FP e-News

Financial Perspectives Pte Ltd

FPAS Approved CFP® Education Provider since 1999

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SAVE Your Future

By Cai Zong Zhen, AWP^CM

Though *students* are one of the least affected groups in this downturn, it's never too early to start thinking about our long-term financial plan. Here are some ways.

1. Budgeting

In simplest form, budgeting means to live within your financial means. Budgeting helps to keep you in check and balance in your spending and not set you into unnecessary debt on needless purchases.

- You only need a notebook, pen and calculator to make a budget
- List down any allowances, part-time income, and other cash inflows
- List down everything; every dollar and cents you spent everyday for a month
- Keep all your receipts to aid you
- Categorise your expenses at the end of the month into fixed monthly payouts and discretionary payouts. E.g. Internet bill and savings could be fixed monthly payouts. Food and movies could be discretionary payouts.
- Monitor and track your expenditure patterns daily, weekly, and monthly
- If surprised at the amount of money spent on trivial or unnecessary items, remind yourself to watch your discretionary spending.
- Build this formula in your budgeting before any spending for each new month:
  Cash Inflows – Savings = Expenses.
- Allocate your inflows to pay all bills on time. If total inflows are in deficit of your total expenses, start to live below your means till you see a surplus in your budgeting.

2. Stay Out of Debt

Getting out of debt should be your top priority. It could be your study loan or credit card debts. It would not be wise to chalk up debts even before you start working. Living below your means will free up additional money to pay off your debts sooner.

3. Always Pay Yourself

Yes, to "pay yourself" is to save. Savings is not about sacrifice. It's about making small adjustments here and there. You can either look for ways to make some money, spend wiser, or start a regular and consistent savings strategy using the dollar cost averaging approach that leverages on the power of compounding.

4. Set Goal

You know what lifestyle you aspire when you graduate and get your first job. Setting a goal will aid you in reaching your desired lifestyle quickly. With a goal in mind, you can determine the amount of finances and funding you require to fulfill your goal in time to come. You can then determine the amount to save every month and at what compounding interest rate to help you achieve the financial target in 3 or 5 years time.

Challenge yourself to achieve these 4 habits and you will be doing yourself a big favour for a good financial headstart when you graduate and live the life you want, with money you can control.

Article from SP's FullStop- June 2009

Inside this issue:

Highlights:

- FPAS Exam Dates are released for 2010
- JobsCentral Career & Learning Fair 2009 Visit FP : 22-23 Aug
- **FREE Wealth Planning Seminar on 26 Aug 09 (Wed)**
- Sign Up for the **AFP^CM Class starting on 1st Sep 09 (Tue)**
- 2009 Nov FPAS Exam Registration Deadline: 4 Oct 2009

CFP CERTIFICATION - TOP CHOICE FOR FINANCIAL PLANNERS GLOBALLY (March 2009)

6 Percent Growth Rate Yields 118,506 CFP Professionals in 20 Territories

DENVER,CO, USA, 5 MARCH, 2009 – Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. (FPSB), owner of the CFP, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER and CFP Logo Marks outside the United States, announced the global number of CFP professionals reached 118,506 by year end 2008. With an average 6 percent global growth rate, the number of CFP professionals roughly doubled in the past eight years to its current all-time high, with the majority of CFP professionals (59,676) now doing business outside the United States.

"From 42 CFP professionals in the United States in 1973 to the current 118, 506 CFP professionals practicing in some 20 territories around the world, CFP certification has emerged as the global symbol of excellence for financial planning," said New Zealand-based Stephen O'Connor, CFP, chairperson of FPSB's Board of Directors. "FPSB and the network of nonprofit standards-setting bodies that administer CFP certification globally build on 35 years' of commitment to public-interest standards, a commitment that is being recognized by practitioners and consumers looking to manage their finances amidst the continuing global financial crisis," he added.

…"CFP certification has emerged as the global symbol of excellence for financial planning,"….

News ***Abstract from FPSB Website***

Tips On Securing Your Clients' Future

- Be objective
- Help your clients set their priorities & goals
- Determine their risk profile
- Explain to them clearly all available options
- Help them make informed decisions –what they want may not be what they need
- Help them draw up a financial plan
- To be well equipped & updated with the necessary financial knowledge and tools
- Advise them to clear all debts
- Always follow up with your client at least once every 3 to 6 months
- Gain your client's confidence & trust by providing consistent and quality service
- Keep updated of current economy developments
- Improve your communication skills & continue with professional training & developments

2009 AFP℠, AWP℠ & CFP® Certification Dates

The 2009 November Exam registration Is Now Open
The FPAS exam dates are as follows:

Module 1 — 08 Nov 2009 (Sun)
Module 2 — 22 Nov 2009 (Sun)
Module 3 — 21 Nov 2009 (Sat)
Module 4 — 14 Nov 2009 (Sat)
Module 5 — 28 Nov 2009 (Sat)
Module 6 — 07 Nov 2009 (Sat)

See FP's Class Commencement Dates below & register for the upcoming 27th Intake (Sep-Nov 09)

Module 1 — 03 Sep 2009 (Thu)
Module 2 — 02 Oct 2009 (Fri)
Module 3 — 14 Oct 2009 (Wed)
Module 4 — 17 Sep 2009 (Thu)
Module 5 — 05 Oct 2009 (Mon)
Module 6 — 08 Sep 2009 (Tue)

Check Website!
www.fp-edu.com

About CPD *(Continuing Professional Development)*

Fulfilling CPD Requirements

Once certified, the **AFP^{CM}, AWP^{CM}, CFP$^{®}$ practitioners** must fulfill a biennial (2-year) continuing professional development (CPD) requirement of **15 hours, 20 hours and 30 hours respectively**. Only courses that meet the requirements of FPAS should be reported as CPD hours. These include courses that:

- Contribute to increasing the professional competency of participants,
- Offered by approved CPD providers,
- Are current and correct in program content and cover subject topics as listed in Appendix A of the AFP^{CM} and CFP$^{®}$ practitioner manual

Besides in-house training programmes, FPAS recognises courses/seminars organised by the following Associations & bodies:

- Life Insurance Association of Singapore (LIA)
- Association for investment Management and Research (AIMR)
- Singapore Society of Financial Analyst (SSFA)
- Society of Remisiers
- Singapore Exchange (SGX)
- Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF)
- Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (ICPAS)
- Singapore Accountancy Academy (SAA)
- The Law Society of Singapore
- Society of Financial Service Professionals (SFSP)
- Life Underwriters Training Council (LUTC)

Please note that only courses/seminars that meet FPAS CPD subject topic lists and those that are conducted from 1 January 2001 onwards can be reported for CPD credits.

Adapted from FPAS Website

Financial Planning Tips for Couples

Talking about emergency funds may not sound very romantic, but money is often the biggest source of conflict in relationships. During uncertain economic times like these, levels of financial stress are sure to be even higher.

- Making money talks a regular part of your relationship -schedule meetings to talk about money
- Discuss your financial situation, dreams, and goals, and generate ideas to improve your future together - then do something fun afterwards
- Keeping lines of communication open- avoid blaming the other person
- Take a look at your finances now and re-examine the ways you spend and change if necessary. E.g. Eat out lesser and stay away from shops you like.
- Keep track of everything you spend – couples often don't know where their money goes
- Understand your partner's money habits- couples need to work together
- Talking straightforwardly about financial issues with children can even be good for a family. Kids can learn some money management skills at the same time.
- If financial pressures are starting to take a toll on your relationship, you may consider to get some professional advice. Sit down with a financial professional who will take the best interests of both parties into account.

It is a positive exercise for couples to work together to build a retirement fund or even to plan together to save for a dream home or holiday!

Adapted from CPF Board Website

International Affiliation

About FPSB

Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. (FPSB) is a nonprofit association that manages, develops and operates certification, education and related programs for financial planning organizations so that they may benefit and protect the global community by establishing, upholding and promoting worldwide professional standards in personal financial planning. FPSB's commitment to excellence is represented by the marks of professional distinction – CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and .

Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd. owns the marks above outside the U.S. and awards them to individuals who successfully complete FPSB's initial and ongoing certification requirements. **Financial Planning Association of Singapore (FPAS)** is the marks licensing authority for the CFP® marks in Singapore, through agreement with FPSB.

The CFP® Mark is recognized **in 23 countries worldwide** including Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

FPSB Ltd, creates internationally relevant and high-level professional standards for the CFP® certification so that:

The public can identify qualified financial planners

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Practitioners can take the next step towards becoming trusted financial planning professionals

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Consumers and regulators can have confidence in the financial planning profession and the benefits it can offer to those ready to take control of their finances

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Q & A

Q1. What if I have not completed my Module 6 CFP® examinations and has taken longer than the 7-year period given?

FP: If you have left with module 6 of the CFP® Certification Education Program, you may write in formally to FPAS to request for an extension of the 7-year requirement. The approval of such request is strictly subjected to FPAS Management's discretion, and an admin fee of $25/- is to be submitted together with the request. Please contact FPAS at (65) 6372 1030 or email to fpas@fpas.org.sg directly for all matters pertaining to examinations & exemptions.

Q7. I will upgrade later to become a CFP® certificant but can I just use my AFP^CM^ or AWP^CM^ license now?

FP: Yes you can, but we would encourage you to continue with the program that would ultimately lead you to the prestigious CFP® mark that is globally recognised. We would like to remind you that you have to complete all 6 Modules exams within 7 years and the final Module 6 exam will be testing students based on previous course modules from Module 1 to Module 5 so we encourage students to complete the program within 1 to 2-yr period. You must ensure that you are studying updated course materials.

If you have any questions or feedback for us, please email to carine@fp-edu.com. Thank you for your continuous support.