ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to investigate to which extent petroleum companies apply advance and modern accounting systems, to which those systems enable to fulfill with adapt to rapidly changing conditions induced by globalization and new business paradigms and also to which extent those systems enable to fulfill with Yemeni environment requirements.

This study, based on questionnaires addressed to the individuals involved with the accounting and financial departments of petroleum companies in Yemen, the major jobs of respondents were accountants, accounts directors and internal checkers. And also interviews addressed to the specialists in both of the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and the Tax Authority.

Generally, speaking the work of this thesis consists of two main parts. A theoretical part which gave background, described of the Accounting Information Systems (AIS), and discussed the development and recent directions in Accounting Information Systems. The researcher in this study has explained some advances technology in Accounting Information System must apply in petroleum companies as: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Systems Applications, and Products (SAP), Decision Support System (DSS) and Case-Based Reasoning (CBR), which could enable AIS to capture information beyond the historical financial data.

The second part of this study is an empirical part which deals with and describes the current situation of Accounting Information Systems applied by petroleum companies in Yemen, based on questionnaires addressed to the individuals involved with the accounting and financial departments of those companies, the major jobs of respondents
were accountants, accounts directors and internal checkers. Also interviews have been addressed to the specialists in both of the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and the Tax Authority, addition to the observations has been discovered by the researcher during his practical work of the Petroleum Companies, Ministry of Oil in Yemen, and Tax Authority.

The thesis comprises six chapters:

The first chapter consists of two sections firstly, review of the related literature of accounting information systems in general and accounting systems in petroleum industry. Secondly, research methodology, this section sets out the methodology utilized in the present study which starts with significant of the study, objectives, problem, hypotheses, data sources, limitations etc.

The second chapter is discussed in two sections; the first section is the system concepts, the classifying of the system according to the circumferential environment and information system concepts, which the researcher has shown the different discussions about system and information definitions. The researcher has approached the gradual approach to attain to the second section, which has discussed the AIS nature, for example the AIS concept, components, and objectives.

The third chapter entitled (Accounting Information System Developments and Security) divided into two sections; the first section is AIS developments and the recent directions, different models of accounting systems and their significant roles attributed to the entire AIS have been presented. The second section is AIS security and internal control. Every section highlights on the different Accounting Information System (AIS) issues. The researcher’s goal of preparing this chapter is to highlight on the
multidimensional of AIS, and to contribute in the high knowledge enrichment about AIS.

Chapter four entitled (Accounting Systems in Petroleum Industry) throws light on concept, features of petroleum industry and the petroleum countries organizations in the first section, the second section throws light on attempts to standardise Petroleum Accounting in both leading countries. I.e. USA and UK, and last section spotlight in accounting methods in petroleum companies, started by petroleum companies history and has shown the historical cost methods of accounting for upstream activities in petroleum companies.

The fifth chapter (Field Study in Petroleum Companies in Yemen) is the practical work of this study, in this chapter the researcher has shown in the first section background about Yemen as the field study , also he has shown the profile history of petroleum companies in Yemen in second section , and third section is the study analyses of the collected data , which discusses the results and gives an analysis and interpretation to them in the light of the objectives , questions and hypotheses of the study.

The sixth chapter contains the final efforts which have been prepared by the researcher, which the first section is the conclusions those has been drawn from the theoretical part as well as the empirical part of the study, which are the basic of the second section is recommendations.

The third section of the sixth chapter puts forward some suggestions for further research. Appendices and bibliography appeared at the end of the thesis.
The main study findings were the petroleum companies in Yemen are not applying enough modern and advance accounting information systems which enable them to fulfill with new changes in technology, consequently those systems currently apply in petroleum companies are not meet up the Yemeni environment requirements.

The suggestions of this study focus in replace the legacy systems currently applied in petroleum companies to fulfill with the rapidly changes in technology and to fulfill with the Yemeni environment requirements.

It is suggested to the Ministry of Oil to take the steps toward make obligatory of those companies to change them legacies systems, and also suggested the Ministry of Oil to add paragraph in the prospected sharing agreements which could obligate the prospected companies to apply standardize and advance Accounting Information Systems in the petroleum companies processes.