

Inside this issue:

- **ISACA Muscat's Revamped Website soft-launch** 1
- **6th CPE meeting: "Project Implementation"** 1
- **President's message** 3
- **ISACA Chapter officers: From Inside and From Outside** 4
- **7th CPE Meeting announcement** 4
- **Programs completed** 5
- **Book store update** 5
- **About us** 6
- **CISA, CISM—Employ certified IT Professionals** 6

ISACA Muscat's Revamped Website's soft-launch

The ISACA Muscat's revamped website was soft launched on September 23, 2006 at the College of Banking and Financial Studies.

Mr. Sachin Toprani in a brief presentation took the audience through the revamped website. This preview of the website was done so that the members can start using the site ahead of the launch, which is slated to be in November 2006.

The website's unique offering – reporting of CPE hours generated lot of interest. Recording of CPE hours is an important responsibility for certified CISA's and CISM's. Now, with the website keeping a track of attendance, it puts everyone at ease. There is another feature in the CPE reporting. Members can, glance at the meetings they have missed and consequently the total CPE hours that they had forgone during the year.

While checking the CPE hours, members are requested to inform the membership director

if there are any errors in the CPE reporting.

Other features like online registration for chapter events would make it easier for the respective Chapter officers for planning.



Newsletters are available for download or subscription.

The CISA and CISM students can benefit from the separate certifications page. It contains details of the review classes and

faculty.

The Board members can view the agenda, minutes of the past meetings and explanatory statements for items on the agenda. The latter will be available as downloadable attachments.

6th CPE Meeting: "Project Implementation"

The 6th CPE Meeting" was held on Saturday, 23 September 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS), Bausher Heights. The topic was PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION and was



presented by Mr. Dhananjay Bopardikar, B.E. (Elec.), PMP, Professional Services Manager and Project Director (E-Government), Gulf Business Machines, Muscat.

Mr. Dhananjay explained that a huge

percentage of IT projects across the world that have either never been completed or have had huge overruns. While Project management is very similar to the Operations management, as both require common sense, subject matter expertise and people management skills, it is very different in some other aspects. A project is "a temporary endeavour undertaken to create a unique product, service, or result". Temporary means that every project has a definite beginning and a definite end. The end is reached when the project's objectives have been achieved, or when it becomes clear that the project objectives will not or cannot be met and the project is terminated. The temporariness and the uniqueness are the key characteristics of the project that

ISACA Muscat's Revamped Website's soft-launch (contd from page 1)

Members need to know that if they need to change their contact details, it should be done by accessing www.isaca.org and changing the member profile. Muscat chapter, periodically downloads the latest membership file from HQ. Members who do not wish their contact details to be publicly displayed have a choice.

One feature, which displays commitment for continuous improvement is the Feedback page under "Contact us". Every feedback, which the site generates, gets an auto-number. It is interesting to note that only the content field is kept mandatory. This is kept to enable any comment – whether it is a bouquet or a brickbat to come through.

Thus, those who would like to leave a feedback without disclosing their names can easily do so, and the chapter thus benefits from the same. Those who provide their contact

details would be contacted. If you have not checked the website so far, why not try checking it today.

The address is www.isacamuscat.org

Home > Contact Us

Contact us :::::

Feedback :::::

Fields Marked with * are Mandatory

Person Name

Subject

Content *

Phone

E-mail

Company Name

Contact Address :::::

ISACA Muscat Chapter
PO BOX : 397
Postal Code 115
Medinat Gaboos
Sultanate of Oman

The feedback area in the Contacts page..

6th CPE Meeting: "Project Implementations"

(Continued from page 1)

make managing projects different and challenging.

Mr. Dhananjay explained that projects need to be treated like small business initiatives. Just as with a small business, the best solution to problems is prevention. Potential problems can relate to any of the attributes such as customer expectations, inaccurate estimates, not having right mix of team, and so on.

Since prevention is best cure, reviewing (this is a better word than "auditing") projects on regular basis is one of the ways by which you can continuously monitor the health of the project. Project management reviews provide opportunities for the Project Manager and other key personnel to report project schedule and budget status, highlight project accomplishments, identify problems, escalate issues, and elicit management support.

The question and answer session that followed showed the interest that was generated from the presentation. The audience gave a standing ovation to Mr. Bopardikar.



COBIT

Online Access options

Baseline (non-members and non-subscribers): The baseline capability includes the ability to download PDFs (COBIT Executive Summary, Framework, Control Objectives and Management Guidelines) and access the discussion area. There is no charge; however, a user online account must exist or be created.

Basic Subscriber (member benefit): ISACA members have the ability to browse all of COBIT (minus the Control Practices and Quick start entries), download PDFs (COBIT Executive Summary, Framework, Control Objectives, Management Guidelines, Implementation Tool Set and Audit Guidelines), secure access to survey results, and access the discussion area. ISACA membership is required. Join now to begin enjoying this and many other member benefits!

Full Subscriber + Benchmarking: This provides full benchmarking capability in addition to the ability to browse all of COBIT; download PDFs (COBIT Executive Summary, Framework, Control Objectives, Management Guidelines, Implementation Tool Set, and Audit Guidelines); access the discussion area; and search and create MyCOBIT, a fully customized version of COBIT tailored to the subscriber's special enterprise circumstances. MyCOBIT enables you to download COBIT material in Microsoft Word and Access format for use offline (Further details). The annual subscription fee is US\$ 200 for members and US \$400 for nonmembers.

President's message

In the 21st century possession of information in the hands of others who are not owners has raised ethical issues. Take the case of a Real Estate Agent whose client Mr. X is willing to sell Property A for a sum of RO 100,000. If the Agent concludes a deal he will be entitled to a commission of 1.5% or RO 1,500. The fact is that the Agent knows that Mr. Y is willing to buy Property A for RO 110,000. What would be the most profitable deal for the Real Estate Agent?

Based on the information available in his possession, the Real Estate Agent would opt to buy the property for himself net of commission at RO 98,500; hold the property for a reasonable time; and sell the same to Mr. Y for RO 110,000; thereby making a clean profit of RO 11,500.

Consider, what would have been the Agent's profit, if he had acted in his client's interest and concluded the deal between Mr. X and Mr. Y for a sum of RO 110,000? The Agent would have earned a commission of RO 1,650 (1.5% of RO 110,000) as against a profit of RO 11,500.

A survey of real estate deals in Canada in recent times came up with an interesting information – that the holding period of properties owned by Real Estate Agents was usually less than 3 months whereas the holding period of properties owned by individuals other than Real Estate Agents was in excess of 3 years.

The question - Was the act of the Real Estate Agent ethical? A true professional would cry FOUL and say "NOT ETHICAL". A true businessman would gloat SMART and say VERY NATURAL". Given two perceptions for the same transaction, where do we align

ourselves as custodians of information assets?

The incentive to PLAY FOUL is great. But, we have seen the result of such acts of breach of trust in all times - from the role of Brutus in the times of Julius Caesar to the role of Fastow in the times of Enron, more recently. The temptation to gain quick PROFIT is tremendous! It is an emotional battle but how do we gear ourselves to fight that battle? A simple advice given by our wise sages has stood the test of time – BE EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED but never EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED.

We hold information in a fiduciary capacity and work on it for achieving desired results of high standard (that is emotional involvement); but, as professionals, we cannot use such information for our personal advantage or benefit (that is emotional attachment).

In our ISACA community, people associated with information technology, information systems, security management and IT governance use information (many a times critical and sensitive) in a fiduciary capacity. When we work on such information let us remember the adage our wise sages– BE EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED but never EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED. Values advocated by ISACA in its code of ethics and professional standards provide employers and clients a stamp of guarantee on our credibility, integrity and professional standing. –

ANTONY ISAAC



What is 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 then 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

K-NET's personalized service enables members to remain current on the topic areas most important to them.

ISACA 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 and click on TRACK UPDATES on any interior page.

Be a KNET Volunteer

ISACA members are encouraged to add to the value of K-NET by identifying additional web sites for inclusion. Such member participation is vital to maintaining the quality and variety of coverage and the value derived by K-NET users. To suggest a site for inclusion on K-NET, please e-mail the exact URL of the web site(s) to knet@isaca.org. ISACA members are also encouraged to participate as reviewers of web sites recommended by oth-

ers. By doing so, you can make a contribution to your profession and earn up to 10 continuing professional education hours that are recognized by both the Certified Information Systems Auditor™ (CISA®) and Certified Information Security Manager®

(CISM®) programs. For information on becoming a K-NET volunteer, visit www.isaca.org/knet

ISACA Chapter officer - From Inside and From Outside

This month let us examine some factors which motivate persons to volunteer to work at the ISACA Muscat Chapter's Board.

Top on the list is the honour of working for a professional body.

The other factors are:-

- Love for the profession,
- Feeling to "give back" to the profession which has given so much benefits in ones professional life,
- Learn more about ISACA,
- Develop good friends & associates in wide circle outside own office circle
- Interest to help in conducting affairs of the voluntary organization,
- Develop interest to help others in achieving certification,
- Enhance knowledge and experience in handling different scheme of things (other than the usual job at office),
- Prestigious position,
- Opportunity to develop leadership & presentation skills,
- Networking opportunities (members come from so many diverse fields...)

Of course at ISACA Muscat, feeling of camaraderie encourages persons to continue in the Board

If you feel these emotions running within you, please logon and nominate yourself to serve in ISACA Muscat Board. You need not wait till the next election. You can easily share some of the responsibilities shouldered by existing Board members.

You can do this by accessing the contact us page on the website and send a feedback. Please don't forget to mention your name, telephone number and email id.

This month Quiz – Can you name those in current ISACA Muscat Board who have been there since inception in 2000.

Please send your reply before 31 October 2006 to newsletter@isacamuscat.org or Subramaniamcisa@yahoo.com.

Answer to last month's quiz – there are total 52 tasks – 20 before the event + 32 on the day of event & follow up tasks. These are listed in the program responsibility matrix

If you like to read something else or have any suggestions - please send your feedback to subramaniamcisa@yahoo.com



Webcasts

Webcasts are just one method ISACA uses to inform and educate members, and is the most convenient mechanism for reaching our global constituents. The webcasts are presented by industry leaders, and offer a global perspective to the issues and challenges facing business today. While not downloadable, they represent an important online resource.

Check Journal Online..

Journal Online is the online-counterpart to the Information Systems Control Journal®. Articles included in Journal Online undergo the same rigorous peer-review process as articles found in the print version of the Journal. Journal Online articles are available exclusively to ISACA members for one year.

Journal Online is updated bimonthly on the first business day of the month in which no print Journal is released (February, April, June, August, October and December).

Members receive an email announcing the articles' availability once they are posted.

Attend the 7th CPE Meeting
On Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 19:00 hrs
At the College of Banking & Financial Studies, Bausher Heights

The topic

Web Application Security Assessment

Presented by

Mr. Ponkumar Venkatesh M
Manager, Advanced Security Lab, Ernst & Young Pvt. Ltd., India

The presentation would cover :-
 Importance of Web Application Security, Classes of Security flaws, Audit and Assessment approach adopted, Tools of Trade, Case study discussing a conducted assessment and Pointers for further research / learning

Programs completed

Jan 20, 2006	Family Sunshine day at Ras Al Hamra Club of PDO
Feb 01, 2006	AGM and Presentation on CISA/CISM programs At CBFS
Mar 08, 2006	1st CPE Meeting: "IT Audit Overview" At CBFS by Mr. Rama K Subramaniam
Mar 26, 2006	"CISM Certification for Omanis" an Open session At CBFS
Mar 22, 2006	2nd CPE Meeting: "Developing Risk Based IT Audit program- Case study" At CBFS by Mr. P K Ramanan
Apr 25, 2006	Felicitation Ceremony CISA & CISM At CBFS and "The Profession of Management for IT professionals" By Mr. Vivek Albuquerque
May 31, 2006	3rd CPE Meeting: "Overview & Auditing of Operating System Security" At CBFS by Mr. Nilesh V Leela
Jul 6, 2006	4th CPE Meeting: "Continuous Monitoring" At CBFS by Mr. S Ravichandran
Aug 02, 2006	Open session for CISA / CISM aspirants At CBFS
Aug 15, 2006	5th CPE Meeting: "Overview of Audit Command Language (ACL)" At CBFS by Mr. Mohamed Moosa Ibrahim
Aug 21, 2006	Educational Program on "Digital Attendance" At CBFS by Mr. Rama K Subramaniam
Sept 23, 2006	6th CPE Meeting: "Project Implementations" At CBFS by Mr. Dhananjay Bopardikar

Bookstore Update

The ISACA Bookstore is offering selected books for sale at special reduced prices. Sale prices are effective while quantities are available.

A few of the books offered in the ISACA Bookstore inventory reduction sale are:

- e-Commerce Security series—Six-volume set
- A Technical Guide to IPSec VPN
- Secure Messaging with PGP and S/MIME
- Do It Smart: Seven Rules for Superior Information Technology Performance
- e-Business and ERP: Rapid Implementation and Project Planning
- Making I/T Work: An Executive Guide to

Implementing Information Technology Systems

- Knowledge Management: Learning from Knowledge Engineering
- Security Provisioning: Managing Access in Extended Enterprises
- Windows NT Security: Step-by Step, 3rd Edition

Complete descriptions of these books, with pricing, are available on the ISACA web site at www.isaca.org/salebooks. For more information or to place an order, please contact the Bookstore at bookstore@isaca.org or +1.847.253.1545, ext. 401 or 478.



Important

Applications for Certification

Since the release of the June exam results, a large number of applications have been received at International Headquarters.

Exam passers are reminded that they are not certified until they have submitted their application and received approval from the board.

The CISA/CISM designation may not be used until that approval has been received.

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

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

If you do not apply within five years of the exam date, then your score is invalidated.

Further application details are available at www.isaca.org/cisaapp or www.isaca.org/cismapp.



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... If you have answered "Yes" to any of these questions...then share with others.. please send the material or suggestions to newsletter@isacamuscat.org or call 9938 9583—Itticheria Joshua

Contact us

P.O Box No: 397,
Medinat Sultan Qaboos, PC -115,
Sultanate of Oman,
E-mail: isaca_muscat@yahoo.com

Antony Isaac, President, 9921 3008
Hamza Baqer Al Lawati, Vice President, 9922 4410
Kishor Rabi, Secretary, 9923 8067
Nachiappan T, Treasurer, 9947 7891
Gokul Krishnan, CISA Coordinator, 9933 9637
S Ramamoorthy, CISM Coordinator, 2481 7888 x 328
Badri N Subudhi, Membership, 9981 2050
Biswajit Majumdar, Program Chairperson, 9946 0285
Itticheria Joshua, Newsletter Editor & Website Management, 9938 9583
C.Gopakumar, Research Liaison, 9932 0595
A.Subramaniam, 9931 8597
Ashwini Sawrikar, 9220 1720
Dileep Somani, 9931 6512
Balasubramaniam D, 9523 4135
Hitendra Dutia, 9906 4960
Mohamed Moosa Ibrahim, 9933 1363
Muralidar Venkateshan, 9942 5427
Nabil Abdullah Al Raisi, 9933 2985
Sachin Ravindra Toprani, 9288 3116
Sandeep Menon, 9288 9027
I.M Nayaz, Past President, 9942 9679

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 250 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 through these qualified personnel.



If you have not joined ISACA, then join today. Visit www.isaca.org or 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.