

President's Message

Preparedness in the Face of Uncertainty

It has only been two months since the new decade began but the recent events happening has demonstrated how the world today is characterised by unpredictability that could wield great and far-reaching impact on our lives.

As I mentioned last month, herein lies the potential for internal audit to reinforce its role as a business partner to management. While it is management's responsibility to implement a framework and processes for business continuity, internal audit is a prime subject matter expert. Regardless that no one can know with precise certainty what will happen tomorrow, preparedness as we continue with business-as-usual activities is something we, especially as internal auditors, can never have enough of. This differentiates between the ability to respond swiftly with mitigating actions and succumbing to disruption when it happens.

The institute has had to adjust as well and on grounds of prudence postponed the Banking Sector Internal Audit Conference. Do keep a lookout for further announcements on the new date.

We will however proceed with our annual [Public Sector Internal Audit Conference](#) on 23 April 2020. Themed "Embracing Change, Building Digital Trust", the event will be graced by Permanent Secretary Ng Chee Khern as our Guest-of-Honour and features a line-up of exciting topics for the public sector internal audit community. In times of crisis, trust becomes even more important, that processes in place are robust and will provide the necessary support and protection needed, particularly when opportunistic fraudsters may exploit the situation for illegitimate gains.

All other events will carry on as planned, such as the March [lunch talk](#) which you would not want to miss, as our speakers from GIC share their journey on using data analytics in audit transformation. Please be assured that we will take all necessary precautions to ensure your safety, while minimising potential inconveniences to you. Alternatively, you can also attend online courses that can supplement your learning needs during this time.

Last month, we also started the Walk-in Consultancy Services Clinic for charities that I shared in January. The inaugural session saw good communication among our volunteers, the charities and IIA Singapore, as we learn from one another through this conversation while the charities get help with their questions on internal controls/audit. We look forward to lending our support to the charities and would certainly encourage more to sign up.

In other news, you would have received an email from IIA Global on the new Certification Candidate Management System that's targeted for launch on 16 March, bringing you an enhanced user experience with single sign-on and a streamlined certification application process. You can find more information on the transition [here](#).

Meanwhile, do keep safe and stay healthy; through this we can draw a valuable lesson to constantly refresh and update our skillsets to be ready when change strikes us.

Yours sincerely
Koh Chin Beng, CIA
President
The Institute of Internal Auditors Singapore