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## Educational Seminar—" Auditing E-Banking"

The educational seminar on "Auditing E-Banking" was conducted at the premises of The College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) premises in Bausher. Mr. Nishith Seth, Director, Seth Services, India gave a presentation on the subject which was attended by a sizeable audience from ISACA, professionals from the banking industry and State Audit Institution.



Delving into KYC - Know Your Customer which is buzzword in banking circles in context of anti money laundering, Seth asked what is KYC?. Is it the customer's personal profile, or income and asset sources or pattern of transactions - when, where, how much?

He stated that banking institutions will have to take a mix of these and implement appropriately. Continuous control monitoring is the current trend in the world he said. By using technology, it is possible to set triggers in the system and link to the mobile phone to monitor suspicious transactions even as they take place. It is important for

banks to analyze and incorporate suitable controls within their systems.

Seth highlighted the need to consider legal issues of electronic banking and importance of collecting proper evidence for audit. Many countries have enacted legislation on electronic transactions.

Seth said that electronic transactions are often conducted across multiple countries and by following the model law given by UN, it becomes easier to avoid complications from differing interpretations which may arise if each country has a different framework.

Quoting from many live examples, Seth brought out the various aspects which need to be borne when conducting audit of E-banking such as social engineering skills, data analysis etc.

Mr. Abdulaziz Mohd. Al-Balushi, Deputy CEO, National Bank of Oman inaugurated the program as the Chief Guest and underscored the high reliance placed on IT systems in today's banking environment and hence the need for strong auditing.

Dr. Ashraf Nabhan Abdullah Al Nabhani, Dean of College of Banking & Financial Studies (CBFS) was the Guest of Honor and spoke on educational programs run at the College and welcomed participants to make use of the opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge.



## ISACA Chapter officer - from inside & from outside

As we near the end of the year, it is time for elections. It is time for those of you who would like to contribute to make a difference to come forward and nominate yourself to the ISACA Muscat board. Fresh blood and ideas are welcome to continue the good work and enhance the returns to Chapter membership.

You may be interested to know what you are nominating yourself for. Most of you have attended our previous programs and have a fair idea of what is done by the board members.

For your ready reference, here are some of the typical tasks. Some tasks are typically handled by those in specific positions while others are shared amongst all. They are fairly simple tasks – what we need is a commitment to participate and do your best.

In order not to cut into your official timings, most of our activities are organized outside office hours.

We have an induction & handing over process and also those who handled the activities earlier are generally available to make it easy for you to handle these tasks.

- Attend and participate in Board meetings – typically we have 7 to 8 meetings a year – meetings are generally for 1.5 hours

- Share program organizing responsibilities – coordination with speaker, preparing responsibility matrix, follow up with other responsible directors, venue arrangements, caterer, follow up with members for attendance
- Program day responsibilities – bouquets, certificates, attendance list preparation etc.
- Maintain Chapter website
- Publish monthly newsletters.
- CISA & CISM coordinators organize the review classes – & activities are similar to organizing programs.
- Meet prospective sponsors, Chief Guests and other officials to promote Chapter activities.
- Maintain Chapter accounts



Answer to last month's quiz – members of the Board from inception of the Chapter—  
A Subramaniam, Nabil Raisi, Kishor Rabi  
(except for gap of 1 year)

If you like to read something else or suggest something – please send your feedback to [subramaniamcisa@yahoo.com](mailto:subramaniamcisa@yahoo.com)



Members are advised that CISA and CISM application processing can take eight weeks from receipt of complete application.

Additionally, there are hundreds of exam passers from the 2001-2005 exams who have not submitted their applications.

Please submit your applications if you meet all of the requirements.

**Those who passed the exam in 2001 must submit their application no later than 31 December 2006 or their score will be invalidated.**

Further application details are available at

[www.isaca.org/cisaapp](http://www.isaca.org/cisaapp) or  
[www.isaca.org/cismapp](http://www.isaca.org/cismapp) ■



**Await the 8th CPE Meeting**  
**On Sunday, November 26, 2006 at 19.00 hrs**  
**At the College of Banking & Financial Studies, Bausher Heights**

### CRYSTAL REPORTS

**(Computer Assisted Audit Tool (CAAT) in an Oracle Financials (ERP) Environment**

**Mr. A. Subramaniam, FCA, CISA, CIA,**  
Finance and IT Auditor  
Oman Refinery Company LLC, Muscat

*The presentation will primarily focus on:*

Demo of Crystal Reports, Advantages of Crystal Reports, Why Crystal when Oracle (ERP) Apps has powerful reporting tools, Tips for effective & efficient auditing, Limitations / Concerns, ERP standards and Way forward

## President's Message

### COMMON MINDS

The power of a focused mind is equivalent to a thousand nuclear explosions! And this grand mind is within us. What more can happen when two focused minds fuse! And in ISACA Muscat Chapter we are 225 members with one common objective – TO BE AWARE OF IT AUDIT, IT SECURITY AND IT GOVERNANCE.

No wonder ISACA worldwide has grown in leaps and bounds. The understanding of common objectives has silenced the diversity of mindsets. We have a lesson to learn. Let it be any environment - workplace, college, home, social fraternity or professional association – common minds outshine divergent minds.

In our ISACA community, these qualities have been very aptly manifested. Our educational sessions, attendance at such seminars and acceptance by our Omani society are indicators of our singular purpose. However, we are yet to see a full house or a near full house at our monthly meetings. Although, by comparative standards, attendance of approximately 40% to 50% of our total membership is encouraging, the question still remains where is the remaining membership?

At the recently held Asia Pacific Leadership conference in Bangalore, Muscat Chapter activities featured as Point for Reference and Role Model for other emerging Chapters. OMAN has caught the eye of ISACA International. Consequently, I am proud to say that Muscat has been chosen as the venue for ASIA PACIFIC CACS (Computer Audit, Control and Security) Conference in January 2008.



An event of this magnitude is an opportunity for our Chapter. But, above it is an honor for our Country. In preparation for this event, we need to ensure that we gain maximum leverage out of this event. There is something in it for EVERY member - Leadership, Knowledge, Exposure, Networking and Awareness.

Our members are from different backgrounds. In spite of this diversity let us silence our differences and bring to the forefront our commonality of purpose, our COMMON MINDS.

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## Catherine Vjeh's visit

Catherine Vjeh, Manager of Meetings Administration, ISACA HQrs, arrived on November 5th for a two day visit in connection with the potential ASIA CACS conference in January 2008.

During her visit she met many local dignitaries and visited prospective venues to hold the conference. She also met the Board members

and expressed appreciation for the work done at the chapter and assured ISACA Internationals continued support.

A section of the Board members are featured in the following photo. During the meeting the Board members bid farewell to Vice President, Hamza Baqer who is moving to London.



### K-NET®

K-NET® is an Internet-based database of knowledge specifically developed to provide ISACA® members with direct access to educational opportunities, books and CDs, articles and papers, and web resources relevant to information systems governance, control, security and assurance. For K-NET, pertinent knowledge has been sought, identified and peer-reviewed by volunteers who are practicing IT professionals. The references have been organized into logical categories of interest to ISACA members and other constituents.

K-NET includes:

- \*Full access for ISACA members
- \*13 subject areas
- \*More than 180 topic areas
- \*More than 6,000 knowledge references
- \*Weekly updates
- \*Search engines
- \*Personalization features

### What is K-NET's personalized service ?

It helps members to remain current on the topic areas most important to them. Members may request and receive weekly e-mails about new references that have been added within their specified areas of interest. To activate this personalized service and register to receive updates on topics of interest, visit [www.isaca.org/KNET](http://www.isaca.org/KNET) and click on TRACK UPDATES

**E-Symposium**

The E-Symposium is offered free of charge to all ISACA members. Participants will be able to earn **3 CPE credits** for this event. The symposium is scheduled to begin at 12 Noon Eastern Time (New York, USA), 5:00 P.M. UTC/GMT. To register for this e-symposium, visit [www.isaca.e-symposium.com](http://www.isaca.e-symposium.com).



Security management encompasses the identification of an organization’s information assets and methods used to secure those assets. Management tools such as information classification, risk assessment and risk analysis are used to identify threats, classify assets and to rate system vulnerabilities so that effective control can be implemented.

The December e-Symposium will focus on providing current and relevant information on security management topics, including:

- \* Identity and Access Management: Some Thoughts from Inside the Box
- \* Keeping User Provisioning Accurate Over Time
- \* Security Architects View of Identity and Access Management
- \* Reduce Costs and Increase Business Efficiency using Identity and Access Management



*ISACA UAE Chapter is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the chapter’s formation this year.*

*The celebration is scheduled on 7th December at Park Hyatt Hotel, Creek Golf Club, Dubai and will be followed by a gala dinner and entertainment programs.*

*ISACA is also organizing a one-day Regional Conference on the same day (7th December 2006) which will be attended by delegates from the UAE and neighboring countries.*

*The theme of the Regional Conference is “Building a Secure Globe” and will feature discussions on technology and management aspects of Information Security.*

*The speakers at the Regional Conference are Mr. Avinash Kadam, Vice President, ISACA International Board and Mr. Ankit Fadia, an independent Computer Security consultant based in of Silicon Valley, U.S.A.*

*Visit ISACA UAE website for more details*

**Visit the Career Centre**

IT professionals can try ISACA’s Career Centre. The centre can be used for those seeking to hire

IT professionals as well as by IT professionals who are searching for jobs. Members can specify criteria limits in their search. The advantage is that members would be able to receive e-mail notifications as and when new jobs are posted. The Career Centre highlights the CISA and CISM designations, thus providing a special opportunity for those interested in hiring CISA or CISM holders. Even if you are not immediately searching for a job, you can

nevertheless browse through the sections and read the FAQ.

<b>Job Seekers</b>	<b>Employers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Job Seeker Home</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Search Jobs</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Post Resume</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">My Account</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Notify Me</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">FAQs/Support</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Employer Home</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Login</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Register</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Post Jobs</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Pricing</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">FAQs/Support</a></li> </ul>

Career Centre Customer Service: +1.410.584.9275  
 Job Seeker Help: <http://jobs.isaca.org/help/js>  
 Employer Help: <http://jobs.isaca.org/help/emp>

functionality. If you are not a member, then it would be useful if you visit [www.isaca.org/membership](http://www.isaca.org/membership) for membership details.

ISACA Muscat chapter also has kept provision to post local advertisements

ISACA members can include their resumes in the resume data base for employers to search. Members alone can utilize the “Notify Me”



## Programs completed ( till Nov 22, 2006)

- Jan 02, 2006 **Open Session at CBFS**
- Jan 20, 2006 **Family Sunshine day at Ras Al Hamra Club of PDO**
- Feb 08, 2006 **CISA/CISM Certification Open Session at CBFS**
- Mar 08, 2006 **“IT Audit - An Overview” at CBFS**  
By Rama K Subramaniam
- Mar 22, 2006 **“Risk Based IT Audit” at CBFS**  
By Mr. P K Ramanan
- Apr 25, 2006 **Felicitation Ceremony CISA & CISM at CBFS**  
Presentation by Mr. Vivek Albuquerque on **“Managing IS”**
- May 31, 2006 **“Overview & Auditing of Operating System Security” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Nilesh V Leela
- Jul 06, 2006 **“Continuous Monitoring” at CBFS**  
By Mr. S Ravichandran
- Aug 15, 2006 **“Overview of Audit Command Language (ACL)” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Mohamed Moosa Ibrahim
- Aug 21, 2006 **“Digital Evidence” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Rama K Subramaniam
- Sept 23, 2006 **“Project Implementation” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Dhananjay Bopardikar
- Oct 10, 2006 **“Web Application Security Assessment” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Ponkumar Venkatesan
- Nov 07, 2006 **“Auditing E-Banking” at CBFS**  
By Mr. Nishith Seth

Visit the ISACA Muscat website ([www.isacamuscat.org](http://www.isacamuscat.org)) and check the CPE hours that you have earned.

## Bookstore Update

The 2007 CISA and CISM study aids published by ISACA to prepare for the 2007 exams are now available.

### CISA Reference Material for 2007 Exams

- ([www.isaca.org/cisabooks](http://www.isaca.org/cisabooks) or [www.isaca.org/non-english-books](http://www.isaca.org/non-english-books))
- CISA Review Manual 2007
  - CISA Review Questions, Answers & Explanations Manual 2007 Supplement (100 questions)
  - CISA Practice Question Database v7 (825 questions)
  - CISA Review Questions, Answers & Explanations Manual 2006 (625 questions),
  - CISA Review Questions, Answers & Explanations Manual 2006 Supplement (100 questions),

### CISM Reference Material for 2007 Exams

- ([www.isaca.org/cismbooks](http://www.isaca.org/cismbooks) or [www.isaca.org/non-english-books](http://www.isaca.org/non-english-books))
- CISM Review Manual 2007
  - CISM Review Questions, Answers & Explanations Manual 2007 (300 questions)
  - CISM Review Questions, Answers & Explanations Manual 2007 Supplement (100 questions)
  - CISM Practice Question Database v7 (400 questions)
- Descriptions, availability dates and ordering details are also available at [www.isaca.org/bookstore](http://www.isaca.org/bookstore) and in the Information Systems Control Journal. Please contact the ISACA Bookstore at +1.847.253.1545, ext.478 or 401, or e-mail

**Important**

### Journal update

The Information Systems Control Journal is seeking articles for volume 2, 2007, to be issued in March 2007.

The copy deadline for drafts for volume 2 is 22 November 2006. The theme is Information Security.

For more information, please view the 2007 editorial calendar at [www.isaca.org/journal](http://www.isaca.org/journal) or e-mail [jblader@isaca.org](mailto:jblader@isaca.org). ■

### PINS dispatched

Certified Information Systems Auditor™(CISA®) and Certified Information Security Manager® (CISM®) pins have been mailed to chapters for those members fully certified since November 2005, along with a list of names and designations.

Muscat chapter will be holding a felicitation ceremony when the PINS would be formally distributed. Date, Time and Venue would be announced through website and email.



## Contact us

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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 225 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.

## 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.



Retaining CISA's and CISM's ensures success for any organization. Corporate governance and Accountability have stronger meaning when these efforts are powered by the presence of these qualified personnel.



If you have not joined ISACA, then join today. Visit [www.isaca.org](http://www.isaca.org) or [www.isacamuscat.org](http://www.isacamuscat.org) for details....



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.