

APMAA, APMAJ, and Their Positioning in the International Academic Landscape

Updated: February 11, 2026
Classification: Internal / Board Use

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Executive Summary

APMAA has consolidated its position as a leading internationally oriented specialist association in management accounting. Since its establishment in 2004, it has developed into an integrated research ecosystem combining conferences, journal publication, doctoral development, and hybrid knowledge dissemination.

Key distinguishing features include:

- **Global Research Visibility**
A dedicated academic journal, *Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Journal (APMAJ)*, indexed in ESCI (Clarivate), ABDC, and DOAJ, ensuring international discoverability and citation visibility.
- **Pioneering “Phygital” Engagement**
APMAA has developed a robust hybrid engagement model. The 2026 Bangladesh Chapter Webinar attracted over 500 participants (approximately 300 onsite and 200+ online) from 10 countries, demonstrating effective integration of physical and digital participation.
- **Extensive Regional Knowledge Dissemination**
A multi-country webinar program that has engaged over 1,100 registrants across the Asia-Pacific region, representing one of the most extensive specialist accounting knowledge-sharing initiatives in the region.
- **Rigorous Academic Review Standards**
All submissions undergo full-length scholarly review (5,000–10,000 words) under a double-blind process. This ensures substantive academic depth beyond abstract-level screening practices commonly used in domestic conferences.
- **Commitment to Emerging Scholars**
A sustained Doctoral Colloquium (active since 2011) and structured student tracks provide mentorship and developmental support for researchers from over 20 countries.

Strategic Case Study: Interdisciplinary Leadership (2026)

The **2026 Bangladesh Chapter** served as a landmark event, shifting the management accounting remit into specialized sectors. By centering the theme on "**Accounting for Health**" and partnering with **Bangladesh Medical University**, APMAA effectively bridged the gap between accounting scholars, healthcare professionals, and corporate integrity experts. This interdisciplinary approach addresses critical global challenges in healthcare sustainability, digital transformation, and corporate accountability.

Future Outlook

The **2026 Tokyo Annual Conference**—themed "**Strengthening Value Creation through AI, Sustainability, and Management Accounting**"—is set to position APMAA at the forefront of the digital revolution. By integrating high-level practitioner engagement from partners like **Maybank** and **Qatar National Bank** with cutting-edge academic research, APMAA continues to define the future of value creation in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Chairperson's Message for the APMAA 2026 Conference

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 21st APMAA Annual Conference, hosted by Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan. As APMAA enters its third decade, the 2026 conference represents both a continuation of our long-standing academic tradition and a significant milestone in our evolution as a global scholarly community.

Since its conceptual beginning at the Asian Management Forum in Fukuoka in 2002 and its formal establishment at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in 2004, APMAA has grown into a vibrant, multi-disciplinary association that brings together scholars, practitioners, and doctoral students from more than 18 countries each year. Our annual conferences—held across Asia from Fukuoka, Chengdu, Beppu, Taipei, Shanghai, Tokyo, Nagoya, and Bali to Shah Alam, Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, and Doha—have created a rich tradition of cross-border collaboration and intellectual exchange.

Over the years, APMAA has expanded far beyond its original focus on management accounting. Today, our community actively contributes to research in financial accounting, auditing and assurance, internal control, sustainability and ESG reporting, public-sector and NGO accounting, Islamic business accounting, AI and machine learning, analytics, digital transformation, accounting education, and comparative and historical studies. This breadth was clearly reflected in the 2025 Annual Conference in Malaysia, which featured 53 accepted academic papers, 154 participants from 18 countries, and strong engagement from industry leaders such as Maybank and Sime Darby Plantation.

APMAA's commitment to academic rigor and researcher development is supported by our long-standing initiatives: the discussant system (introduced in 2010), the doctoral colloquium (launched in 2011), and the Microsoft CMT review system (adopted in 2013). Our multi-country webinar series—organized by chapters in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Qatar, and Sweden/Poland—has become one of the most active in the Asia-Pacific region, with some events attracting more than 1,100 registrants.

The theme of APMAA 2026—'Strengthening Value Creation through AI, Sustainability, and Management Accounting'—reflects the profound transformations shaping organizations worldwide. As AI reshapes decision-making, sustainability becomes a strategic imperative, and global challenges demand new forms of resilience, our community is uniquely positioned to contribute rigorous, relevant, and impactful research.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the organizing team at Tokyo Metropolitan University, to our APMAA Directors and Chapter leaders, and to all authors, reviewers, moderators, and participants whose dedication sustains our association. I look forward to welcoming you to Tokyo in November 2026 for an inspiring and memorable conference.

The Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Journal (APMAJ)

Overview and Mission

The Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Journal (APMAJ) is the official academic journal of the Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Association (APMAA). Since its inaugural issue in 2006, APMAJ has established itself as a stable, internationally oriented journal publishing high-quality research across a broad spectrum of accounting disciplines.

APMAJ publishes three issues per year and features full-length academic papers that advance knowledge in management accounting, financial accounting, auditing, sustainability reporting, and related fields.

Indexing and Visibility

APMAJ is committed to high editorial standards and global reach. The journal is currently indexed and recognized by the following international platforms, directories, and citation databases:

Global Citation Databases & Discovery

- **Web of Science:** Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), operated by **Clarivate**.
- **DOAJ:** Directory of Open Access Journals.
- **Google Scholar:** Providing broad academic search visibility.
- **Dimensions & CrossRef:** Ensuring persistent identifiers (DOIs) and interconnected research data.
- **EBSCOhost:** Included in selected academic collections.
- **Ulrichs & Cabell's Directory:** Verified in global publishing and management directories.

Quality Rankings & Regional Indices

- **Australia (ABDC & ERA):** Ranked by the **Australian Business Deans Council** and the Australian Research Council's **Excellence in Research for Australia**.
- **Regional Platforms:** **ASEAN Citation Index (ACI)** and **MyCite** (Malaysian Citation Index).
- **Specialized Repositories:** **ROAD** (Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources), **PKP Index**, **Focus**, and **UDLedge** Social Science & Humanities Citation Index (SS&HCI).

APMAJ maintains high global visibility through indexing in major international databases, including **ESCI (Web of Science)**, **EBSCOhost**, **Ulrichs**, and **Cabell's Directory**. It is formally recognized in the **ABDC** and **ERA** ranking lists in Australia. Additionally, the journal is indexed in specialized regional platforms such as the **ASEAN Citation Index (ACI)**, **MyCite**, **Focus**, and the **UDLedge SS&HCI**.

Integration with APMAA's Research Ecosystem

APMAJ is deeply embedded within APMAA's broader research community through:

- **International Conference Network:** APMAA's annual conferences attract scholars from more than 20 countries

- **Multi-Country Webinar Series:** Enhances global engagement across Asia and Europe
- **Doctoral Colloquium:** Operating since 2011, this program supports early-career researchers who often publish in APMAJ

Future Development

APMAA is committed to strengthening APMAJ through several strategic initiatives: expanding the editorial board, enhancing review standards, increasing global outreach through strategic partnerships, and implementing targeted author development programs.

Comparative Analysis: APMAJ vs. The Japanese Accounting Review (TJAR)

Journal Profiles

| Feature | Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Journal (APMAJ) | The Japanese Accounting Review (TJAR) |
|----------------|---|---|
| Established | 2006 | 2011 |
| Frequency | Triannual (3 issues/year) | Annual (1 issue/year) |
| Primary Focus | Broad Asia-Pacific management accounting & reporting | Japanese accounting scholarship in a global context |
| Affiliation | APMAA, and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia | Kobe University, Japan |
| Major Indexing | ESCI (Clarivate), DOAJ, ABDC, ERA, MyCite, ACI, EBSCO, Google Scholar | ESCI (Clarivate) |

Summary Assessment

TJAR's Strategic Strengths

- **Institutional Prestige:** Supported by Kobe University with a prestigious editorial board and a strong reputation for high-level international visibility.
- **Thematic Clarity:** Maintains a sharply defined identity as the premier outlet for Japanese accounting research tailored for a global audience.
- **Focused Quality:** A lower frequency of publication (annual) allows for a highly selective editorial process focused on specialized scholarship.

APMAJ's Strategic Strengths

- **Established Legacy & Volume:** Features a longer publication history (since 2006) and a significantly higher output volume (three issues annually), providing more opportunities for authors.
- **Comprehensive Indexing & Visibility:** Boasts an extensive indexing profile, including **ESCI (Clarivate)**, **DOAJ**, and **ABDC**, as well as deep integration with regional indices like **ACI** and **MyCite**.

- **Broad Disciplinary Scope:** Offers an expansive remit covering management accounting, financial reporting, sustainability, and emerging technologies.
- **Strong Research Ecosystem:** Benefits from a direct pipeline and robust networking through the **Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Association (APMAA)** international conference ecosystem.
- **Persistent Discoverability:** Utilizes **CrossRef (DOIs)** and **Dimensions** to ensure high citation tracking and metadata connectivity across global research networks.

APMAA's Position in the Regional Academic Landscape

Comparative Overview of Major Accounting Associations

APMAA is evaluated against leading regional bodies to highlight its unique service model and international reach:

- **APMAA:** Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Association
- **AAAA (FourA):** Asian Academic Accounting Association
- **JAA:** Japan Accounting Association
- **AFAANZ:** Accounting & Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand
- **APC:** Asian-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues
- **KAA:** Korean Accounting Association

Comparative Landscape: APMAA vs. Regional Accounting Organizations

| Dimension | APMAA | AAAA / FourA | JAA (Japan) | AFAANZ (AU/NZ) | APC (Int'l) | KAA / IAI / VAA (KR/ID/VN) |
|------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Nature | International Academic | International Academic | Domestic Academic | International Academic | International Academic | Domestic Academic / Professional |
| Primary Scope | Management Acc. + ESG, AI, Health | General Accounting | All Disciplines | Financial & Auditing | International Acc. | Professional Standards / Domestic Research |
| Geographic Reach | Global: 20+ countries (Asia, EU, ME, NA, Oceania) | Asia-centered | Domestic; | Australia & New Zealand | North America & Asia | Primarily Domestic (KR, ID, VN) |
| Official Journal | APMAJ (ESCI, ABDC, DOAJ) | None | Acc. Progress | Acc. & Finance (Wiley) | None | Domestic Journals (e.g., IJAR) |

| Dimension | APMAA | AAAA / FourA | JAA (Japan) | AFAANZ (AU/NZ) | APC (Int'l) | KAA / IAI / VAA (KR/ID/VN) |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Webinar Program | Industry-Leading: Hybrid, >1,100 capacity | Limited | Minimal | Regular (often paid) | Minimal | Minimal / CPD focus |
| Early Career Support | Structured: Doctoral Colloquium (Since 2011) | Moderate | Moderate | Strong | Limited | Strong (Domestic focus) |
| Conference Format | 4-Day: Multi-track & Practitioner engagement | 2-Day: Academic | 2-Day: Academic | 3-Day: Rigorous / Academic | Practitioner oriented | Domestic Conferences / Seminars |
| Selectivity | ~74% Acceptance (2025) | Not disclosed | Low | Moderate to High | Varies | Moderate |
| Industry Link | High: Multinationals, Public Inst., Medical Unis | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Strong | Strong (Professional focus) |

Key Strategic Findings

1. APMAA's Competitive Advantage

- **Unmatched International Diversity:** APMAA consistently draws participation from over **20 countries**, transcending regional silos to include significant engagement from Europe and North America.
- **The "APMAA Hybrid Model":** As demonstrated by the **2026 Bangladesh Chapter Webinar**, APMAA has pioneered a “phygital” engagement model—successfully combining onsite attendance (300+ in Dhaka) with global virtual participation (200+ online from 10 countries).
- **Interdisciplinary Leadership:** APMAA is uniquely expanding the accounting remit into specialized sectors. The 2026 focus on "**Accounting for Health**" at Bangladesh Medical University bridged the gap between accounting scholars and healthcare professionals, setting a new precedent for regional research.

2. Distinctive Organizational Strengths

- **Premier Global Webinar Series (Since 2021):** With a capacity to engage over **1,100 registrants** per series and individual chapter events drawing **500+ participants**, APMAA operates the most extensive knowledge-sharing network in Asia.

- **Robust Knowledge Dissemination:** The **APMAJ journal** is strategically indexed in **ESCI (Clarivate), ABDC, and DOAJ**, ensuring that research presented at conferences and webinars reaches a global audience and maintains high citation potential.
- **Strategic Industry & Institutional Alliances:** Strategic alliances with leading institutions such as Maybank and other regional partners strengthen the bridge between academic research and professional practice.
- **Future-Ready Research Scope:** APMAA leads in emerging areas such as **AI/ML, ESG reporting, and Healthcare Accountability**, ensuring its members remain at the forefront of digital and corporate transformation.
- **Commitment to Early-Career Scholars:** Through the **Doctoral Colloquium** (since 2011) and dedicated virtual student tracks (e.g., 130 students in the 2026 webinar), APMAA actively cultivates the next generation of accounting researchers.

Strategic Positioning and Future Outlook

APMAA holds a distinctive position as a premier, internationally oriented specialist association within the Asia-Pacific accounting research landscape. It demonstrates significantly higher selectivity and broader global reach than most domestic regional bodies. While maintaining a sharp focus on management accounting, the association has successfully expanded its identity to include critical emerging disciplines.

The association complements generalist organizations, such as FourA, by providing specialized depth in management accounting scholarship. Simultaneously, it offers a robust infrastructure for researcher development through its Doctoral Colloquium (active since 2011), a formal discussant system, and year-round webinar programming.

APMAA's unique value proposition is built upon an integrated research ecosystem:

- **APMAJ:** An international peer-reviewed journal strategically pursuing major global indexing.
- **Rigorous Conferences:** Annual events featuring double-blind peer reviews and full-length paper requirements of 5,000–10,000 words.
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Continuous professional development through a webinar series reaching over 1,100 registrants.
- **Bridge to Practice:** Strong alliances with corporate giants like Maybank, Sime Darby, and Qatar National Bank to ensure practical relevance.

APMAA's strategic priorities include:

- Consolidating APMAJ's international visibility within established indexing platforms;
- Expanding interdisciplinary collaboration in areas such as ESG reporting, digital transformation, and public-sector accountability;
- Strengthening chapter-based engagement to deepen regional participation while maintaining global connectivity;
- Enhancing doctoral and early-career researcher development pathways.

Conclusion

As APMAA enters its third decade, it has firmly established itself as a vital contributor to accounting scholarship in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With sustained participation from over 20 countries, a growing journal reputation, and innovative “phygital” programming integrating physical and digital experiences, the association is well-positioned for continued global influence.

The 2026 Tokyo Annual Conference, themed "Strengthening Value Creation through AI, Sustainability, and Management Accounting," exemplifies APMAA's commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges facing modern organizations.

2026 APMAA Year-at-a-Glance

Key Association Milestones

- **Third Decade of Excellence:** 2026 marks a significant milestone as APMAA enters its third decade of operation since its formal establishment in 2004.
- **Global Reach:** Engagement from scholars and practitioners across more than 20 countries.

Landmark Events & Conferences

Bangladesh Chapter 2026 Webinar on January 4 (Interdisciplinary Leader)

- **Theme:** "Accounting for Health".
- **Innovation:** Bridged the gap between accounting scholars, healthcare professionals, and corporate integrity experts.
- **"Phygital" Success:** Successfully hosted over 500 participants (300 onsite in Dhaka; 200+ virtual from 10 countries).

2026 Tokyo Annual Conference (November)

- **Host:** Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan.
- **Theme:** "Strengthening Value Creation through AI, Sustainability, and Management Accounting".
- **Focus:** Positioning APMAA at the forefront of the digital revolution and the "AI-reshaped" decision-making landscape.

Performance Indicators

| Metric | 2026 Performance / Status |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Webinar Reach | Over 1,100 registrants, making it the largest program of its kind in the region. |
| Academic Rigor | All submissions undergo full-paper double-blind review (5,000–10,000 words), ensuring substantive scholarly depth rather than abstract-level screening. |
| Early Career Support | Active Doctoral Colloquium (since 2011) and dedicated student tracks with over 130 student participants in recent webinars. |
| Industry Partners | High-level engagement with Maybank, Sime Darby, and Qatar National Bank. |

Future-Ready Research Scope

APMAA continues to lead research in emerging sectors that define modern value creation:

- **Digital Transformation:** AI, Machine Learning, and Analytics.
- **Sustainability:** ESG Reporting and Healthcare Accountability.
- **Specialized Accounting:** Islamic Business Accounting and Public-sector/NGO research.