

President's Message

Scaling New Heights in a Post-Covid-19 Era

7 April 2021 marks one year since Singapore entered the circuit breaker period. Singapore, thanks to determined efforts by the authorities and a receptive society, is slowly but steadily emerging from the depths of the pandemic: community cases are low and vaccine roll-out has picked up speed. This is clearly evident by the Ministry of Health's recent announcement that Singapore will shift from the default mode of working from home to a more flexible and hybrid working arrangement with effect from 5 April 2021.

The fight is far from over. But the crisis has shown that Singaporeans can bounce back from catastrophe and emerge stronger than before. Similarly, as internal auditors we have proved our value in response to Covid-19, showing our ability to be agile, responsive and resilient. We have seen how traditional audit methods such as on-site visits, sample-based testing and documentation reviews are giving way to remote audits and analytics-based testing. Now and beyond, internal auditors' risk lens has never been more important as we play a role in horizon scanning and provide strategic insight on potential risk areas such as cybersecurity and health altered by the pandemic.

With the accelerated pace of change brought about by disruptive technologies, we recognise the importance of technology-related competencies for business auditors as audits become increasingly interrelated. We have the 4-day "Technology Audit Foundation" seminar from 12 to 15 April 2021 that will equip internal auditors with the necessary skills and knowledge to be part of this exciting domain.

We need to stay on top of emerging issues and equipped ourselves with leading practices. Grab the chance to hear from world-renowned speakers and panellists who will be sharing their insights on matters impacting the internal audit profession at the IIA Global International Conference 2021 – from artificial intelligence to risk management strategies. I strongly encourage you to check out the programme here. Special pricing is available for Groups of 10 or more. If you have a few registrants but insufficient to form a group of 10, we can help to look for prospective registrants to make up a Group of 10. Simply write to us at conference@iia.org.sg. Do register early here to take advantage of the early bird savings which ends on 16 April 2021!

Our number one priority remains providing you with the right professional development support to stay relevant and acquire new skills and credentials to help you navigate the complex business environment and be prepared for the future economy. Your membership support means everything to us, especially during these unprecedented times. As the annual membership renewal date approaches in April, we ask for your continued support to be your professional development partner at every stage of your career. You can renew your membership here.

As Singapore eases Covid-19 measures, we must continue to remain vigilant and practise safe management measures. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Christians a blessed Easter weekend, and please stay safe.

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