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Seminar on “Information Security –Return on Investment”

ISACA Muscat held an educational seminar on “Information Security- Return on Investment” by Mr. Ganapathi Subramaniam, a contributing editor to Information Systems Control Journal, on February 24, 2007 at the College of Banking & Financial Studies, Bausher.



The presentation highlighted the much debated topic of how to measure a Return on Security Investment within an organization.

Mr. Ganapathi Subramaniam shared his experience and brought in different scenarios and initiatives about this topic from various industries.

With more and more organizations investing in information security, this topic brought a large audience participation amongst both the audit and IT community.

The presentation highlighted the importance of information security, the challenges in implementing a security program within an organization, and the debate on whether there is a clear-cut formula to realize and calculate the return on information security investment.

Following the technical presentation an overview of the CISA refresher classes was given by Mr. Gokul Krishnan, CISA Coordinator. Mr. Abraham Kuruvilla, CISM Coordinator provided information on the CISM certification and the refresher classes conducted by the chapter.



IT Security Audit—Emerging trends transcend Technology

ISACA Muscat Chapter held an educational seminar on March 21, 2007 at the College of Banking & Financial Studies, Bausher. Dr. Rama K Subramaniam delivered a presentation on "IT Security Audit - security transcending technology – is it good for us".

Breaking from the traditional



path of presentations providing information, Dr Rama took the members on a journey of deep introspection. Not providing direct answers, he raised many questions and the searching that followed lead the audience on the path to finding solutions.

Most of the security assessments can be delivered by automated tools which are easily available in the market. What then is the role played by the IT security auditor?

The auditor has to increasingly look beyond his traditional role if he has to see himself as adding value. This then is the challenge. How to re-define the role so that stake-

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IT Security Audit—Emerging trends transcend Technology (Contd.)

(Continued from page 1)

holders perceive value in IT security audit function?

Globally, organizations are down-sizing. Every role is being examined with a microscope to see whether it is relevant and whether it adds value. At the same time there is an increased demand for auditors to play a greater role.

Security transcending technology does not mean that security replaces technology. The need for technology is very much there and all the more so with increasing complexity. What the auditor should not do is to be restricted to what is reported from security tools. He should look for new ways by which he demonstrates value. Due to continuous upgrade and change in technology, auditors need to continuously upgrade their skills.

Cyber crimes are still treated different from normal crimes. While normal crimes are immediately reported and non-reporting is even considered an offence, cyber crimes are less

publicized. The disadvantage is that societal



pressure on the need for cyber security is not felt as the Board and Corporate governing bodies do not feel public pressure. New cyber security laws have also not made it mandatory to report such crimes.

More than 30 minutes of discussion followed with most attendees raising questions and getting the questions answered. The standing ovation from the audience at the end was a fitting finale to a great educational evening. The presentation also touched on pointers for demonstration of value from security audit function.

March 21, 2007



Feb 24, 2007



Certification Updates

CISA and CISM Exam Highlights

The results of the December 2006 exams were released by one-time e-mail notification, posted to the candidate's profile on the ISACA web site, and sent by post in early February 2007.

To ensure the confidentiality of scores, exam results will not be reported by telephone or fax.

June 2007 exam registrations

To speed up certification processing time, exam passers are encouraged to gather all application documents and send them to International Headquarters together in one package.

Registration for the June 2007 Certified Information Systems Auditor™ (CISA®) and Certified Information Security Manager® (CISM®) exams continues.

The final registration deadline is 11 April 2007. To view additional exam details, please refer candidates to the CISA or CISM Bulletin of Information for the June 2007 exams, which are available at www.isaca.org/cisaboi and www.isaca.org/cismboi.

CISA and CISM Scoring change

The CISA and CISM certification boards recently approved changing the way exams are scored. To alleviate confusion found with the previous scoring method and to provide greater clarity.

ISACA will use a 200-800 point scale with a passing point of 450 beginning with the June 2007 exams.

Using a 200-800 scale will increase the range of scores and eliminate the perception that the score is a percentage.

This scoring method is used by several testing organizations, including the well re-

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President's message

We have started the year on a positive note. As we complete the first quarter we are happy to note that we have held four educational programs in addition to a joint educational event with CBFS and the felicitation program.

This was possible due to the enthusiastic activities of the program group led by Gopakumar, Sandeep Menon and Ciby Mathew. On behalf of the members, I congratulate them and look forward to sustain the momentum.

On organizational front, we held meetings with senior CBFS officials to re-affirm and strengthen our ties besides we have also started the CISA & CISM refresher classes which are now in full swing.

The educational program contents were varied, and covered Audit, IT & Governance. I encourage each one of you to attend and participate in all our educational programs.

The speakers bring up a variety of subjects and new perspectives. Programs are not meant to teach and please do not feel put off that the topic is one you are very familiar with. Rather it is a time to put your thinking caps on and consider the issues presented.

We gain most when we take these opportunities to re-visit our existing thoughts, challenge existing notions, re-affirm our

beliefs, and consider new dimensions to problems we grapple with in our daily work routine.

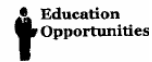
The last program on IT Security audit was one in which Dr Rama Subramaniam led us to think deeply on something that is part of our daily routine.

The speakers come from far and wide on our invitation. The best way to show our courtesy and gratitude is by turning up in large numbers and participate actively. What brings out extra enthusiasm is packed halls. Empty chairs may dampen their spirits.

In case you have any issues with program content, timings etc, please feel free to give us a feedback and we will try our best to improve.

Your Chapter Board is planning more programs to make this an event packed year. I look forward to your enthusiastic participation.

Regards
A Subramaniam



Visit



Impressive membership growth!

Chapters with impressive membership growth in 2006

- Tokyo, Japan
Outstanding numeric growth—an increase of 325 members, from 1,324 to 1,649.
- Sao Paulo, Brazil
Outstanding percentage growth—an increase of 83%, from 178 to 322 members

CISA / CISM certification

Members who have not renewed their membership or reported CPE hours are requested to do so soon to avoid revocation. Second invoices have been mailed. The CPE policy is available at www.isaca.org/cisacepolicy or www.isaca.org/cismcepolicy. The renewal process can be completed online by logging into www.isaca.org and going to "My Renewals"

Annual Purge

Annual Purge of members will take place on 1, April 2007. After this date, non renewed members will no longer have member access to the ISACA website and will not receive any further issues of the Information Systems Control Journal. Until the purge occurs, members can renew online at www.isaca.org

Now the 2006—Best Newsletter World wide award for ISACA Muscat

Muscat Chapter's News Letter has earned the **2006 Best Newsletter Award Worldwide in the Medium Chapter Category.**



Summer Cole, the Membership Coordinator wrote *"You should be very proud of the hard work your chapter has put forth in order to achieve this award."*

The award will be formally presented to your chapter at the 2007 Asia Leadership Conference, held just prior to the ISACA International Conference, scheduled to take place in Singapore on 21-22 July 2007.

Please accept our congratulations on a job very well done by your chapter board and to those who specifically contributed to the creativity and management of your newsletter. All of you have every reason be very proud of this achievement"

Every year, ISACA selects the Chapter with the best Newsletter from the Small, Me-

dium, Large and Very Large chapter categories.

The membership board evaluates the entry in the above four groups based on the timeliness of information, information on chapter activities and members, technical articles, use of materials from ISACA International, overall image, lay out and design, use of technology etc.

Mr. M.K. Janaki Raman, General Manager, Bahwan IT LLC in a message, wrote

"This is great news and I truly share the joy the Chapter enjoys. I am sure that this is achieved with lot of hard work and it is satisfying to note that Muscat Chapter stands tall among the many others in the world."

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the senior team members who made this possible. With such an achievement the expectations are growing too".

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 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.

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 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.