

# President's Message

## Welcoming the Year of the Ox with Hope and Optimism

As I write this, we are just a few weeks away from the Lunar New Year. Between the pandemic, the business disruption, and the many personal and professional struggles and responsibilities we have all had to juggle over the past year, it's been challenging, to say the least.

Disruption and innovation will continue to take centre-stage in the Year of the Ox. Oxes symbolise strength, determination and are said to be trusted and inspire confidence in others. As internal auditors, we must be imbued with the spirit of the Ox, ready to face the challenges and uncertainties, and stout-hearted in pushing ahead to create a brighter future.

We kickstarted 2021 with our continued efforts to nurture the next generation of internal auditors and foster an interest in internal audit among youths. I had the opportunity to engage with the students, both from the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University, who are taking the Internal Audit Elective module on 14 January 2021. I shared that more and more organisations are finding out just how critical a role internal auditing plays in this world of global regulatory changes and rapidly emerging technologies. And internal auditors have an in-depth, up-close understanding of the processes, policies and procedures of an organisation. Partnering with management, they are able to provide invaluable operational knowledge and industry insights to companies, with frequent exposure to the board. Such an invaluable experience may forge a compelling career path for the internal auditor.

As your professional development partner, IIA Singapore is committed to supporting our members and future members by equipping you with the relevant resources and knowledge. In line with this overriding priority, we played a pivotal role to bring to you the 2021 IIA's International Conference - Singapore. Scheduled from 14 to 18 June 2021 and delivered in Singapore's time zone, this year's International Conference carries the theme "Scaling New Heights" and showcases the best the profession has to offer and provides participants from around the world with an understanding of the latest developments in internal auditing. This is the culmination of the successful bidding of the IIA International Conference which we announced to members in 2017. Registration for this virtual event is scheduled to open soon in early February. Stay tuned for more details.

The next intake for the Professional Conversion Programme for Internal Auditors starts on 23 February 2021. Updated with courses aligned with new competencies required by internal auditors, PMETs open to a mid-career switch have the opportunity to undertake a new role in internal audit. You can contact us at [pcp@iia.org.sg](mailto:pcp@iia.org.sg) to have a chat.

There is much to look forward to in the coming months. Exceptional times call for exceptional internal audit professionals. And the past year has demonstrated firmly, our determination and ability to adapt and deliver value to our members.

I wish all members a very happy Year of the Ox.

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