Jonathan Bland, chief executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition, the UK national body for social enterprise.

The e-learning resource explains what social enterprises are, what they offer and why they are important in today's society. It also includes information on the legal structures they adopt.

If you are following the unit route, and provided this is new learning relevant to your role, this presentation may contribute towards your CPD requirement.

Visit www.accaglobal.com for access to the presentation. ■

a changing profession

■ ACCA's latest Professional Insight series report, *A Changing Profession? The Evolution of Accounting Roles, Skills and Career Aspirations*, has revealed that many finance professionals are keen to gain new career experiences by changing role, sector or country, and suggests that mobility aspirations will continue to increase.

The report, published in January and based on a survey of over 2,500 accountants in over 50 countries, concludes that roles across the profession are changing, which in turn is driving a demand for new skills in the context of a profession where employers are facing increasing recruitment and retention challenges.

There is clearly a growing appetite, and opportunity, for international career development. Nearly 80% of those surveyed agreed that, in the future, it will become more important for finance professionals to be able to work in different international environments. This reflects the growing global economy, and the recognition that international knowledge transfer and staff movement can aid business effectiveness and success. Globalisation also provides an unprecedented opportunity for professionals from poorer nations to improve their wealth and gain experience that will improve their career prospects when they return home.

However, over 80% of respondents predicted a significant increase in demand from emerging economies as inward investment increases and indigenous professionals leave to work in mature markets facing talent shortages. Jamie Lyon, ACCA's senior manager – learning and technical directorate, said: "It's an interesting time for the

profession. For individuals, this new world is presenting unparalleled opportunities in terms of career development. But it's representing a major challenge for organisations in terms of the recruitment, development and retention of finance professionals. This is primarily due to growing regulation, competitive pressures for the services of accountants, and demographic issues affecting the supply of talent into the profession. Organisations are likely to

have to adopt recruitment and development programmes that transcend national boundaries. Also, the development of effective employee propositions to retain talent will continue to be critically important."

You can access this report and others in the Professional Insight series from ACCA's website at www.accaglobal.com/employers/approved/services/employers/develop/professional_insight. ■

