

May - June 2007

“ a bi-monthly newsletter for the members of the UAE chapter of ISACA”

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President’s Message

Dear Members,

Greetings to all members!

Before all of you take your annual breaks during the hot summer months, I thought it apt to address you and have a review of the first half of the year.

Like the previous year, this year has been witnessing major progress in the activities for our Chapter. In terms of the number of CPE meetings in Dubai as well as in Abu Dhabi or the participation from the members in various events, we exceeded our achievements of last year.

The achievements that are worth special mention are our new initiatives in promoting the CISA & CISM certifications and the IT Governance initiatives among the professional community and the government sector in the region.

We have initiated talks with the Emirates Institute of Banking and Financial Studies (EIBFS), Sharjah exploring the areas of mutual cooperation in promoting CISA, CISM & Information Governance.

The CISA / CISM exams of June attracted very good response from the professional community in the region. This time there were 147 candidates for the CISA exam and 25 for the CISM in Dubai and 53 CISA Candidates and 14 CISM aspirants in Abu Dhabi.

Now we are looking forward to a period of more hectic activities. The regional conference scheduled for Oct 24th & 25th is going to be a major event in the chapter history and I invite all of you to be a part of this mega event. The annual Information Governance Forum is scheduled for Oct 24th evening, which will bring the decision makers in Information Governance across the industries in the region under one roof.

The Research & Project initiative that we started this month has already received good response from our members. We intend to give this activity more focus in the second half of the year. The best Project/ Research work will receive an award from the chapter and hopefully will become a useful tool for all professionals in the region.

My best wishes for enjoyable holidays for all of you.

Saji P. Oommen
President

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CPE Meetings during the period

Getting a grip on "Powerful Presentations - keeping the audience attention right from the start" - June 12th Dubai.

This was an interactive session by Ms. Robyn Pearce - Certified Speaking Professional, International President - Federation of Professional Speakers and author of several books such as 'Getting A Grip On Time'.

Securing the Wireless Networks (Wi-Fi technologies)- Dubai on April 19th and in Abu Dhabi June 6th

This session explored the threats that come with adopting Wi-Fi and how to make it more secure than a "wired" environment with all the required components of a healthy infrastructure.

Balanced Score Card for Strategic Management By V S Ramachandran in Dubai - 22nd March

Ram, provided members with an overview of the components of Balanced Scorecard, how it came about, its uses and how it can be deployed in an organization..

Roadmap to Basel II Implementation with focus on Operational Risk by M.N. Naveed Siddiqi in Abu Dhabi - 26th April.

This hot topic attracted many professionals including several non members from the Banking Industry

Digital Forensics - the new addition to the Auditor's armoury, Dr. Rama K Subramaniam Abu Dhabi - 8th May

This session was an eye opener for the professionals on the latest techniques in Digital Forensics.

Other events conducted in association with other partners during the period

In association with Alhadaf Information Security Systems a one day Web Application Security Conference was conducted on E-Business and E-Government Security in Abudhabi on April 25th

In Association with IIA, we were able to organise 2 sessions. One on Continuous Monitoring Tools on May 30th and the second one on ACL on June 4th .

Marcus Evans Conducted a 2 day event on "Corporate Security in the Information Age" on June 10th & 11th in which the Chapter Vice President, Nalin and the Chapter Secretary Biju presented topics on BCP and ISMS respectively.

Events in Pictures



Robyn Pearce captivating the audience with the talk on How to deliver Powerful Presentations in Dubai on June 12th



Section of the Crowd from the BCP Event in Abu Dhabi



ISACA International Vice President, Avinash Kadam in one of the CPE Meetings in Dubai

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ISACA's highly anticipated 35th annual International Conference and Annual Meeting of the Membership is approaching quickly!

This year's conference will be held in Singapore, 22-25 July 2007. Go to www.isaca.org/international for more information and to register.

The International Conference gathers a cadre of international industry experts. These world-class presenters bring together a wealth of experience and knowledge on best practices, system security, audit tools and processes, and other topics that impact not only those in a given geographic area, but all IT professionals, the world over. This is an extraordinary opportunity to network with international peers and discover the differing ways in which similar problems are solved around the globe.

Earn up to **40 CPE hours** and increase your governance, information security or audit knowledge by attending one of ISACA's most anticipated events of the year.

Choose from three comprehensive, in-depth streams:

- Information Governance
- IT Audit Practices
- Information Security Management
- Information Security Governance and Metrics

Registration fees for the International Conference are US \$1,200 for ISACA members and US \$1,400 for non members.

Go to www.isaca.org/international now to register or for more information.

News Bytes

COBIT 4.1

The latest edition of COBIT, released as an online download exclusively to ISACA members in April and now available publicly on the ISACA and ITGI web sites, includes:

- The framework—Explains how COBIT organizes IT governance management
- Process descriptions—Include 34 IT processes covering the IT responsibility areas from beginning to end
- Control objectives—Generic best practice management objectives for IT processes
- Management guidelines—Tools to help assign responsibility, measure performance, and benchmark and address gaps in capability
- Maturity models—Profiles of IT processes describing possible current and future states

COBIT 4.1 is a fine-tuning of the COBIT 4.0. Updates include:

- An enhanced explanation of performance measurement.
- A new definition of control objectives, shifting more toward management practices statements
- Improved control objectives, resulting from updated control practices and Val IT™ development
- An improved list of business and IT goals

For more information on this update to COBIT or to obtain a free download of COBIT 4.1, please visit www.itgi.org. Print copies can be purchased from the ISACA Bookstore at www.isaca.org/bookstore.

From The Editor.....

Happy to note that the chapter has been performing very well in all aspects in the first half of the year. From a larger number of CPE meetings to new initiatives on promoting research and project activities in the region, the chapter has shown tremendous growth this year.

As Secretary and Newsletter editor of the chapter my only request to our members is to come forward to take part in the various activities of the chapter. The opinion of each one of you will be reflected in the activities of the chapter, whether it is in the contents of the Newsletter or the subject selected for the CPE meetings

Looking forward to an activity filled second half of 2007.

Warm regards to all

Biju Nair (Secretary & Newsletter Editor)

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New Initiative on encouraging Research & Project works in UAE

Chapter is bringing to all its members an opportunity to participate in carrying out research & project work in the region. This would help all our members access to quality resources from the region. Regional research/project work will provide an avenue for all our members to leverage on experiences and best practices followed by people/organizations.

Benefits

- Participation will provide the member with the opportunity to enhance your professional and leadership skills.
- Enable the member to build an impressive regional network of peer contacts.
- Participation will offer the member the satisfaction of taking a personal role in the future of the chapter, as well as the IT assurance, security and governance profession.
- Provides the member a platform to share their expertise with others, as well as learn about new areas of interest.
- The research/project work will be posted on to the ISACA UAE Chapter website.
- The best research/project work would be given an award.

How to Participate

As this research/project work would require some time commitment from your end, do give your business/personal responsibilities adequate consideration. Read the descriptions of the current research/project

work short listed and weigh your qualifications and expertise against these. Ensure that you would have to bring your expertise/experiences to the table for a particular research to make your contribution more significant.

Research Work

The broad aspects to be covered in the research are given in question format so that this could give you the impetus to start thinking about the same and help you in your research work. Please ensure that which ever stand your group takes; please back it up with appropriate & adequate rationale and statistics.

Area: Information Security

Broad aspects to be covered in your research

- Is Information security a technical problem?
- Is there a difference between IT Security & Information Security?
- Does Information risk management extend beyond the IT department?
- Is there a need for Information Security governance?
- Is information security a tactical problem or a strategic one for the organization?
- Should the Information Security department report in to IT?

Meetings: You could either meet in person or communicate your thoughts via conference calls or email as needed with your other members in your research area. You are also encouraged to get views from industry leaders on the same

Area: Information Systems Audit

Broad aspects to be covered in your Research

- Is Information system auditing changing over the time?
- Is there a need for Continuous Auditing? What are the benefits, if any

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- Does the management view the Internal Audit Departments also has risk assessment departments?
- Is there a thin or a thick line between department such as Enterprise risk & Internal Audit?
- Should Information Systems Audit be involved in the start of a project or only carry out an after the event review?
- How is the Internal Audit department perceived in the organization?

Meetings: You could either meet in person or communicate your thoughts via conference calls or email as needed with your other members in your research area. You are also encouraged to get views from industry leaders on the same

Project Work

Area: Application Security

Topic: How to Audit Oracle ERP

- Arrive at an In-depth checklist for auditing ERP
- Suggest key areas to continuously monitor
- Developing & sharing of scripts to automate the auditing is highly encouraged

Meetings: You could either meet in person or communicate your thoughts via conference calls or email as needed with your other members in your research area.

Area: Infrastructure Security

Topic: How to Audit an IDS/IPS

- Arrive at an In-depth checklist for auditing IDS/IPS
- Suggest key areas to continuously monitor
- Developing & sharing of scripts to automate the auditing is highly encouraged

Meetings: You could either meet in person or communicate your thoughts via conference calls or email as needed with your other members in your research area.

How to submit your application

Complete application form available in the website.

Print the form, then complete and mail, fax or scan and e-mail it with a brief resume of yours to the below mentioned address by **10th July 2007** to any of our program chairs:

Biju Nair Information Security Manager, Sharjah Islamic Bank, P.O.Box 4, Sharjah, UAE, FAX :- 06- 5680925 Email: rsbiju@gmail.com	T S Ravichandran Joint Web Master Internal Audit P.O.Box 686, Dubai,UAE , Fax: 04 - 2951242 Email: tanjorer@yahoo.com
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Important Dates

10th July – 15th July 2007

A panel from the ISACA UAE chapter would review the applications and provide input to the president matching the needs of the research/project work and the expertise of the applicants. A minimum number of 5 volunteers will be put together to work on a research or a project.

15th - 30^h July 2007

Notification email to all the successful applicants regarding their appointment to a particular research/project.

1st August – 30th Oct 2007

All the successful volunteers start their work on their respective research or projects

1st November 2007

Last date for submission of your work/research

5th November – 5th December 2007

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Coveted industry specialist/leaders would review the research/project work and give their inputs to the board.

15th December 2007

The board will announce the best research/project work and publish all the research/project work on the ISACA UAE Chapter website.

Guidelines for Submission

A good paper will demonstrate that the authors:

- Have brought out a significant problem and also addressed the root cause,
- Have devised an interesting, compelling solution/approach,
- Have demonstrated the practicality and benefits of a particular approach,
- Have drawn appropriate conclusions,
- Have clearly described what they have done, and
- Have clearly articulated the advances beyond any previous work.

Submissions will be judged by our industry panel on originality, significance, interest, clarity, relevance, and correctness. Please read the detailed author guidelines below

Below is a set of **guidelines** and **formatting instructions** to help you prepare your paper. Please read them carefully prior to submitting

1. Submitted research papers must NOT have been previously, presented, published, accepted for publication. Simultaneous submission of the same work to multiple venues, submission of previously published work, and plagiarism constitute dishonesty or fraud. If the program committee comes across such work, the same will not be considered.
2. Ensure that you have appropriate references made at the end of the document under the heading 'END NOTES' for any material/work used in your document which is not your original work.
3. The entire paper (title page, abstract, main text, figures, tables, references, etc.) must be in ONE document created in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

4. The maximum length of the research paper is 5000 words (excluding appendices and references).
5. Use Times New Roman 12-pitch font, double spaced, and 1-inch (2.5 cm) margin all around.
6. Number all of the pages of the paper.
7. NO changes in the paper title, abstract, authorship, and actual paper can occur AFTER the submission deadline.
8. Ensure that the file is virus-free.

Member Benefit of the Month...

Member-only Access to Research Publications

1: Many research publications from ISACA and ITGI are available exclusively to members via download. This members-only access is provided to show appreciation for the individuals who have supported the research efforts of the association and institute. This month, IT Governance Implementation Guide: Using COBIT[®] and Val IT[™], 2nd Edition, and IT Assurance Guide: Using COBIT[®] are newly available only to members as free downloads. Available at www.itgi.org and www.isaca.org/deliverables

ISACA Offers CISA and CISM Self-assessment Tools

ISACA has developed CISA and CISM self-assessment tools to help exam candidates assess their knowledge of the exam job practice areas and determine in which areas they may have strengths and weaknesses. Each self-assessment contains 50 sample items covering the appropriate proportion of subject matter to match the exam blueprints. The self-assessments are one of many tools that can be used to help prepare for the CISA and CISM exams. These tools are available at www.isaca.org/cisaexam & www.isaca.org/cismexam