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Felicitation of CISA & CISM exam toppers and presentation on Profession of Management for IT professionals

ISACA Muscat Chapter recently held an open session at the College of Banking & Financial Studies at Bausher Heights. H.E. Ahmed Sulaiman Saleh Al Maimani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry for Administrative & Financial Affairs and Regions Affairs presided as the Chief Guest.



He distributed awards and certificates to the top scorers and other successful candidates at the Dec 2005 exams of Certified Information and Systems Auditors (CISA) and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) examination from Muscat Chapter.

Speaking on the occasion, HE Ahmed Maimani outlined the growing importance and ubiquitousness of information systems in all areas of business and government. He stressed the need to pursue professional qualifications which give the candidates a better chance in today's

competitive job market.

Mr. Vivek Albuquerque, CEO of Louis Allen International, India operations, captivated the audience with his presentation on "The profession of Management for IT professionals". Vivek, kept the audience involved through out the presentation. A professional career start with acquiring



technical skills and as the job demands increase, they acquire more of these skills. However, to rise up the corporate ladder more management skills are required than technical skills.

The nine dot box example literally and effectively highlighted the need to think "out of the box". The solution, when explained was deceptively simple. The audience appreciated the conscious effort that is required to think big and grow into Managers and CEOs.

Chapter Website update

In the March Newsletter you read that the first step was taken to get the website revamped. Hopefully in a few weeks time the site would be ready. What you can expect to see is a site that is aesthetically designed, partly dynamic and partly static. The first impression would be of elegance. The home page

would have something new every time. The displayed text would make the visitor to stay on and explore the site.

Members are the target audience and the design is made on this basis. However, there would be many visitors who are not members. We hope that the website would speed

up the transition of visitors to be members faster.

They would have a better understanding of the benefit of ISACA membership, CISA and CISM courses and appreciate the tremendous potential to net work with professionals in the Audit and IT fields.

Muscat chapter's website's

Chapter Website update

(Continued from page 1)

feedback corner would also be a listening post remaining functional 24 hours a day. The website showcases the chapter and its activities.

While this part of the world sleeps, the website would be the Chapter's sole representative in pro-

viding information of the chapter and its activities to the headquarters and visitors from the other hemisphere.

In the next couple of days we would have a launch. However, what you see then would not be what you will surely see by the end of the year.

The website will continually evolve by the end of the year into one of the best maintained sites of ISACA.

In course of time, we should be having a bilingual site – a fitting tribute to the language that spans the Arab world.



Calling all Students.. This is for you..

An Invitation to Full-time Students to Join ISACA @ US \$25.00 Annually + local chapter fee.



Please access the Student Membership Application (PDF, 60K) and the Student Brochure (PDF, 103K) from www.isaca.org. Contact the membership Director for details

CISA Mock examination held

The CISA Mock exam was held on Friday, May 12, 2006 at the College of Banking and Financial Studies.

Out of 35 students who registered for the test, 17 were present. The test conducted in a simulated envi-



ronment began at 8 AM and concluded at 12 noon.

Gokul Krishnan, the CISA Coordinator took great pains in compiling the set of 200 questions.

ISACA Chapter officer – from inside & from outside

You walk into the room and everyone recognizes you. Many come forward and talk to you. New persons come forward and introduce themselves....

Now who would not like to be in that position?

The good news is that you don't need to be a celebrity to experience this. A Chapter officer in ISACA Muscat Chapter gets you all this and much more.

You have seen it from outside and want to know more of the inside – what happens behind the scenes, what happens in those Board meetings, what goes on to make these programs happen, what makes the programs tick, who gets to

do what – But you never felt like asking these questions.

Through this series of articles on Chapter leaders let me share some happenings at our Chapter Board.

What drives us? Why do we do all this work for others? What inspires us?

How do we feel at the end of the day? – Please look forward to answers on these and more.

We would like to make it fun filled and simulative as well as get new ideas from readers.

Every newsletter will carry a prize question. The names of those getting closest to the correct / best

answers will be published in the newsletter.

The prize question –

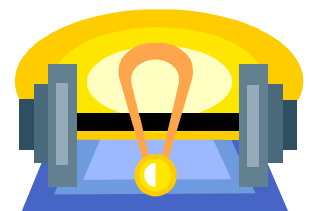
•How many Board meetings did Muscat Chapter have in 2005?

•To win a double prize please also write total duration in hours.

Please send your answers by June 7, 2006 to subramaniamcisa@yahoo.com
Your comments are most welcome

It is understood that the Board members are not eligible to take part in this mini quiz.

A Subramaniam



President's message

LEARN CONTINUALLY AND DELIVER RESULTS

On 25 April 2006, at the educational seminar "MANAGING IS" a very interesting question was posed to the audience by the presenter, Mr. Vivek Albuquerque, Management Consultant and CEO of Louis Allen International, India.

"Why IT, IS and Audit professionals generally do not rise to the level of CEO in an organization, whereas Marketing, Sales, Finance and Operation professionals land up with the CEO job?"

The answer that emerged was quite startling – The common perception is that Marketing, Sales, Finance and Operations DELIVER RESULTS, contributing to the bottom

line of the company.

There is also a perception that IT, IS and Audit professionals do not directly contribute to the bottom line and therefore remain support functions.

If that perception should change, then there is a need to demonstrate that IT, IS and AUDIT professionals CAN DELIVER.

In this information age, intangible information assets are more valuable than conventional tangible assets.

We as IT, IS and Audit professionals are sitting on a bed of information on which the future course of the company depend.

We need to wake up and realize our worth. We need to wake up and

acknowledge our responsibilities. We need to wake up and show that we too CAN DELIVER RESULTS.

There is an important underlying factor that drives RESULTS. It is CONTINUAL LEARNING. The moment we STOP LEARNING, we STOP LIVING. We are as good as BRAIN DEAD. These are hard facts, which are not easy to digest. It is also evident that the majority aim to lead an EASY life not an EXCITING life.

ISACA Muscat Chapter would like to add excitement to the lives of our members.

We would like to provide an avenue to LEARN, LIVE and LET GO (Deliver Re-



sults). Our educational programs are intended to inspire and set the mind thinking.

Let us sharpen ourselves and develop the habit of learning continually, living excitingly and delivering results meaningfully.

That way we upgrade ourselves and build a vibrant society where we shape ourselves to be CEOs - continually learning and delivering results.

ANTONY ISAAC

Miscellany

After the Purge

April is the month when ISACA headquarters purges its membership list. The Membership file received after the purge shows 171 members—down from 248. Those members who have not paid their membership fees are requested to pay at the earliest.

Update your address

The new Muscat Chapter's website depends heavily on the membership file received from

the ISACA Head quarters.

This file contains all information of the members, their contact telephone numbers, email ids etc. The local chapter's officers would use this details to contact members.

Members are therefore informed that they update this information directly into the ISACA Head quarter's site.

Thus changes made to the profile there would eventually be updated in the local chapter's data-

base.

The local chapter's database would be synchronized frequently. Therefore, to remain in contact, please update your profile.

Fraudulent website surfaces

ISA CA announced that a fraudulent website "www.cisaca.org" claimed to be authorized by ISACA to register candidates for the June 2006 CISA exam and sell ISACA study materials. The announcement cate-

gorically states that the website or its owner **CISA Chinese Alliance** are not affiliated in any way with ISACA.

The only legitimate online exam registration and study aid purchase website is www.isaca.org



Book store update

Check out the latest important deliverables from ISACA and the IT Governance Institute® (ITGI™) at

www.isaca.org/itgibooks.

The most recent include:

- COBIT® 4.0
- Val IT™ Series:
 - Enterprise Value: Governance of IT Investments, The Val IT Framework
 - Enterprise Value: Governance of IT Investments, The Business Case
 - Enterprise Value: Governance of IT Investments, The ING Case Study
- Security, Audit and Control Features SAP R/3,

2nd Edition

•Information Security Governance: Guidance for Boards of Directors and Executive Management, 2nd Edition

•IT Global Status Report 2006

•Managing Risk in a Wireless Environment: Security, Audit and Control Features

•Linux: Security, Audit and Control Features

•Cybercrime; Incident Response and Digital Forensics

•IT Governance Domain Practices and Competencies series:

-Information Risks:

Whose Business Are They?

-Optimising Value Creation From IT Investments

-Measuring and Demonstrating the Value of IT

-Governance of Outsourcing

-IT Alignment: Who Is in Charge?

Visit www.isaca.org/bookstore and take advantage of secure online ordering, or see the Information Systems Control Journal Bookstore insert for additional information. Contact the Bookstore at bookstore@isaca.org or +1.847.253.1545, ext. 401



Member price \$ 75/-
Non-member \$ 190/-



June 2006 Admission Tickets

Members are reminded that the admission tickets will arrive approximately two to three weeks prior to the 10 June exam. First to receive would be a physical admission ticket from the testing agency which would then be followed up by an e-ticket from ISACA. Tickets will indicate the date, registration time and location of the exam, as well as a schedule of events for that day and a list of materials candidates must bring with them to take the exam. If candidates have not received their ticket by 1 June, please contact the certification department at certification@isaca.org.

December 2006 Exam Registration and Bulletin of Information

Registration for the 9 December 2006 exams will open in July. More details will be provided as they become available. The English versions of the Certified Information Systems Auditor™ (CISA®) and Certified Information Security Manager® (CISM®) bulletins of information for the December exam will be mailed this month.

Research update

IT Control Objectives for Sarbanes-Oxley, 2nd Edition

ITGI, ISACA and the contributors to *IT Control Objectives for Sarbanes-Oxley, 2nd Edition*, have designed this publication primarily as a reference for executive management and IT control professionals, including IT management and assurance professionals, when evaluating an organization's IT controls required by the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. An exposure draft of the second edition is available for review and comment at www.isaca.org.

COBIT® Mapping Overview of International IT Guidance, 2nd Edition

This publication is being updated with references to

COBIT 4.0, which was published in December 2005. It provides a good overview of *Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT®)* and ISO/IEC 17799:2000 and is a profound source of information for all stakeholders responsible for, and interested in, IT governance, information security management and their respective controls.

As COBIT is an internationally recognized framework for control of IT governance and ISO 17799 is equally recognized and established in the field of information security management, these two guidance publications are complementary. COBIT, by its nature, is broader, and ISO/IEC 17799 tends to be deeper in the area of secu-

rity. For this detailed mapping, ISO/IEC 17799 has been split into small pieces of information (information requirements). Almost 1,000 information requirements have been mapped to the hundreds of detailed COBIT control objectives. The detailed mapping document describes how the two standards are interrelated and how all detailed requirements of ISO/IEC 17799:2000 can be integrated with COBIT.

This publication will be available as a complimentary download from www.itgi.org and www.isaca.org/downloads in late May.

A mapping of ISO 17799:2005 with COBIT 4.0 is in development and will be available in late 2006.



K Net and You

K-NET, is professional knowledge repository. It contains a wealth of peer reviewed information covering a broad range of professional IS control, security, assurance and IT governance topics.

Having hundreds of references, this is just the beginning. In order to continuously identify new references, participation of members is vital to the success of the K-NET project.

Members can become

involved with K-NET by suggesting articles and links for review and by reviewing information submitted for inclusion. Site suggestions should be sent by e-mail (including the exact URL) to knet@isaca.org. CPE credits may be obtained by serving as a peer reviewer. Members interested in serving as a peer reviewer should complete a K-NET Volunteer Interest form.

Available Resources:

"K-NET: A global knowledge network for IT Governance, Control and Assurance", by Urs Fisher, CPT (Switzerland), CISA, CIA, Rentananstalt/ Swisslife An article about the purpose and importance of K-NET. It addresses what types of information are available, whom the target audience is, what the K-NET Board is, and how to volunteer. This article can be downloaded from the International website



30 July-2 August 2006

Adelaide, South Australia

The 34th Annual International Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Membership will include the following streams: IT Governance, IT Audit Management, IT Security Management and IT Risk Management. Pre- and post conference workshop topics will include implementing COBIT, intrusion detection and incident response, Linux, information security governance, web-enabled applications security, and Cybercrime. For more information and to register, please visit www.isaca.org/

Next CPE Meeting: "Audit of Operating Systems Security"

The third CPE meeting will be on Audit of Operating Systems Security on Wednesday, May 31, 2006. This will be presented by Mr. Nilesh V. Leela, B.Tech (Electronics), CISA, CIA, CISSP, ISSMP, CFE. Mr. Nilesh is a Senior IT Auditor at the Central Bank of Oman.

The presentation will primarily focus the following:

- What is Security?
- How to Implement Security?
- What is OS?
- How to implement Security in OS?
- WinNT Security Features Overview
- WinNT Attacks and Defense
- Auditing WinNT security.
- WinNT Audit Program

Sample

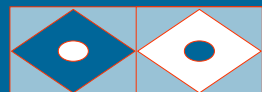
Normally, ISACA Muscat Chapter's program are held at the CBFS. However, please note that there is a change in venue as CBFS is not available as examinations are held now.

Please await announcement as all members would be informed by email. You may contact any of the Chapter members in this regard.

What would you like to read in the Newsletter? Do you have some suggestions? Would you like to send a short article— anything which you feel members would be interested in..

Would you like to share your experience in preparing for the CISA, CISM exam... You need not be a topper to give ideas... If you have answered "Yes" to any of these questions...then share with others...

please send the material or suggestions to itticheria@gmail.com or call 9938 9583



Members benefit for the month

The audit programs and internal control questionnaires (ICQs) are guidance tools to help members determine best practices when performing their job functions. These materials were either developed by ISACA or ITGI or contributed by fellow members, and are provided free of charge at www.isaca.org/icq

Visit us at www.isacamuscat.org
or
www.isaca.org

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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 50,000 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 248* 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.

*refer page 3

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.

The 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.