



January – May 2021

Inside This Issue

- 1 Article
- 2-6 Institute News
- 7 Seminars & Training
- 8 International Internal Audit Awareness Month
- 9-13 Recent News from IIA Global

[Newsletter Content and Other Articles](#)

Every Newsletter includes the Institute's news, training courses and other educational meetings, updates on current issues concerning the internal audit profession, as well as other relevant announcements. Matters of common interest suggested by the Institute's Committees are also included.

Every Newsletter constitutes a useful tool for our members. Our members are welcomed to send their own internal audit related articles to be included in the Newsletter. Each article will be evaluated by a Committee. It is noted that, opinions expressed through these articles are strictly personal and are not binding for our Institute.

Internal Audit – the best security shield against corruption

The curse of corruption is a worldwide phenomenon. This fact however, does not explain and cannot be put forward as an excuse for having it in our small country as well. A country which is not only small in size but, most importantly, is also facing a longstanding political problem, namely the occupation of almost half of its territory by a foreign army, for nearly half a century.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance for everyone, from the top political leaders to the last citizen of this country, to accept that any form of corruption under these circumstances should not be tolerated and must be expelled from our society. To accomplish this however, we need a complete change of mindset, a correct categorization of social and economic priorities, better understanding of the interests and needs of younger generations, and a lot more. All these comprise parts of what is defined as *CULTURE*. Our culture as we know it must change and, as far as corruption is concerned, it is not enough or comforting to just say that 'we know there is corruption but we cannot do anything about it'. We can and we must do something about it.

Within the above framework, it is my strong belief that Internal Audit can and must play a pivotal role in the decisions to be made, the measures to be taken and the actions to be carried out in combating fraud and corruption in Cyprus. The whole philosophy of internal auditing may be best described by one word; **PREVENTION**. And, as it is widely acceptable, prevention is the best cure for every disease. Therefore, it is not enough to uncover the disease of corruption after it appears and try to find the real cause of it; what would be enough and acceptable is to prevent the disease before it even appears. And this is where the proactive role of internal audit comes into the equation.

We, as Internal Auditors, possessing the knowledge and skills to exercise our profession on the basis of the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, are the best equipped professionals to bring about the much-needed change in culture. The change from reactive analysis and blame game to proactive action through the execution of our work, which can be the best shield to protect both our State and our society from the curse of corruption. Let us all then prove that we Internal Auditors hold this shield, willing to raise it up and protect not only our companies and organizations, but the whole society as well. And let's spread the message that WE ARE PROUD TO BE INTERNAL AUDITORS.

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Institute News

Meetings and Activities of the Board of Directors

15/1/2021 – Video from IIA Cyprus to IIA ISRAEL

During the celebrations for the 60 years anniversary of IIA Israel, within their Annual Conference on 20 January 2021, the President of our Institute Mrs Anna Zavou Christoforou was invited to give a short video-recorded address. In her address, Mrs Christoforou thanked IIA Israel, and especially Mr Doron Rozenblum, the Vice-President of IIA Israel and very good friend of our Institute, for this honorary invitation, which contributes to the further strengthening of the existing harmonious relations between our Institutes. Furthermore, she congratulated IIA Israel for their 60th anniversary, wished them every success in the future, and reconfirmed our determination to continue and further develop the existing very good relations between our Institutes.

28/1/2021 – Letter to the President of the Republic

Following a relevant letter to him from our Vice-President Mr Aristodemos Yiannakas, the President of the Republic Mr Nicos Anastasiades personally called Mr Yiannakas and discussed with him the suggestions from our Institute concerning the efforts towards combating corruption, which were listed in the aforementioned letter.

Mr Yiannakas assured the President that our Institute is always ready and willing to provide the necessary resources, as well as its knowledge and expertise in the field of our profession, to the government and the State in general, in the efforts that have to be made in facing the so damaging phenomenon of corruption.

The following day, the President announced publicly several measures that the Government will take in an effort to combat corruption in our country. Among these measures, the President included our suggestions as well.

This is the first time in the 23-year history of our Institute that the President of our country personally comes in contact with our Institute and, moreover, takes into serious consideration specific suggestions submitted to him by our Institute and includes them in Government decisions.

9/2/2021 – ICAEW Online event “Charting economic recovery to integrate green finance: the role of government, financial services and funding institutions”

On behalf of our Institute, the Executive Manager Mr Costas Melanides participated in the online event on ‘*Charting Economic Recovery to Integrate Green Finance: the role of Government, Financial Services and Funding Institutions*’ on 9 February 2021. This event was organized by the ICAEW and was under the auspices of the British High Commissioner in Cyprus.

As our Institute was among the Supporters of this event, the relative invitation was forwarded to our members on 22 January 2021.

17/3/2021 – March Affiliate Leader Briefing – Presentation and Recording

The Executive Manager of our Institute Mr Costas Melanides participated in an Affiliate Leader Webinar on 17 March 2021. The briefing included the following main topics:

- . 2021 International Conference: A Singapore Virtual Experience
- . Updates from Global and Stakeholder Relations including changes to the 2021 Affiliate Activity Report, Global Assembly and two webinars
- . Enhancements to the Global Training Marketplace
- . The upcoming CRMA Beta Test and framework for local certification programs
- . comments and reflections from Mr Richard Chambers

Institute News

Meetings and Activities of the Board of Directors

29/03/2021 – IIA Global Assembly Virtual Meeting Session 1

The Vice-President of our Institute Mr Aristodemos Yiannakas attended the Global Assembly Virtual Discussion Session 1, which took place on 29/3/2021. During the two-hour session, Jenitha John, 2021-2021 Global Chairman of the Board, commenced the meeting with an opening address, followed by Board resolution and a review of the Global Assembly Charter and Objectives. The meeting continued with the launch of the Affiliate Recognition Program and the introduction of the New President and CEO of the IIA, Mr Anthony J. Pugliese.

30/3/2021 – 4th Cyprus International Tax Conference

The Treasurer of our Board of Directors Mr Marios Pashias and Board member Mr Rovertos Yiousellis, participated in the 4th Cyprus International Tax Conference digital event, which was organised by IMH on 30 March 2021. The Conference addressed the most recent trends and developments in taxation across Europe and the Globe. Distinguished speakers from the local market and abroad shared their knowledge and views on recent tax developments and various topics of concern to international tax professionals.

As our Institute was among the Supporters of this event, our members who participated enjoyed a 15% discount on the relevant participation fees.

7/4/2021 – Global Assembly Virtual Meeting Session 2

The President of IIA Cyprus Ms Anna Zavou Christoforou, attended the Global Assembly Virtual Discussion Session 2, on 7 April 2021, which was also attended by representatives from another nine countries in the group our Institute was included. During this two-hour session, participants discussed proposed enhancements to the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) and Local and Global Advocacy strategies and priorities. Background papers and other material were provided to enable participants to give their answers in questions prepared in advance concerning the two prementioned topics.

Institute News

Meetings and Activities of the Board of Directors

12/4/2021 – Meeting with the President of the House of Representatives

On Monday 12 April 2021, the President of IIA Cyprus Mrs Anna Zavou Christoforou, accompanied by Board Member Mr George Nicolaides and the Management Consultant of our Institute Mr Costas Melanides, visited the President of the House of Representatives Mr Adamos Adamou. This meeting was requested by our Institute in the framework of our efforts to promote effective and efficient Internal Audit in the Public Sector, and to acknowledge our availability and willingness to contribute towards this end through our knowledge and expertise in Internal Audit standards and practices, as well as our long experience in educating and training Internal Auditors.

This was the first of a series of meetings being scheduled with all political leaders. In these meetings our Institute will submit specific suggestions and recommendations regarding the needed empowerment of the internal audit function in the Public Sector, with the support for this from all executive and legislative authorities and components being a must.



19/4/2021 – Meeting with the Secretary General of AKEL

On Monday 19 April 2021, a delegation of IIA Cyprus, comprised of Board Members Mr George Nicolaides and Mr Athos Fasouliotis and the Institute Management Consultant Mr Costas Melanides, had a very fruitful meeting with the Secretary General of AKEL Mr Andros Kyprianou. This was the first of the meetings our Institute will have with all the political parties in order to discuss ideas and suggestions towards the establishment of a strong Internal Audit environment in the Public Sector, for which the contribution of the Executive and Legislative Authorities, including all the political parties, is a must.



Institute News

Meetings and Activities of the Board of Directors

22/4/2021 – Meeting with the President of DIPA (Democratic Front)

A meeting took place on Thursday 22 April 2021 between the President of IIA Cyprus Mrs. Anna Zavou Christoforou and Board Members Mrs. Polina Antoniou and Mr. Rovertos Yioucellis with Mr. Marios Garoyian, President of DIPA Political Party ('Democratic Front'). The meeting was requested in the course of our Institute's strategic initiatives to establish direct communication lines with all major local Political and Legislative stakeholders, in order to promote the importance of the enhancement of the internal control environment and the reinforcement of Governance related pillars, including Internal Audit, in the Public Sector. Practical suggestions were made by our delegation, including ways to best implement them, and how our Institute and its members can participate and add value in this process.



14/5/2021 – Meeting with the President of the Democratic Party

On Friday 14 May 2021, the President of IIA Cyprus Mrs. Anna Zavou Christoforou, accompanied by Board Members Mrs. Sophia Kassianidou and Mr. Marios Pashias, had a meeting with Mr. Nicolas Papadopoulos, President of the Democratic Party, at the party's Head Offices in Nicosia. The meeting was a continuation of our Institute's strategic initiative to establish direct communication lines with all major political parties, aiming at promoting the importance of efficient Internal Audit in the Public Sector Governance structure. Both parties in the meeting acknowledged the need for enhancement of the internal control framework in the Public Sector, as a significant factor in the efforts towards combating corruption. Written suggestions were handed over by our delegation to Mr. Papadopoulos, which include ways to achieve the above aims, as well as how our Institute and its members can participate and add value in this process.



Institute News

Meetings and Activities of the Board of Directors

21/5/2021 – Meeting with the President of the Movement of Ecologists – Citizens' Cooperation

Continuing the meetings with political parties, on Friday 21 May 2021, the President of our Institute Mrs. Anna Zavou Christoforou, accompanied by Board Member Mr. Marios Pashias and Executive Manager Mr. Costas Melanides, had a meeting with a delegation from the Movement of Ecologists – Citizens' Cooperation, headed by the party's President Mr Charalampos Theopemptou, at the House of Representatives. Specific written recommendations concerning actions against corruption were given to Mr Theopemptou, followed by a very constructive discussion on the matter. Mrs Zavou Christoforou assured Mr Theopemptou that our Institute is always at the disposal of all political parties, as well as the government to offer its knowledge and expertise in all efforts towards combating fraud and corruption in our country.



Seminars & Training

3/2/2021: 'Statistical Sampling for Internal Auditors'

Our Institute organized the first online half day seminar for 2021, on Wednesday 3/2/2021 having the Pandemic crisis of Covid-19 still in our lives. The subject of the seminar was **'Statistical Sampling for Internal Auditors'** and it was delivered by Mr George Pelekanakis from Greece. This seminar was mainly addressed to Internal Auditors and business people that often have to sample populations, in order to test quality, evaluate processes and systems on Internal control etc. The seminar objectives were to help participants to comprehend the principles of statistical sampling in order to be in a position to select their samples in a scientific way that will protect that quality of their work. The emphasis of statistical theory was up to the point that was necessary to enhance credibility of the sampling effort. With the completion of the seminar, participants will be able to identify the most appropriate technique under the circumstances and the population under review also to implement in practice the techniques presented in order to effect statistical sampling of their populations.

25/2/2021: 'Operational Audit'

On Thursday 25 February 2021, our Institute organized a half-day online seminar. The title of the seminar was **'Operational Audit'** and it was delivered by Dr. Andreas G. Koutoupis from Greece. The seminar was addressed to new and experienced Internal Auditors or Internal Audit consultants, as well as to business executives who wish to either engage in Operational Auditing or to enrich their knowledge, with practical audit applications related to the transaction's cycles of businesses. The seminar intended to help participants to acquire advanced knowledge in relation to the theory and practice in the field of Operational Auditing, with emphasis on industry and commerce, furthermore to improve their knowledge of specialized Internal Audit best practices across all the basic transaction cycles of a large company.

18/3/2021: 'Back to Life, Back to Reality' – Post Covid-19 Internal Audit considerations

On Thursday 18 March 2021, our Institute organised a 3-hour online seminar and it was delivered by Mr Doron Rozenblum from Israel. The subject was very contemporary, since its title was **"Back to Life, Back to reality"-Post Covid-19 Internal Audit considerations**". The global spread of Covid-19 has turned the world upside-down. For most of us, the exceptional situation had profound impacts on our personal and on our work lives; schools were closed, home office was common practice, and masks are mandatory in public. Not only that, but the medium and long-term effects of the pandemic on the economy and on our private lives are complex and not easy to anticipate. The webinar objectives were post covid-19 and what's the role of Internal Audit after crisis, also skills for Internal auditors in a post-Covid world and finally Internal Auditor to redirect your risk expertise to COVID-19 priorities.

13/4/2021: 'How can Web-Intelligence (WEBINT) support KYC'

On Tuesday 13 April 2021, our Institute organised a 2-hour online seminar and it was delivered by Mr Roi Lavi and Mr Lev Yuriditsky from Israel and based in Geneva. The subject of the seminar was **"How can Web-Intelligence (WEBINT) support KYC"**. The Covid-19 lockdown has brought a strong surge in the use of digital communication tools. This brought new challenges for all sectors of the economy, especially the banking and financial services sectors in the areas of Know-Your-Client (KYC) and monitoring. Gathering intelligence on new and/or prospective clients should now more than ever before, meet stricter regulatory requirements. Furthermore, Risk Assessment needs to go beyond mere standard checks, taking into account new searching dimensions. The Internet, despite its overall usefulness, can be helpful but it can also be misleading. Now, with the largely expanded use of digital communications, searching the internet for trustworthy and dependable information requires different techniques and understandings.

18/5/2021: 'Corporate Governance & the Role of Internal Audit'

On Tuesday 18 May 2021, our Institute organised a full day online seminar and it was delivered by Mr Konstantinos Triantafyllidis from Greece. The subject of the seminar was **"Corporate Governance & the Role of Internal Audit"**.

As the topic of Corporate Governance is of material interest to all internal auditors, and even more the crucial role they may play in assessing the soundness and validity of a Corporate Governance framework, the seminar attracted many participants from all kinds of businesses.

International Internal Audit Awareness Month



As Internal Audit professionals, we all play an important role in raising awareness and elevating the status of our profession. The month of May, which has been established by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA Global) as the **International Internal Audit Awareness Month**, always offers us a significant opportunity to promote our profession among all relevant stakeholders by a variety of ways.

One of our major aims must be to enhance the business community's knowledge of the essential role internal auditing plays in strong organizational governance and internal control, as well as effective risk management. Furthermore, on society level, as the general public becomes more familiar with the actual activities of internal auditors, more and more individuals will consider our profession as a viable career option.

In promoting our profession, especially in May, we can organize a function in our workspace to dispel any wrong myths about internal auditing and explain the real value that a well-resourced and independent internal audit function provides to our organization. We can also raise the profile of our internal audit department's staff members by featuring their biographies in articles uploaded on our organization's intranet or internal newsletter. But these are only two examples of promotional activities we may engage in. According to the business environment of our workplace, each and every one of us can think and organize various other activities in raising awareness about internal auditing.

So, let everyone know that not only **WE ARE PROUD TO BE INTERNAL AUDITORS**, but also that **WE ARE THE MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS** to Boards and Management.

13/5/2021 – Donation to “Vagoni Agapis”

As part of the activities of our Institute in celebrating the **International Internal Audit Awareness Month**, and in the context of its Social Responsibility initiatives, a donation was made to the Charity Organisation “Vagoni Agapis” on 13 May 2021. The donation was delivered by our President Mrs Anna Zavou Christoforou to Mrs Andry Charalambous, representative of “Vagoni Agapis”.



Recent News from IIA Global



New Guidance for Financial Services Auditors

"Auditing Market Risk in Financial Institutions," the newest IIA guidance for the financial services industry, is globally relevant for specialized practitioners.

[Please share this new practice guide with your members.](#)

Updated CRMA to Launch in 2021

The Certification in Risk Management Assurance is relaunching in 2021 to keep pace with dynamic global risks. Explore today to understand program prerequisites and experience requirements and learn more about how the program is changing.

[Visit the CRMA page for details.](#)



Essential Elements of Good Governance

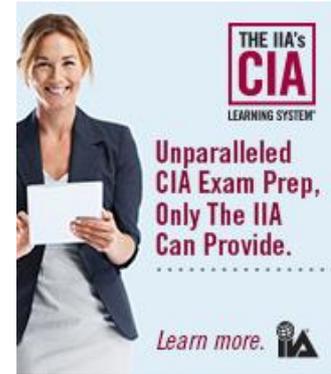
New report provides a straightforward view that helps organizations identify structures, design processes, and assign responsibilities that best assist the achievement of objectives that facilitate strong governance and risk management. It outlines the main essential elements of governance as accountability, actions, and assurance and advice.

[Share with members today for a more successful tomorrow.](#)

Plan Your 2021 CIA Exam Preparation Courses

Now's the perfect time to set your 2021 CIA exam preparation course dates! Give your local candidates access to the all-new, redesigned IIA's CIA Learning System Version 7.0. And don't forget new instructor materials for your course facilitator!

[Contact Kelly Quinn to start your 2021 planning.](#)



Market Risk: Are Internal Auditors Prepared?

Always a key risk for financial services organizations, internal auditors should be prepared to provide independent reviews and assurance on the accuracy and reliability of the models used to identify, monitor, and manage market risk.

[IIA members, access this guidance now.](#)

Challenging Internal Auditors to Be Value Drivers

An Internal Audit Foundation report, based on global best practices, addresses the value of internal auditing and offers guidance on how to adapt to new circumstances at the speed of risk. It will help internal audit functions define, measure, and communicate their value to their organizations and stakeholders.

[Download it free today.](#)



Building a Better Auditor: Reflections on the Path to CAE

Uber CAE Dominique Vincenti reflects on her journey to audit leadership, offering lessons for those who aspire toward the same goal.

[Read more.](#)



On the Frontlines: Auditor Scepticism

The literal definition of *scepticism* is an active process of “inquiring” and “reflection” — processes that suggest questioning, careful observation, probing reflection, and suspension of belief. Sounds like an audit, doesn't it? Scepticism is not just words, or a consideration in an audit, it is a process of discovery of the unknown.

[Read more from James Bone.](#)

New Insights to Quality Released

IIA Quality Services has released a new Insights to Quality, “How The IIA Competency Framework Supports Successful Internal Audit Practices.” This quick reference tool outlines the baseline of knowledge, skills, and experience required for each career level of internal audit.

[Download now to review helpful Competency Framework tools.](#)



Strengthen Your Core Competencies

How strong is your knowledge of the IPPF and the *Standards*? Understanding the value in the profession of internal auditing is the first step to becoming an effective internal auditor. This course helps internal auditors achieve the competencies required to plan and perform internal audit engagements and demonstrate authority, credibility, and ethical conduct.

[Register for the OnDemand “Core Curriculum” course.](#)

Assessing Third-party Technology Risks

A robust third-party IT risk management process can reduce an organization’s likelihood of experiencing brand damage, legal issues, business and revenue loss, and cost implications while conducting business with vendors. For internal audit, reviewing third-party management processes should become a priority.

[IIA members, read more at *Internal Auditor* online.](#)



Beta Testing for Enhanced CRMA Program Begins 1 May

Active CIA® certification holders are invited to participate in the Certification in Risk Management Assurance® (CRMA®) Beta Test. All participants receive a free application, so take advantage of this limited time opportunity to earn the CRMA and save.

[Learn more.](#)



Save 20% on the CIA in May

To address the critical need for internal audit in these extraordinary times, as well as to meet the expectations of professionals seeking to maintain and advance their skills, The IIA is offering members a 20% discount on new application and exam registration fees for the Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) in May.

[Learn more about CIA savings and share with your members.](#)

International Internal Audit Awareness Month Is Almost Here

Did you know The IIA has resources for internal auditors to educate stakeholders on the value internal audit brings to the organization? It's true, and all for you to use as you choose. Access our Building Awareness toolkit, plus enjoy other advocacy items, like position papers and thought leadership.

[Be ready to shout it out and share your success stories in May.](#)



Building a Better Auditor: Developing an Internal Auditor's Mindset

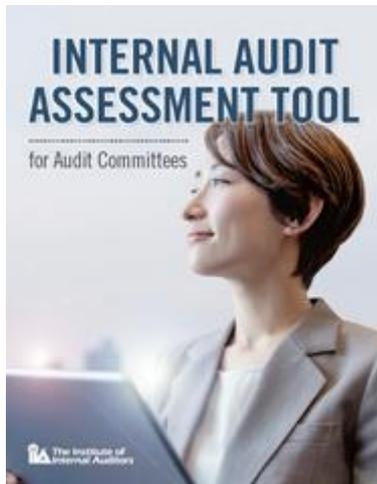
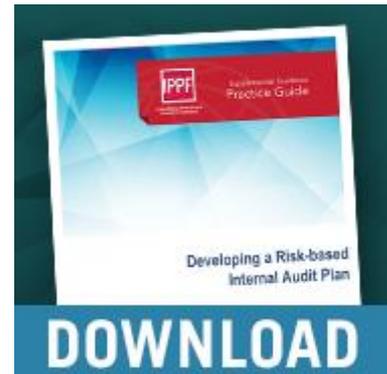
What can be done to influence an internal auditor's mindset during his or her time with the organization, in-person or virtually? It is important to share practices, discuss, and engage. That way, all parties can benefit from a cross-exchange of ideas and experiences.

[Read more.](#)

IIA Guidance: Developing a Risk-based Internal Audit Plan

Now more than ever before, internal audit must demonstrate its relevance by focusing on the organization's most pressing issues. This IIA Practice Guide provides a flexible, step-by-step approach to prioritizing the organization's risks and developing a valuable internal audit plan based on those priorities.

[Get your copy today.](#)



Internal Audit Assessment Tool

Ensure that your organization's internal audit activity is performing at the highest possible levels with the new Internal Audit Assessment Tool. This tool was created specifically to provide boards and audit committees with the instrument they need to assess the quality of their internal audit activity.

[Download this free tool now.](#)