

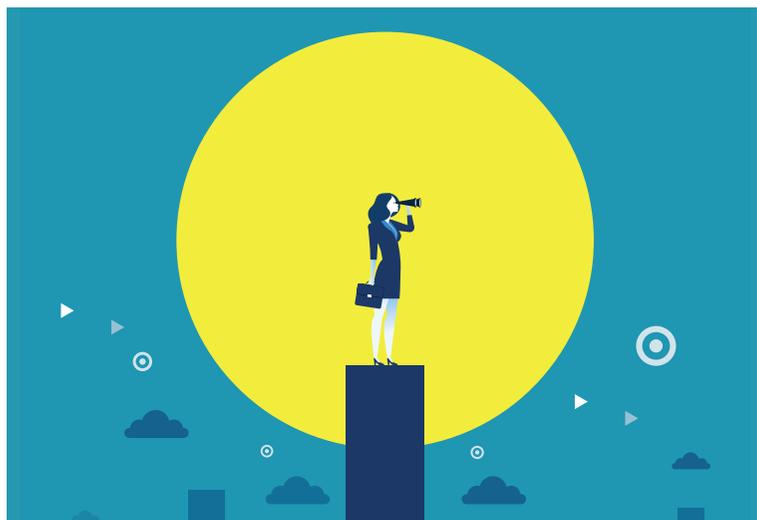
CAROLINE STOCKMANN

The ACT's chief executive reviews highlights of her first nine months

As the days draw in, and I am not quite, but almost, full circle in terms of experiencing the ACT for a full year, I look back at my first nine months with mixed feelings. That is a mixture of pleasure, passion, excitement, intellectual stimulation and pride – in my team, our members and our many partners, sponsors and other stakeholders.

Highlights are too many to name, but some that particularly stand out and serve well to illustrate the variety of the role would be:

- my first Deals of the Year Awards dinner on my second day in, where I remember commenting that it was the best organised event I had ever attended;
- running a workshop for board-ready women at a palace in Abu Dhabi;
- a comment from a treasurer after the joint launch with the Bank of England of the Codes as to how useful this had been for him and how grateful he was that we were raising awareness;
- getting to know and rekindle relationships with the European Association of Corporate Treasurers and International Group of Treasury Associations, as well as national treasury associations, which include South Africa and the US;
- a panel at our event in Hong Kong, which included the monetary authorities of both Hong Kong and Singapore;
- meeting Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and confidential adviser to ACT members on ethical issues, an ex-treasurer who



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- was also a bell-ringer (like me) and, also like me, has a great interest in how we address mental health issues – more to come on that;
- experiencing our learning and assessment for myself as a student, initially CertTF, and then CertT, including my first introduction to remote invigilation;
 - launching our Diversity and Inclusion Calendar with our Bridging the Gender Gap event – to be followed by LGBT+ in the new year;
 - speaking at the City of London Green Summit and continuing involvement in HRH Prince Charles's Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) programme; and
 - stimulating discussions, whether with our council or advisory panel on our new vision and mission, or listening to what's

on the minds of our FTSE20 treasurers.

It has been both an incredibly intense induction and learning experience for me, as well as a period where I have been constructively challenging the way we operate, in a number of different areas. I strongly believe in what the ACT set out to do almost 40 years ago, and acknowledge that legacy, while at the same time wanting and needing to respond to current-day challenges.

The vision we have now agreed to underpin our strategy is “that treasury everywhere has the highest standards of professionalism, bringing success to organisations and creating strong economies through strategic balancing of financial risks and opportunities”,

which refers to the very broad vision we have for the treasury profession as a whole. Our mission, “to embed the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in the treasury world, and act as its leading advocate”, is how we, as the ACT, contribute to that vision. I believe passionately in the need to maintain high professional standards in treasury, and that is what the ACT does, whether through our educational products, continuing professional development (including *The Treasurer*) or our events – as well as ensuring we remain the voice of treasurers, advocating for them and their needs.

I'm currently looking forward to Dubai and our Middle East Annual Summit, where we'll also be celebrating treasury achievements in the region at an awards dinner. We are still open (until 20 November) for nominations for *The Treasurer's* Deals of the Year Awards, which will recognise green finance for the first time. So, don't delay if you have a deal, treasury team or emerging treasurer of your own, or a client's, who you'd like to enter.

I'd also like to thank you, the treasury community, in making me feel so welcome in my first year as chief executive of the ACT. You can contact me at cstockmann@treasurers.org



Caroline Stockmann
is the ACT's
chief executive