



# ISACA Muscat Chapter's Newsletter

November 2005

## Inside this issue:

- Chapter felicitates successful candidates of June 2005 exam 1
- Muscat Chapter website wins the Silver Award 1
- President's message 2
- Meetings 2005 3
- About us 4
- "Hot Certifications" 4
- IT Governance Institute 4

## Chapter felicitates successful candidates of June exam

The Muscat Chapter of ISACA held a felicitation ceremony on Wednesday, 14 September 2005 at Le Grande Hall in Al Falaj Hotel to honor rank holders and successful candidates at the June 2005 CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor) and CISM (Certified Information Security Manager) examinations.

The packed hall listened with rapt attention when the Chief



Guest, Abdulrazak Ali Issa, Chief Executive, Bank Muscat spoke of the importance of IT in the present day world. He congratulated the successful candidates and encouraged the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA),

Muscat - Oman Chapter to continue their outstanding work.

Philip Stanton, Partner, Ernst & Young was the Guest of Honor. He outlined the emerging role of IT audit and explained the importance of professionals with CISA and CISM certifications.

Dr. Fuad Jaffer Sajjwani, Vice President, Central Bank of Oman and Chairman of College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) spoke of the role played by the Chapter in preparing students for the CISA and CISM examinations and conducting quality educational programs for promoting awareness of IT audit, IT governance and security management. CBFS, as the sponsors of

the ISACA chapter have been consistent in supporting the chapter since its inception.



79 candidates appeared in Muscat for the CISA examination. 27 succeeded. In the CISM examination 5 out of the 6 candidates who appeared were successful.

Sachin Toprani of International Management Consultants obtained the First rank in the CISA examination. The First rank for the CISM examination was shared by D. Balasubramanian of Bahwan IT and Brahmanandam of Bank Muscat.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Muscat Chapter website wins the Silver award

This is the third year that ISACA announces the Website award. Every year ISACA officially recognizes chapters with outstanding web sites. Review is done by the Head Quarter's Membership board. All chapter web sites linked from the ISACA International web site are reviewed. Chapters are not required to submit any docu-

mentation to enter this contest. All chapter websites are automatically in the race...!

Chapters are recognized as Gold, Silver, and Bronze level winners and are awarded a certificate of recognition. Websites are evaluated on a 100 point system. Gold level winners are awarded an electronic award

seal that can be posted on their award-winning web site.

The criteria for evaluation are the website general layout, the informative value that it contains the overall appearance and ease of use. Various parameters are specified and points are given for these. These are then cumulated and the ranking given.



**Chapter felicitates successful candidates of June exam (contd)**

Awards were given to the rank holders. The successful candidates were presented with mementos.

Mementos were also presented to faculty members who voluntarily set apart their time in conducting classes.

During the year the chapter had organised many educational seminars and monthly meetings. Those members who made presentations during these meetings were also given mementos.

Subramaniam, CISA Coordinator made a presentation on **the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) examinations.**

He also listed the benefits available to ISACA members. Special mention was made of the Corporate Sponsored Membership scheme.

The felicitation meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks by Nabil Abdulla Al Raisi, Vice President of ISACA Muscat Chapter. Nabil named all the corporate sponsors, who supported the Chapter and solicited their continued support.

The next CISA and CISM exams are scheduled for December 10, 2005.

Due to the unprecedented volume of registration for the June 2005 exams, ISACA now offers the CISA and CISM exams twice a year.

Muscat continues to be a centre for this examination. Muscat Chapter has already commenced classes for both CISA and CISM examination



*Successful CISA, CISM candidates with Mr. Philip Stanton, Ernst & Young, Muscat.*



*A cross section of the audience listening with rapt attention to the proceedings*



**79 candidates appeared in Muscat for the CISA examination. 27 succeeded**

**In the CISM examination 5 out of the 6 candidates who appeared were successful.**

**President's message**

Dear Members,

I am glad to inform you that the membership strength of Muscat chapter has increased significantly over the recent months. With a strength of over 120 members in January 2005, the membership has increased to over 220 members as of November 2005. An increase of over 100 members in 2005. This reflects the commitment of the Muscat chapter Board members in promoting CISA and the Muscat chapter activities in Oman.

I am pleased to share the good news that ISACA international has awarded the silver level award to the Muscat chapter in recognition of the quality of the chapter website. Again,

it is possible due to the efforts taken by the chapter Board members, especially our newsletter editor, Mr. Itticheria Joshua, who made a big difference after he took charge of the website maintenance. You may all have received the invoice from ISACA for renewal of the chapter membership for the year 2006.

Please renew the membership before the due dates. The chapter, as always, will strive to organize quality programs for the benefit of the chapter members. We are planning to conduct two educational programs before the end of this year and a family get-together function early next year.

The CISA and CISM

classes are being organized by the chapter (for the second time this year) as per schedule. I wish to acknowledge the efforts put in by our CISA and CISM co-coordinators, Mr. A. Subramaniam, Mr. S. Ramamoorthy and our director, Ms. Nalini Subramanian in arranging for the classes second time in one year.

Please keep accessing the ISACA, Muscat chapter website regularly to update yourself on the programs organized by the chapter.

Please do not hesitate to mail us if you have any feedback on the activities of the chapter.

Sincerely,

**I Mohamed Nayaz**

*"..membership has increased to over 220 ...This reflects the commitment of the Muscat chapter Board members in promoting CISA and the Muscat chapter activities in Oman"*



CISA Review classes 2005

**Meetings 2005**

We are ahead of last year's count of Chapter meetings.

The last meeting that we had on November 13th, 2005 was a resounding success.

This program on COBIT (Speaker Mr. D Swaminathan) held at the Ruwi Hotel was attended by about 100 members.



Mr. D Swaminathan speaking at the COBIT Seminar

The next meeting will be on a non-IT subject "Activity Based Cost Management and Balanced Score Card".

The Balanced Scorecard is a performance management and strategy deployment methodology created by Robert Kaplan and David Norton in 1992.

Harvard Business Review had identified the BSC as one of the seminal ideas in the past seventy five years. That is something. Members are sure to benefit by attending this seminar.

The venue will be at the CBFS Main hall. CBFS as you all know have been extremely supportive of our

activities. We are truly indebted to them and believe that our growth is largely powered by their contribution.

CBFS provides us the use of their premises for the CISA coaching classes, monthly CPE Meetings and their hall for Seminars.

Details of the next meeting would be mailed to you shortly.



Cross section of the audience at the COBIT Seminar

Visit us at  
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or  
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## About us

Muscat chapter is one among more than 170 chapters of ISACA established in 60 countries worldwide. ISACA, as an international body has been in existence since 1969. ISACA with a worldwide membership of over 47,000 members is characterized by its striking diversity. Members live and work in more than 140 countries. They work in nearly all industries including financial and banking, audit and consultancy firms, government bodies and educational institutions. This rich diversity enables members to interact with each other. One of the strongest strengths of ISACA is the enormous resources it provides to its members through its website, regular regional and international conferences, free delivery of its technical journal -the *Information Systems Control Journal*, free access to **K-NET** an internet based compendium of reference materials and a bookstore covering the latest developments in the fields of IS assurance, control, security and governance.

Muscat chapter was established in 2000 under the sponsorship of the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) which is affiliated to the Central Bank of Oman. The chapter has a membership of 220 members. The chapter membership also mirrors the diversity of its parent body. The chapter's mission is to promote education for the CISA and CISM certifications, spread awareness of IS audit and controls, provide a framework for regular meetings and interaction amongst local IS audit and control professionals, thereby helping in raising standards and promoting best practices to manage Information technology effectively in their organizations.

## "Hot" Certifications



The Certified Information Systems Auditor® (CISA®) and Certified Information Security Manager® (CISM®) certifications are among the hot certifications to watch over the next 12 months, according to a recent study conducted by Foote Partners LLC. CISA is also listed in the study as a strong certified skill and was named by the Foote Partners in September 2004 as the certification that gained the most value in the past 12 months.

Why not plan to be certified in June 2006 contact our CISA and CISM Coordinators, whose contact details are given above



The IT Governance Institute was established in 1998 to advance international thinking and standards in directing and controlling an enterprise's information technology. Effective IT governance helps ensure that IT supports business goals, optimizes business investment in IT, and appropriately manages IT-related risks and opportunities. The IT Governance Institute offers original research, a discussion forum, electronic resources and case studies to assist enterprise leaders and boards of directors in their IT governance responsibilities.

### *Take some time ....*

What would you like to read in the next edition? Would you like to send material to be published? Please send your feedback / comments to  
[itticheria\\_joshua@yahoo.com](mailto:itticheria_joshua@yahoo.com)