

# The AI Accountant:

## Shaping the future of finance

14 Sep 2023 , 08:00 - 21:00  
The Tryst, Sandton

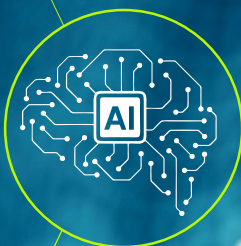
**In person - register here**

R675 | Early bird R500

**Online - register here**

R375 | Early bird R250

ChatGPT



# 2023

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# Welcome to your future.

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**A**s the Chief Enthusiasm Officer (CEO) of the Chartered Institute of Business Accountants I am thrilled to extend my warmest invitation to you for the CIBA Practice Management Conference - The AI Accountant: Shaping the future of finance.

Get ready to fasten your seatbelts and take off on an extraordinary journey that will revolutionise the way we envision the future of finance. Our annual conference promises to be a rollercoaster ride of insights, incredible networking opportunities, and updates on technological breakthroughs guaranteed to boost your business in 2024.

Here are just a few reasons why you should join us:

**1. Unleash your inner maverick:** Our exceptional lineup of expert speakers will inspire you to break free from the traditional shackles of finance and empower you with the knowledge to boldly embrace AI.

**2. Algorithms & Assets Unite:** Network with fellow accountants, industry leaders, technology experts and AI specialists. Connect, collaborate, and form alliances that will launch you into the orbit of success.

**3. Stellar exhibitions:** Our exhibitors and valued partners will transport you to a universe where technology reigns supreme.

**4. Extraterrestrial entertainment:** Prepare for a celestial dose of entertainment that will leave you starstruck.

The world of accounting and auditing is on the cusp of a transformative change, driven by AI. While challenges exist, the potential benefits far outweigh them. By embracing AI, staying informed, and adapting, professionals can not only enhance their services but also offer unparalleled value to their clients.

I hope to see you at the conference!

Nicolaas "Not a Bot" van Wyk,



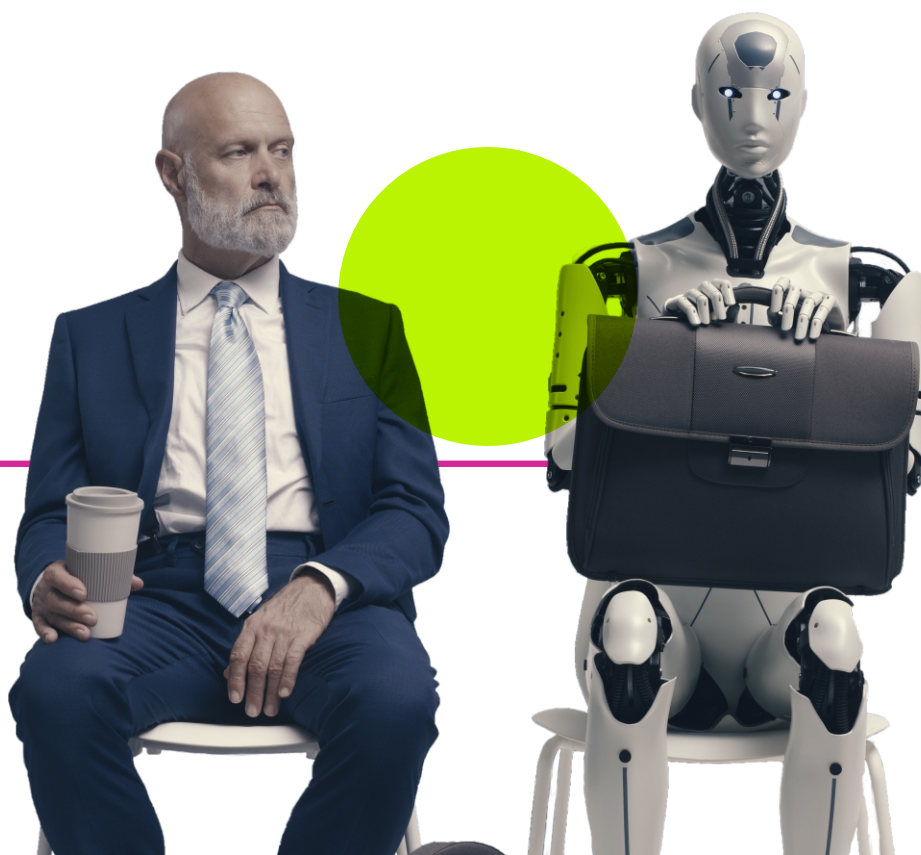
Nicolaas van Wyk  
CEO, CIBA

“Together, let's boldly  
shape the **future**  
of **finance**.”



# PROGRAMME - SUMMARY

08:00 - 08:30	Registration	4
08:30 - 08:40	Welcome	4
08:40 - 09:30	Keynote: How accountants can embrace the uncertain future of AI	4
09:30 - 10:00	Comfort Break	4
10:00 - 11:30	● <b>Session 1 - AI and the Accounting Team</b>	5
10:00 - 10:15	AI Leadership and digital transformation	5
10:15 - 10:30	Impact of AI on people management and the Information Officer	5
10:30 - 10:45	Impact of robotics and neuro-symbolic AI on the role of the Accountant	5
10:45 - 11:00	Key lessons from integrating AI into operations	6
11:00 - 11:30	Session 1 - Panel Discussion	6
11:30 - 15:00	● <b>Session 2 - AI in the Accounting Practice</b>	6
11:30 - 12:00	Benchmarking AI in accounting firms	6
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	6
13:00 - 13:15	AI and Financial Reporting, Predictive Analysis and enhancing Advisory Services	6
13:15 - 13:30	AI Data Quality Assurance and Automation Tools	7
13:30 - 13:45	AI Advances in Accounting Technological Tools and Improved Customer Experiences	7
13:45 - 14:00	AI and Financial Services	7
14:00 - 14:15	Session 2 - Panel Discussion	7
14:15 - 15:00	Unlock the power of ChatGPT for Accountants	7
15:00 - 15:30	Comfort Break	7
15:30 - 16:00	AI and Tax	8
16:00 - 16:45	● <b>Session 3 - How AI will impact economic sectors and what it means for the practising accountant</b>	8
16:45 - 17:00	Closing	9
17:00 - 21:00	Cocktail Function and CIBA Member Awards	



# PROGRAMME

08:00 - 08:30

## Registration

08:30 - 08:40

## Welcome

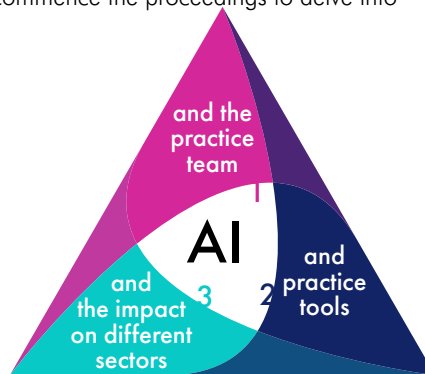


Michael Avery Author, broadcaster and journalist

Back by popular demand! With his unique blend of humour and deep expertise in the accounting domain, Michael will once again grace the stage as the Master of Ceremonies. He is poised to infuse the accounting seminar with unparalleled energy and enthusiasm.

Michael will commence the proceedings to delve into the era of AI.

**Michael Avery** is a financial journalist and broadcaster with a decade's experience covering financial markets. He edits the country's premier private equity publication, Catalyst, and was the driving force behind the country's first-ever Water-Energy-Food nexus event, the SA Water, Energy & Food Forum (SAWEF). He holds a BA degree in journalism from the University of Johannesburg.



08:40 - 09:30

## Keynote Speaker

Fear to freedom: How accountants can embrace the uncertain AI Era to excel and succeed



Stephen McGown Author and International speaker

In an era where technological advancements like AI are rapidly reshaping industries, it's natural to feel apprehensive about the future of accounting practices. Draw inspiration from someone who faced the bleakest of uncertainties, as the longest-held hostage of Al-Qaeda, and emerged stronger. His harrowing experience, marked by unpredictability and adversity, offers profound lessons on resilience, adaptability, and the indomitable human spirit. Learn from his **mindset and practical habits** adopted to stay grounded and focused amidst industry upheavals.

**Stephen McGown**, a Financier that worked in some of the largest banks in South Africa, is the longest-held hostage of Al-Qaeda and the Author of *Stephen's Journey and the Triumph of Resilience*". Stephen was en-route from London to South Africa when he was captured due to his British Passport. He was subsequently held hostage at various camps in the Sahara Desert in the northwest of Africa for nearly six years before eventually being released.

09:30 - 10:00

## Comfort Break



10:00 - 10:15



Herman Singh, CEO and Founder, Future Advisory

### AI Leadership and digital transformation

The transformative potential of AI in accounting and auditing:

- Lessons learned from transforming businesses.
- The winning strategy to integrate AI into accounting practices.
- Key elements of strategic leadership in the Age of AI and how accountants should evolve as leaders to manage the changes that are coming effectively
- The skills and training accountants need to thrive in an AI-driven environment.
- Analysing the emerging trends and future predictions for AI and the impact it could have on the practice owner and the accounting team.
- The direction current AI trends are steering the accounting profession.
- Best practices of an accounting team to charter the AI Frontier.

**Professor Singh** is an adjunct professor at the UCT GSB and the CEO of Future Advisory. His international firm specialises in digital transformation projects in corporates, and startup acceleration. He graduated from Wits at the age of 19 with a four-year engineering degree and obtained two postgrad qualifications in the next few years, before ascending to a managing director role at a Barlow's factory at 28. He served as a managing director of Siemens' Industry Division, director of e-commerce and online services of Standard Bank, director of IT planning of Standard Bank, CEO of Standard Bank's innovation hub Beyond Payments, managing executive of m-Commerce and CDO of MTN. He served as deputy chairman of Jumia and serves on the board of MTN Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

10:15 - 10:30



Themba Chakela, Chief People Officer, BlueSky

### Impact of AI on people management and the Information Officer

Themba will provide accountants with insights into people and transactional human resource management, as well as provide an overview of the evolving role of the Information Officer and how accountants can act as Strategic Partners in AI Transformation.

- How AI advanced the field of people management
- New trends in AI and transactional human resource management
- The intersection of data management, AI, and strategic decision-making.
- Overview of how AI is reshaping the responsibilities and expectations of Information Officers.
- How accountants, with their analytical skills and business acumen, can support Information Officers in navigating AI trends and provide data insights and financial perspective to enhance AI-driven strategies.
- Predictions on how the role of the Information Officer will further evolve with advancements in AI and the impact on the financial director.

**Themba Chakela** is the Chief People Officer at BlueSky, overseeing Human Capital Management and amplifying organisational culture. He brings a wealth of knowledge in harnessing technology for business transformation, making him a valuable asset in the realm of AI and accounting. Previously, he served as General Manager at Transnet SOC Ltd, held various leadership roles at Dimension Data Middle East and Africa, and championed organisational effectiveness and change management at other organisations. He is an MBA graduate from Henley Business School and holds postgraduate qualifications from the University of Cape Town. ctional human resource management.

## The Tech Expert

## The accountants' new best friend

10:30 - 10:45



Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo, AI Research Scientist, IBM

### Impact of robotics and neuro-symbolic AI on the role of the Accountant

Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo's rich background in AI research, particularly in neural-symbolic integration, robotics, and reinforcement learning, offers a unique perspective on the future of the AI accountant.

- Insights into whether robots put the accountant's role at risk.
- How neuro-symbolic AI and the latest developments can revolutionise data processing, contracting, reporting and decision-making in accounting.
- Practical applications of domain-specific NLP tasks in accounting, from automated data entry to advanced financial analysis
- How sequential decision-making processes can enhance financial forecasting and strategic planning. What accountants can learn from Dr Makondo's applied research in reinforcement learning for healthcare applications.
- Discussing the balance between learning and reasoning in AI, based on Dr Makondo's research in Neural-Symbolic Integration. Drawing from Dr Makondo's volunteer position at
- SAIEE, he shares the importance of professional bodies in guiding and standardising AI adoption in accounting to support their members.

**Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo** is the Research Scientist and Manager: Artificial Intelligence at IBM for almost 5 years He holds a Doctorate in Computational Intelligence and Systems Science. He has lectured at the University of Witwatersrand. He conducted extensive research in the field of intelligent autonomous systems with a particular interest in machine learning frameworks for autonomous systems, including robot programming by demonstration, reinforcement learning and transfer learning.

Will AI  
replace  
Accountants?

10:45 - 11:00



Thilen Pillay, Director:  
Digital & Technology,  
RSM South Africa

### Impact of integrating AI into your practice

How RSM South Africa formed a tech-based accounting powerhouse to leverage cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and data analytics to revolutionise accounting services.

- The challenges and opportunities that come with introducing AI solutions in an accounting practice.
- Best practices and strategies to implement in a tech-based accounting firm.
- Insights into how AI revolutionises financial processes, from automated data analysis to predictive financial forecasting in the corporate environment.
- The implications for talent management, training, and the broader organisational culture within an accounting practice.

**Thilen Pillay** is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). He has extensive experience in a wide range of internal audit and risk assurance services, including audits of network security, IT/IS governance, disaster recovery, application and general control reviews, data analytics, ERP controls and data security.

11:00 - 11:30

Panel Discussion

The dynamic group of industry experts will explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping the finance landscape and accounting team.

11:30 - 15:15

## Session 2

### AI in the Accounting Practice: Unleashing the power of AI to scale your business

11:30 - 12:00



Prof. Olive Stumke  
Associate Professor, NWU

### Benchmarking AI in accounting firms

Professor Olive Stumke shares her research regarding AI and the accountant and provides an overview of the current state of AI in the Accounting Industry.

- Rapid adoption and growth of AI in the field
- Real-world examples: **KPMG's** use of generative AI, AI-driven tax computations, etc.
- Mazars' use of AI for **Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAs)**.
- Investments and pilot programs by **Deloitte, PwC, Ernst & Young LLP**.
- Training and upskilling staff in AI technologies.
- AI tools, automated tasks and technology currently used by accountants in practice.
- The role of AI in identifying anomalies and potential fraudulent activities in datasets.
- How AI streamlines the compilation and review process, from risk assessment to substantive procedures.
- Addressing the ethical concerns of AI in accounting, including data privacy, job displacement, and decision-making transparency.
- How AI optimise tax planning and compliance processes.

**Professor Olive Stumke** has 14 years of combined experience in the Financial Accountancy industry, including four years as a qualified Financial Accountant in the public accountant sector and ten years as a senior lecturer in higher education. With a strong focus on developing research in Accounting Sciences, she has gained valuable insights during her six-year tenure. Prof Stumke enjoys working with diverse clients, businesses, and people.

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch

13:00 - 13:15



Vangelis Kyriazis, CEO and  
co-Founder, Syft Analytics

### AI and Financial Reporting, Predictive Analysis and enhancing Advisory Services

The impact of AI on interactive and collaborative financial reporting and how it empowers the Accountant in Practice. Other topics include:

- Real-time reporting and data visualization
- The Potential of AI in Enhancing Advisory Services
- Enhanced accuracy and error reduction
- Compliance and regulatory implications
- AI-driven dashboards and insights
- Predictive analytics for customer behaviour insights.
- Risk management and fraud detection
- Comparison with non-AI-driven practices
- Emerging technologies in AI that could impact financial reporting
- Challenges and opportunities in the adoption of AI Reporting

**Vangelis Kyriazis** is a highly accomplished entrepreneur and business leader, serving as the Co-Founder and CEO of Syft Analytics since September 2016. Syft Analytics is an award-winning financial reporting and analytics app, empowering over 100,000 accountants, bookkeepers, and businesses worldwide to make data-driven decisions seamlessly.

13:15 - 13:30



Pierre Dixon, Director,  
ProfitHunters

### AI Data Quality Assurance and Automation Tools

AI Efficiencies that allow you to increase your client base, without increasing your practice staff and to become more profitable. The presentation will include:

- AI monitoring of accounting files through algorithms to ensure error-free data.
- AI review of accounting transactions to detect potential risks and non-compliance.
- The power of AI to flag unusual billing behaviour and save hours of unprofitable work.
- The impact of quality processes on profitability of a practice.
- The reduction of mundane task
- Advanced automation to streamline operations

**Pierre Dixon** is a dynamic Director at ProfitHunters, a leading professional services firm in South Africa. Operating from offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg for > 10 years, they provide custom strategic accounting and financial management solutions, ensuring quality service, and harnessing technology and innovation to navigate their clients' business towards growth. Pierre is a Chartered Accountant (SA) and served as the Financial Director Africa Middle East for Diversey for > 7 years and is co-founder of the Real Time Group.

13:30 - 13:45



Jordaan Burger, Sage Vice  
President Finance, Africa,  
Middle East and Asia-Pacific

### AI Advances in practical Accounting Technological Tools and improved customer experiences

Jordaan will provide valuable insights into AI tools designed specifically for accounting, showing how they can improve day-to-day operations. Using his recent experience at a robotic process automation (RPA) event, he'll guide you through a step-by-step process called "RPA in a day" to help you streamline processes in your organisation. He'll also highlight Sage's ongoing AI projects, like time management tools that increase client billings and reduce the time spent by staff on timesheet entries.

**Jordaan Burger** oversees the finance function for Sage in Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, driving business performance, supporting business development and setting the commercial strategy. Prior to joining Sage in 2019, he spent four years as Financial Director for MWR InfoSecurity (now F-Secure) in South Africa, where he was also responsible for finance operations in New York, Singapore and Poland. He is a Chartered Accountant (SA) with an M.Com in South African and International Taxation.

## AI and improved client experiences

13:45 - 14:00



Mandisa Zwane, Business  
Banking, Standard Bank

### AI and Financial Services

Mandisa will provide insights on how AI can revolutionise financial services, redefining customer experiences and amplifying your competitive edge as an accountant in practice. She will delve into new functions that contributes to the accountant saving time and money.

**Mandisa Zwane** is an accomplished professional with experience in various aspects of Business Banking, Strategy, Client Proposition, Digital, Technology, and Enablement. Currently serving at Standard Bank Group since October 2020, Mandisa plays a pivotal role in strategy development for segment clients to support the overall Business Banking strategy.

14:00 - 14:15

Panel Discussion

**Supercharge your business growth and embark on a journey of innovation with the panel discussion by the industry leaders that will showcase the immense potential of artificial intelligence (AI).**

14:15 - 15:00  
(incl. Q&A)



Dean Furman  
AI Thought Leader

### Unlock the power of ChatGPT for Accountants

In this enlightening session, Dean Furman will guide you through the fascinating world of ChatGPT, revealing the extraordinary capabilities and endless possibilities it offers.

Discover how ChatGPT can

- revolutionise customer interactions,
- streamline workflows, and
- enhance user experiences in accounting.

Dean's deep expertise and visionary insights will empower you to harness the power of ChatGPT to its fullest extent. Whether you're a business leader, bookkeeper or auditor, this session will equip you with invaluable knowledge and strategies to leverage ChatGPT and stay ahead in the AI revolution.

**Dean Furman**, Founder and CEO of 1064 Degrees is a brilliant AI Thought Leader. He has expertise in innovation, business, and digital domains. With a broad spectrum of experience, Dean has made significant contributions to renowned organisations such as MTN, FNB, Standard Bank, Huawei, Nestle, Publicis, Santam, PPS, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Hollard, Workforce, Absa, Nandos, Multichoice, Nedbank, Deloitte, Stanlib, INN8, Mercer, Marsh, Legalwise, Sasfin, Tiger Brands, Bidvest, Exclusive Books, YPO, SAICA, Alexander Forbes, and many others.

15:00 - 15:30

Comfort break

15:30 - 16:00



Mark Silberman, Founder and Director of Acffin Software

### AI and Tax

By staying ahead of the curve with technology-enabled solutions, tax professionals are now armed with the power to add greater value to their organisations in the moment and into the future. Firms who have automated with the right systems have all the necessary data to comply with current regulations for all regulators, such as SARS, CIPC, Masters and FIC. Mark will explore:

- How SARS is using data-driven insights, algorithms, and artificial intelligence in a bid to fight tax evasion
- How SARS is modernising its systems to provide digital and streamlined services to the public, and rebuild trust and confidence in the tax collector.
- AI and Automated SARS tax return submissions and the challenges created.
- How to avoid the tax year-end rush with AI.
- The big call and push back for the uploading of trust distributions for pre-population and monthly EMP 501's reconciliations.
- The impact of new shareholders disclosure on the ITR14 tax return on beneficial ownership.

**Mark Silberman** is the founder and director of Acffin Software. He invented the first Tax and Company Secretarial systems in South Africa and has extensive experience in technology enabled solutions. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant that previously served as the chairman on SAICA's Tax Technology Committee.

**AI-evolution:  
The more evolved way to  
manage tax and provide  
value: Insights into tax  
departments adopting AI**

## Not a CIBA member?



**Operational Support  
(SARS, UIF, WCA)**



**Practice Support  
Networks**



**Stakeholder  
Representation and  
Community Engagement**



**Social Media  
Exposure**



**Digital  
Accreditation  
Services**



**Industry and  
Technical Updates  
and Assistance**



**Business  
Accountant  
Directory**



**Automated  
Financial  
Platforms**



**Complimentary  
CPD and technical  
guides**

**Join the  
Army of Accountants  
today!**





## Panel Discussion

In a rapidly evolving technological landscape, the applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have begun to resonate across various sectors globally. This panel discussion seeks to explore the specific impact of AI on the South African economy, focusing on critical sectors such as **Agriculture, Education, Public Sector, Non-Profits, and SMEs.** The discussion will navigate the multifaceted terrain of opportunities, challenges, and implications of AI adoption in South Africa. From enhancing productivity to ensuring sustainability, the discourse will examine the transformative potential of AI within the unique South African context to assist Accountants to navigate and prepare their clients better.



**Edzai (Conilias) Zvobwo**  
COO, Acalytica

Edzai is a tech-driven mathematician and education advocate passionate about using technology to address Africa's challenges. He founded MathsGee, benefiting over a million learners, and co-founded TEDSF for impactful CSI initiatives aligned with SDG4. Recognised globally, Edzai has worked with organizations like Google and the World Bank. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree at Arizona University.



**Phumlani Majozi, Author  
and speaker**

Phumlani currently advises international investors on South Africa's financial market and conducts research on Africa's socioeconomic trends. He sits on the boards of three organisations: Organization Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA), CIBA and Social Research Foundation. He is a widely published columnist and has been recognised as one of the 100 Most Influential Young South Africans by Avance Media. He holds a Bcomm Honours in Information Systems and Economics.

**Other sector  
leaders to be  
announced  
soon**

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16:45 - 17:00

**Closing**

**Embrace the present and shape the future:  
CIBA Army of Accountants on the frontlines**

As AI becomes an integral part of accounting and auditing, professionals need to equip themselves with the necessary skills. This doesn't mean becoming AI experts but understanding how to leverage AI tools effectively. Ethical considerations come to the forefront as well as accountants are called to safeguard client data, ensure AI models are free from biases, and AI-driven decisions can be explained.



Nicolaas van Wyk,  
CEO, CIBA

17:00 - 21:00

**Cocktail function and CIBA Member Awards**

**Join us as we welcome new CIBA members to the Army of Accountants  
and celebrate the longest serving CIBA members with the hilarious Alfred Adriaan.**

Alfred Adriaan is a young comedian flying up the ranks in the SA comedy scene with two consecutive South African comics' choice nominations under his belt in the best New Comedian and best Intermediate comedian categories.



Alfred Adriaan  
Comedian



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## The Accountant's Blueprint for 2023/2024!

1. Mind Over AI Matter
2. Sync with Tech
3. Balance the Books  
with the Future

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