



## ISACA Muscat Chapter's Newsletter

December, 2005

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### Activity Based Costing and Balanced Score Card Seminar

ISACA Muscat Chapter jointly with the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) organized the above seminar on the 30th November 2005. H.E. Nasser H.S. Al Rawahy, Deputy President, State Audit Institution presided over the seminar on which was at the Muscat Auditorium in the CBFS's premises. Dr. Fuad Jaffer Al Sajwani, Chairman of CBFS and Vice President of Central Bank of Oman was among the large turnout of professionals from the banking, audit and IT fraternity.

H.E. Nasser H.S. Al Rawahy praised the efforts of ISACA Muscat., for playing an important role in educating the corporate community and government institutions on the importance of IT controls, security and audit. "However, any such effort should be managed efficiently in a cost effective

manner. This is where ABCM and Balanced Score Card helps organizations understand what they are doing and for what," he said. Dr. Nayar, Acting Dean of CBFS welcomed the gathering and emphasized the importance of professionals being aware of new concepts and techniques that are relevant to the current economic and business environment. "We should be determined in the pursuit of knowledge which is relevant to our field of activity. ABCM and Balanced Scorecard cuts across all industry and service sectors and is applicable more so in the banking sector. It is an important tool for all organizations.

The main theme of the seminar was presented by Mr. Madhav Kshirsagar, Director & CEO of M/s. Kirtane Pandit Consulting Pvt. Ltd., Pune, India. The audience was given an overview of the

two concepts and the methodology for implementing these aspects.

"In Activity Based Management, the end-to-end Busi-



**H.E. Nasser H.S. Al Rawahy, Deputy President, State Audit Institution addressing the audience**

### Chapter takes part in IT Corporate Challenge

ISACA Muscat Chapter's team comprising of Mr. Sachin Toprani, Mr. Gopakumar and Mr. A. Subramaniam participated in the IT Corporate challenge Quiz conducted by Times of Oman in November 2005.

Though we did not make it to the finals, we came very close. It was an excellent

experience worth sharing.

There are many sites and blogs that give daily updates on new IT and technological inventions which are really fascinating for those who have the interest & time to read.

Competition was very intense and our score in the prelims 23 out of 25 was not enough

to qualify for the finals.

The finals was swept away by the Majan College lecturers who knew almost everything.

## Activity Based Costing and Balanced Score Card Seminar (contd.)

ness processes of the enterprise, is broken down to vari-



ous activities. These activities are identified as Value-added and Non-value added activities and efforts are taken to optimize them. The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) methodology essentially has four perspectives that collectively describes and articulates any

organization's business strategy viz. financial, customer service, internal business processes and its growth aspects. BSC heavily depends on ABCM in order to effectively balance the strategies of any organization. That is how ABCM and BSC are linked," he said

The seminar highlighted the simplicity of the concepts brought out by ABCM and BSC. "These can be developed and implemented by any organization at any time and at minimum cost. They be-

come very exciting because meaningful decisions can be taken based on quantified facts and not on subjective opinions," Madhav added.

Dr. Fuad Jaffer Sajjwani, Vice President, Central Bank of Oman and Chairman of College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) presented mementoes to the guest of honour and to the technical speaker. Mr. Hamza Moosa Baqer, Membership Director, ISACA offered a vote of thanks.



## New logo..New tag line

New logo with effect from January 1, 2006



becomes



The new Logo and the Tagline becomes operational from January 1, 2006.

The tag line effectively identifies the association's broadened area of expertise.

ISACA's identity remains untouched. The association's full name will now be replaced with its acronym "ISACA".

*New Logo and the New Tag line to be displayed from January 1, 2006*

## Upcoming event—Family get-together

We are organising a family get-together event for members in mid-January.

This would be around the third week of January. Members who had gone on vacation would have returned.

The PDO Recreation Centre—“Ras Al Hamra” would be the venue. Please await details from Mr. Antony Isaac, Program Chair-

person.

The Ras al Hamra Recreation Centre is accredited as one of the best recreation centres in the Gulf.

The site has a private beach, good playing area for children. Many games— both for the children and adults are planned.

This is an annual event and

the main objective to hold this event is for families to get together.

The premises is governed by strict security regulations. We need to get permission for members and their families—therefore, be sure to confirm in advance.



Scene from last year's Family Get-together

## President's Message

You may all be aware that Muscat chapter has been awarded the 2004 K. Wayne Snipes Award for the Best Medium chapter in Asia. I understand from ISACA Head Quarters that the competition was very intense this year, and we should be extremely proud of the hard work our chapter put forth in order to earn this distinction. On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the efforts put in by our three past presidents, Mr Louis Fernandez, Mr Venkat Narayanan and Mr Ramesh Hasyagar in establishing the chapter and in making it active. We shall be organizing a function to commemorate this achievement. The award was presented at the 2005 Global Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Myself and Subramaniam, our CISA Co-ordinator had the privilege to attend the conference and accept the award on behalf of the Muscat chapter. It was a rewarding experience to participate in the global leadership conference as it gave us an opportunity to learn about ISACA's global strategy and meet other chapter representatives from across the globe. e being organized by the chapter as

sample



Mr. Ramasbramaniam at the CISA Review classes



Mr. Khushid at the CISA classes at Bank Muscat's Training Hall

## Election 2006

In accordance with the ISACA, Muscat chapter bye-laws, we need to conduct the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January 2006 to constitute the new Board of Directors to manage the Muscat chapter activities for the year 2006. We propose to hold the AGM on Saturday, 28 January 2006. The list of positions in the Board of ISACA, Muscat chapter are as follows:

1. President, 2. Vice President, 3. Secretary, 4. Treasurer, 5. Membership Director, 6. CISA Coordinator, 7. CISM Coordinator, 8. Program Chairperson, 9. Education Chairperson, 10. Newsletter Editor, 11. Research Liaison, 12. Additional Directors

A description of the roles and responsibilities for each of the above positions can be provided on request sent to [isacamuscat.com](mailto:isacamuscat.com)

Those who wish to volunteer for the above positions

are requested to note the following:

- 1) The chapter would require commitment from the Board members by actively participating in chapter Board meetings (average of once a month) and providing inputs relating to chapter activities.
- 2) The Board member should actively participate in organizing the chapter seminars/events.
- 3) The Board member should assist in obtaining sponsorship to organize chapter events
- 4) The positions relating to "Secretary" and "CISA Coordinator" require a greater participation in the chapter activities as compared to the other positions.
- 5). Participating in chapter activities and attending Board meetings is eligible for CPE hour credit requirement for maintaining CISA certification.

The chapter has constituted a two member nomination committee to co-ordinate the nomination process.

The members of the nomination committee are:  
**D Balasubramanian** [indbalan@yahoo.co.in](mailto:indbalan@yahoo.co.in)  
**Nailini Subramanian** – [nalraj@yahoo.com](mailto:nalraj@yahoo.com)

Members interested to volunteer to become Board members are requested to send an email latest by Saturday (14 January 2006) to both these above mentioned persons confirming their interest to volunteer to become a Board member. The mail should also specifically identify the position which he/she is interested.



Lighter moments...



Monthly educational meeting at Al Falaj



Family get-together at the Capital Area Yacht club, Sidab

## Chapter Meetings—2005

No	Particulars	Sponsor	Date	CPE Hrs
1	<b>Introductory session / AGM - Distribution of CISA / CISM pins</b>			
2	<b>Family Get together At Capital Area Yacht Club</b>		24 Feb 05	2
3	Monthly CPE Meeting: At CBFS, Ghala <b>Audit of E-Government - Concepts, Issues, Challenges- A case study based approach</b> , Mr.Kesavan Srinivasan, State Audit Institution, Oman		23 March 05	2
4	Monthly CPE Meeting: At CBFS, Ghala <b>Network Security &amp; Architecture Design</b> , Mr. Venkatesh Kulkarni Ernst & Young, Mumbai, India		11 April 05	2
5	<b>IT Security Frameworks</b> At CBFS, Ghala Mr. Aravind Ananthasuri, Satyam Computers, Hyderabad  <b>Internet Security</b> Mr. Tariq Al Barwani	Capital Commercial Centre	22 May 05	2
6	<b>Felicitation Function to dedicate K Wayne Snipes Award for 2004</b> at Holiday Inn HE Sayyid Abdulla bin Hamed Al Busaidy, President, State Audit Institution	Bahwan Cybertek, Bahwan IT, Muscat Pharmacy, National Bank of Oman Oman UAE Exchange Centre & Co. LLC, Omantel, Times of Oman & Al Shabiba,	22 May 05	2
7	Monthly CPE Meeting: At CBFS, Ghala <b>Overview of Attack &amp; Penetration testing</b> Mr. Irshad and Mr. Anupam, Ernst &Young		21 Jun 05	2

## Chapter Meetings—2005 (Contd)

No.	Particulars	Sponsor	Date	CPE Hrs
8	<b>Layered Security - Defense in Depth</b> Mr. Aravind Ananthasuri, Satyam Computers, Hyderabad		13 July 05	2
9	<b>Felicitation Function</b> Al Falaj Hotel Felicitating the successful CISA, CISM candidates and Rank holders of the June 2005 examination. Mr. Abdulrazak Ali Issa, Chief Executive of Bank Muscat, Mr. Philip Stanton, Partner, Ernst & Young and Dr. Fuad Jaffer Al Sajwani, Chairman of CBFS		14 Sep 2005	2
10	<b>Monthly CPE Meeting:</b> At CBFS, Ghala <b>Encryption Simplified</b> Milind Gokhale, Satyam Computers		12 Oct 2005	2
11	<b>Seminar:</b> At Ruwi Hotel <b>COBIT an effective IT Governance Tool</b> Mr. D. Swaminathan, Sify Ltd, Chennai		13 Nov 2005	2
12	<b>Seminar:</b> at the CBFS, Ghala <b>Activity Based Cost Management (ABCM) &amp; Balanced Score Card (BSC)</b> Mr. Madhav A. Kshirsagar, Director and CEO of Kirtane Pandit Consulting Pvt. Ltd., Pune, India Guest of Honor: H.E Nasser H. S. Al Rawahy Deputy President, State Audit Institution and Dr. Fuad Jaffer Al Sajwani, Chairman of CBFS		30 Nov 2005	2

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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 225 members today. 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.

## CISA, CISM—Employ Certified IT Professionals



CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor) is ISACA's cornerstone certification. Since 1978, the CISA exam has measured excellence in IS auditing, control and security. CISA has grown to be globally recognized and adopted worldwide as a symbol of achievement. The CISA certification has been earned by more than 40,000 professionals since inception. The technical skills and practices that CISA promotes and evaluates are the building blocks of success in the field. Possessing the CISA designation demonstrates proficiency and is the basis for measurement in the profession. With a growing demand for professionals possessing IS audit, control and security skills, CISA has become a preferred certification program by individuals and organizations around the world.



Both CISA and CISM certifications have received the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) accreditation.



*This could be you!*



CISM (Certified Information Security Manager) is ISACA's groundbreaking credential earned by over 5,200 professionals in its first two years. It is for the individual who must maintain a view of the "big picture" by managing, designing, overseeing and assessing an enterprise's information security. program is developed specifically for experienced information security managers and those who have information security management responsibilities. The certification is for the individual who manages, designs, oversees and/or assesses an enterprise's information security (IS). Individuals earning the CISM certification become part of an elite peer network, attaining a one-of-a-kind credential.

### Take some time ....

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