



SUPPORTING INTERNAL AUDIT'S GROWTH AND SUCCESS

As March dawns, I reflected on the rapid pace of change since the start of the year. The new Global Internal Audit Standards came into effect on 9 January, setting a new benchmark for our profession. Shortly after, the first Cybersecurity Topical Requirement was released on 5 February which will be effective a year later. Additionally, on 18 February, the Singapore budget 2025 was unveiled with initiatives that augurs well for employers and employees through a focus on reskilling and upskilling.

Cybersecurity Topical Requirement and IIA Singapore's New Cybersecurity Certificate

Cybersecurity, digital disruption (including AI), and climate change are identified as critical risks for organisations in the 2025 Global Risk in Focus report. This underscores the necessity for adaptability, foresight, and proactive risk management.

The release of the first [Cybersecurity Topical Requirement](#) and [User Guide](#) reinforces this responsibility. As a mandatory component of the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF), the Topical Requirement establishes baseline criteria for assessing governance, risk management, and controls. While they must be applied in assurance engagements, they are recommended for advisory services. The Cybersecurity Topical Requirement is accompanied by a user guide to support implementation through practical examples, considerations, and mappings to frameworks.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the release of the third-party topical requirement for public consultation in March or April 2025 with additional topical areas such as culture, business resilience, and anti-corruption/bribery slated for the next two years.

Building on our commitment to addressing evolving risks, I am excited to announce the launch of the [Auditing the Cybersecurity Program Certificate](#), running from 18 to 20 June. This programme will provide you with the critical skills needed to assess cybersecurity governance and practices effectively. Following the successful launch of our ESG Certificate last month, this is our second specialised programme.

On the new Standards front, we are collaborating with the Singapore Institute of Directors on 6 March at a session to discuss the board's role in adopting the new Standards.

Public Services Internal Audit Conference – 8 May 2025

The [Public Services Internal Audit Conference](#), themed "Navigating Complexity in an Evolving Dynamic Risk Landscape", will delve into crucial areas like AI's impact on public services, building resilience against cybersecurity threats, and the evolving role of leadership and organisational culture. Featuring insights from local and international experts, this event promises valuable perspectives on achieving internal audit excellence. Secure your place now and take advantage of our extended early bird discount, available until 6 March!

Looking Ahead

We acknowledge the significant effort required for internal auditors to reskill and upskill in response to changing demands. We are committed to supporting you, and will share details on our initiatives soon.

As we welcome March, we wish our Muslim colleagues and members a blessed Ramadan: Selamat Berpuasa.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ching
President

The Institute of Internal Auditors Singapore