



PRESS RELEASE

Hong Kong Ranks 6th in Global CFP^{CM} Professional Population

- *Global Number of CFP Professionals nears 162,000, covering 26 Territories*
- *Hong Kong Contributed 4,702 CFP professionals in 2015*

(Hong Kong – 15 March, 2016) – At year-end 2015, the global number of CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER professionals reached 161,821, an increase of 4,235 CFP professionals (or 2.7 percent) over year-end 2014. The number of Hong Kong CFP professionals continues to rank the sixth in the world.

Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. (FPSB), owner of the international CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER certification program outside the United States, reported that the number of CFP professionals reached a global high of 161,821 at year-end 2015. Global growth within the FPSB network, representing 26 nonprofit financial planning standards-setting, certification and professional bodies in as many territories, produced a net increase of 4,235 CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER professionals, a 2.7 percent increase over the previous year-end total of 157,586.

The territories representing the five largest CFP professional populations were United States, Japan, Canada, China and Australia. Hong Kong remained the sixth place in 2015. The figures saw the Asia Pacific regions took up 36% of the globe number of CFP professionals. Japan Association for Financial Planners (JAFFP), exceeded 20,000 CFP professionals for the first time.

Of the 25 FPSB member organizations authorized to administer the CFP certification program (FPSB's Member in Turkey joined as an Associate Member in 2014), 19 (or 76%) saw the number of CFP professionals in their territory increase last year, with the five territories adding the most CFP professionals during 2015 being: Malaysia (213), Indonesia (222), Japan (518), Brazil (563) and the United States (2,388). These five territories, representing a spectrum of market types and CFP certification program maturities, account for 92 percent of the global CFP professional growth, with the United States, the longest-running CFP certification program, accounting for 56 percent of global growth in 2015.

Some of FPSB's newer member organizations that are ramping up delivery of their CFP certification programs showed the largest rates of growth in the number of CFP professionals last year. The top six territories in terms of rate of growth for CFP professionals in 2015 were: Israel (56 percent), Brazil (32 percent), Ireland (28 percent), Indonesia (22 percent), Chinese Taipei (15 percent) and Thailand (14 percent). Due to strong support for CFP certification among Brazil's banks, FPSB's Brazilian member organization had the distinction of being second overall both in terms of the number of CFP professionals added and in the growth rate of CFP professionals last year, moving Brazil into 10th place overall for CFP professional population per territory (with 2,304 CFP professionals). Asociación Colombiana de Planeación Financiera (ACPF) in Colombia certified the first CFP professionals in Colombia in 2015.

“Financial Planning Standards Board is pleased to see that the message about the value of CFP certification, and of working with a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER professional, is being heard around the world,” said Noel Maye, FPSB Ltd. chief executive officer. “The number of territories where CFP certification is offered has increased 50 percent in the last 12 years, and the global number of CFP professionals has doubled in the same time period. Much of this growth can be attributed to the value the public places on CFP certification and the benefits firms experience from hiring CFP professionals.”

“FPSB and the global network of professional bodies offering CFP certification have set a target of 250,000 CFP professionals in 40 territories by 2025, and the momentum gained from our 2015 growth keeps us on track for that goal,” Maye added.

For more information on the number of CFP professionals globally, go to: www.fpsb.org.



About IFPHK

IFPHK was established in June 2000 as a non-profit organization for the fast-growing financial services industry. It aims to be recognized in the region as the premier professional body representing financial planners dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards.

The Institute is the sole licensing body in Hong Kong authorized by Financial Planning Standards Board Limited to grant the much-coveted and internationally-recognized CFP^{CM} Certification and AFPTM Certification to qualified financial planning professionals in Hong Kong and Macau.

It represents more than 7,600 financial planning practitioners in Hong Kong from such diverse professional backgrounds as banking, insurance, independent financial advisory, stockbroking, accounting, and legal services.

Currently there are more than 162,000 CFP certificants in 26 countries/regions; the majority of these professionals are in the U.S., Canada, China, Australia and Japan, with around 4,700 CFP certificants in Hong Kong.

About FPSB

FPSB manages, develops and operates certification, education and related programs for financial planning organizations to benefit the global community by establishing, upholding and promoting worldwide professional standards in financial planning. FPSB demonstrates its commitment to excellence with the marks of professional distinction – CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and CFP Logo mark – which it owns outside the United States. FPSB has a nonprofit member organization in the following 26 territories: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. At the end of 2015, there were 161,821 CFP professionals worldwide. For more, visit fpsb.org.

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