REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 - 24

Good day ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me immense pleasure to place before you the Honorary Secretary's report of our Chapter activities for the year 2023 - 24. I want to highlight some of our Chapter's key achievements and updates to you as part of the report.

1. Membership Renewal

We are immensely happy to state that our chapter membership renewals stood at 73.48%. As of 30 June 2024, we had 1431 members, and we are increasing steadily with great support from all of you.

The renewal percentage for the past three years are:

- ➢ **2024 Renewal Percentage:** **73.48 %**
- ➢ **2023 Renewal Percentage:** **76.40 %**
- ➢ **2022 Renewal Percentage:** **76.05 %**

Breakup of members with ISACA Certifications in our Chapter:

CISA	CRISC	CISM	CGEIT
813 Members	172 Members	336 Members	43 Members

2. Chapter Compliance Updates

On compliance matters, our Chapter compliance reporting is up to date with the following completed:

1. Monthly GST Filing
2. Statutory requirements of 'The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975' including mandatory submission to Registrar of Societies
3. Filing of Annual Income Tax Returns
4. Annual ISACA Global Reporting

3. Chapter Activities

Now coming to our regular activities, I would like to describe them under the following major heads;

    I.   Professional Development activities comprising monthly meetings, certification meets, workshops, seminars, and annual conference.

   II.   Education initiatives which include exam review courses, training programs, and student bodies.

  III.   Marketing, engagement with academic institutions, and associations with other professional bodies and stakeholders.

I. MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS (PDM's)

We host monthly PDMs featuring industry experts discussing topics like Information Security, IT Audit, Cybersecurity, Risk Management, AI, Data Privacy, and Third-Party Risk. These meetings are well-attended, and the security news roundup by Madras University students is a highlight. We also hold quarterly in-person PDMs to enhance member networking. The registration and CPE certificate processes are efficient, allowing instant certificate downloads post-meeting.

During the last quarter of 2023, ISACA Chennai Chapter kickstarted an innovative quarterly "Digital Trust" a theme-based Professional Development Meeting (PDM) journey.

The Enlightening Quarterly Series (EQS), presented by the ISACA Chennai Chapter, is a significant initiative focused on digital trust. Each quarter, the series explores a different aspect of digital trust through themed events. These monthly professional development meetings include in-depth learning sessions and case study-based breakout discussions,

fostering continuous engagement and learning for chapter members. EQS is dedicated to nurturing knowledge and building a community where shared experiences and insights drive professional growth and industry advancement.

This program's purpose is to delve deeply into various facets of digital trust, enhancing members' knowledge and expertise through a structured and engaging format.

Each quarter of the year, EQS dedicates itself to a specific theme within the broad spectrum of digital trust, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of critical topics. The unique structure of EQS involves monthly professional development meetings that sustain continual engagement and learning. These sessions are not just typical meetings; they are enriched with in-depth learning opportunities and case study-based breakout discussions that encourage active participation and practical understanding.

The monthly events are designed to be interactive and insightful, allowing members to gain hands-on experience and apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. This method of learning ensures that participants can deepen their understanding of digital trust issues and solutions, staying abreast of the latest developments and best practices in the industry.

EQS is more than just a series of educational events; it symbolizes the ISACA Chennai Chapter's dedication to nurturing knowledge and fostering a thriving professional community. By providing a platform for shared experiences and insights, EQS helps build a network of professionals who can support each other's growth and contribute to industry advancement. Typically, our approach is,

The first month of the quarter - Laying the foundation for the topic chosen
The second month – Delve In-depth into the topic exploring the nuances and details
The third month - Conclude with practical and hands-on learning

Our EQS journey for the last few quarters includes the following theme and topics:

Q1 (Oct-Dec'23): Privacy Risks, Data Mapping, Privacy Workshop, PETs
Q2 (Jan-Mar'24): Back to Basics – Systems Audit, Control, and Assurance
Q3 (Apr-Jun'24): IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities

Q4 (Jul-Sep'24): Shaping Resilient Organizations

Impact on Chapter Members:

- Enhanced Knowledge and Skills:
  - Comprehensive Learning: Through its themed quarterly sessions and monthly events, EQS has significantly contributed to members' understanding of various facets of digital trust.
  - Practical Application: The case study-based breakout discussions have provided members with hands-on experience, enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios effectively.

- Community Building:
  - Networking Opportunities: EQS has facilitated the creation of a strong professional network, allowing members to connect, and share experiences.
  - Shared Insights: The platform has enabled members to exchange insights and best practices, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

We actively engage our members through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter, enhancing our outreach and member interaction.

The detailed listing of events held between Apr 2023 and Mar 2024 can be found in **Annexure 1.**

II.SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

ISACA Chennai Chapter consistently offers insights into emerging areas and current topics by organizing relevant seminars and conferences.

May 2023.

ISO 27701:2019 Lead Auditor Program

During this program, participants gained the skills to plan and conduct audits in line with ISO 19011 and the ISO/IEC 17021-1 certification process. Through practical exercises, they learned about privacy protection in processing personally identifiable information (PII), mastered audit techniques, and developed competencies in managing

audit programs, leading teams, communicating with clients, and resolving conflicts.

The course covered:

- ➢ Understanding Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS) based on ISO/IEC 27701.
- ➢ Identifying the relationships between ISO/IEC 27701, ISO/IEC 27001, ISO/IEC 27002, and other standards.
- ➢ Acquiring competencies for planning, leading, and following up on audits per ISO 19011.
- ➢ Interpreting ISO/IEC 27701 requirements in the context of a PIMS audit.

Participants could sit for the exam after completing the course.

Aug 2023

Compliance Perspective of the New Data Protection Act of India (DPA 2021)
 In collaboration with Madras Management Association and FDPPI, we hosted a seminar on the new Data Protection Act of India. The seminar covered:
- o Introduction to DPDPA 2023
- o Key legal issues arising from the law
- o Critical technology challenges for the industry
- o Professional opportunities and disruptions
- o Existing compliance frameworks and new codes of practice

The event saw strong participation from our members.

Sep 2023

ISACA Chennai Chapter Conference 2023

With the theme of 'Technology Sprints….. Is Security Agile?

Key 2023 technology trends included the use of low-code/no-code platforms, the rise of IoT, digitally immune systems, hyper-automation, edge and quantum computing, Green Technology growth, digital twins, genomics, and datafication. These technologies had evolved significantly,

making data generation and access easier across various applications, from wearables to enterprise systems.

Enterprises leveraged these technologies for innovative products and services, seeking early mover advantages to boost market share. This "Technology Sprint" raised concerns about whether security measures could keep pace with rapid technological advances, emphasizing the need for agile security practices.

The conference evaluated the then current security agility, its effectiveness, and identified areas for improvement. Attendees gained insights into the latest security trends, strategies, and technologies to help organizations remain agile and resilient against evolving threats.

ICC 2023 featured distinguished speakers, business leaders, and innovators who provided a fresh perspective on cybersecurity. With two focused tracks, the event inspired thought leadership and guided organizations on their next steps in cybersecurity.

Attendees had the opportunity to network with decision-makers and key influencers, including over 300 leaders, CIOs, VPs, and managers in information security, cybersecurity, audit, governance, and enterprise risk management. The event offered a platform to showcase products or services that helped stakeholders achieve their goals.

ICC 2023 took place at Le Royal Meridian on September 8-9, with pre-conference workshops on September 7.

Oct 2023

CommunITy day – Togetherness @ Anandam Special School

We spent the first half of CommunITy Day with children from Anandam Special School, who performed a Carnatic vocal program for us. This was followed by performances from ISACA Chennai Chapter members.

On October 7th, ISACA Chennai chapters members and staff participated in ISACA CommunITy Day 2023, demonstrating our purpose and values through service. This event helped individuals and communities realize the positive potential of technology and ISACA's global society.

The Chennai Chapter, known for its strong volunteering culture, proudly supported this global initiative by ISACA.

Nov - Dec 2023

MMA – Cybersecurity Foundations

Again in collaboration with MMA, The 5-day cybersecurity workshop served as a foundational course for beginners entering the cybersecurity field. It started with an introduction to core concepts, objectives, and common threats. Participants learned about risk management, security architecture, access control, encryption, and securing systems, applications, and data. The workshop emphasized best practices in password management, software security, and safe online conduct, along with incident response, ethical considerations, and cybersecurity awareness. On the final day, it covered emerging technologies and career opportunities in cybersecurity, offering a stepping stone for aspiring professionals.

ISACA Chennai and MMA jointly awarded certificates to those who passed the assessment test.

Dec 2023 Thru Feb 2024

ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor and Transition course
The Lead Auditor and Transition course, conducted with Intertek Academy, prepared participants to audit against the updated ISO 27001:2022 standard. Attendees learned best practices in information security management and the key changes in the 2022 updates. Due to high demand, the transition course was held twice: on December 26th and February 20th, while the Lead Auditor program was conducted on January 21st. A total of 62 participants attended across all three courses. Successful participants received certificates from Intertek for the transition program, and IRCA certificates for the Lead Auditor program.

Feb 2024

Founders' Day

Founders' Day celebrated the Chennai Chapter's legacy, bringing together members and their families to honour the founders' contributions and enjoy a session of general interest.

About the Talk

- o Redesigning The Destinies: The session covered AHCT's initiatives, including Project Puthri, MITR, PCP, and scholarship programs, highlighting research, volunteering opportunities, and ways to support these efforts.
- o Blood Cancer and Disorders: The talk also focused on blood cancer and blood disorders, discussing causes, cures, and the process of stem cell donation, along with motivational stories about stem cell donors.

March 2024

ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Program
The program established guidelines for managing Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems responsibly and effectively.

- Provide a Framework for AI Management: It offered a structured approach for members to implement, operate, and maintain an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS), ensuring AI technologies are managed systematically.
- Ensure Responsible AI Use: The standard promoted the ethical, transparent, and accountable use of AI, addressing issues like data privacy, bias mitigation, and security to build trust among stakeholders.
- Enhance AI System Performance: By setting best practices for AI system development and operation, this program helped members improve the reliability, effectiveness, and quality of AI solutions.
- Facilitate Compliance and Risk Management: The standard supported organizations in meeting legal, regulatory, and societal requirements, while also identifying and mitigating risks associated with AI systems.
- Support Continuous Improvement: ISO 42001 encourages ongoing evaluation and improvement of AI systems, fostering innovation and adaptability in response to evolving technological and market demands.

Overall, this program helped in managing AI systems in a way that maximizes benefits while minimizing risks and negative impacts.

III. MARKETING, ENGAGEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL & OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES

> **MARKETING**

To create visibility for ISACA and our Chapter, we have ordered ISACA Chennai logo embossed stainless steel water bottles through ISACA Global. I wish to inform members that this marketing program is 100% supported by ISACA Global.

4. Chapter social media and Website related

ISACA Chennai Chapter is among one of the most active social media handles having highly active follower base on all major social media platforms. We have a LinkedIn Company page, Facebook Page, a YouTube Channel. The current Number of subscribers in our channels along with last year details are in the table below:

Social media	Current AGM	Previous AGM
LinkedIn	4000	3192
Facebook	1400	1400
YouTube	631	592
Twitter	493	482
Instagram	210	199
WhatsApp	808	459

We are making all efforts to improve the effectiveness of our social media presence.

5. SIG (Special Interest Group)

Program Purpose: -

The Special Interest Group (SIG) within the ISACA Chennai Chapter is a dedicated community that focuses on advancing specific areas of knowledge, learning, or technology. SIG members collaborate to develop solutions and share expertise within their domain. This group serves as a hub for professionals from various backgrounds and disciplines who share a common interest, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas are exchanged, and members stay informed about the latest developments and research. The focused learning initiatives aim to enhance members' professional engagements by integrating the latest developments into their work. This initiative

encourages members to prioritize learning as a key component of their growth. By fostering professional development, the SIG benefits its members and has far-reaching implications for the broader industry. Together, we learn to leap ahead.

Program Development: -

The development of the SIGs began with the identification of three broad topics:

SIG 1: Emerging Technologies-AI & IoT (Bi-monthly)
SIG 2: Data Privacy (Bi-monthly)
SIG 3: Security Operations (Weekly until mid-May'24, thereafter Bi-monthly)

These topics were communicated to chapter members, along with a form to indicate their preferred area of learning. Approximately 100 members initially expressed interest, and around 80 members committed to dedicating 8 to 10 hours per month to their chosen SIG stream. During the program's soft launch on February 3, 2024, leaders for each of the three groups were selected. To ensure effective communication, Communication groups were created for each SIG, enabling seamless interaction among group members and leaders. To share leadership and mentorship responsibilities, each group was structured with at least two leaders. The leaders, in collaboration with their members, decided on the initial meeting schedules. To maintain integrity and prevent conflicts of interest, NDAs were collected from each member. Some groups created dedicated Google Drive links for document and knowledge sharing. Meeting frequencies varied among groups, depending on the interests and availability of their members, with some meetings weekly and others bi-monthly. Attendance was tracked and submitted to the Director-SIG, and group meeting calendars were diligently scheduled by the leaders and shared with members. Through these efforts, the program gradually took root, establishing itself as a disciplined and effective learning initiative among the members.

Program Impact: -

The Director of the Special Interest Group (SIG) presented a clear mandate across all three groups: members were encouraged to actively research and present on topics they were eager to learn, with support and guidance from their respective leaders. This core principle was consistently communicated to ensure that the learning experience was collaborative and participative, based on the understanding that true learning comes from doing, not just by listening. In recognition of the SIG members' unwavering commitment to learning, the Board granted speaking slots to each of the three SIG groups at the ISACA Chennai Chapter Flagship Conference 2024. This announcement served as a strong motivator, shifting the focus of many subsequent sessions toward conference preparation. Over the past six months, the learning calendar for the three SIG groups has reflected the dedication and enthusiasm of the participating members. The pace of learning has been driven by the members' interests and involvement, with various individuals taking the lead in presenting their insights during sessions.

6. Research Initiatives

Recent developments in the right to privacy, the passing of the DPDP Act in 2023 and the growing number of IoT devices flooding the consumer goods market led us to take up the topic of 'Securing privacy in IoT devices' for research.

The first exercise was desk research on IoT devices available in the market and their SWOT analysis from a consumer perspective. This was executed through an MoU signed with VIT Chennai. The result was an elaborate report on 300 IoT devices. The next venture was a survey conducted in May 2024 as part of the EQS (Enlightening Quarterly Series) of ISACA Chennai chapter PDM theme entitled "IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities" which truly complemented the research committee's initiative on studying 'Privacy in IoT devices from a consumer perspective'. The reports have been compiled and will be published after due validation.

I place this report before this prestigious body to deliberate and approve.

Balachandar Natarajan
Honorary Secretary

ISACA Chennai Chapter

Annexure 1 - REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

Details of the Events conducted by ISACA Chennai Chapter:

April 2023 PDM – Future of Data
📅 08 Apr, 2023 | 16:30 - 19:00 IST
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited training program April 2023 – CRISC
📅 06 May, 2023 09:00 - 14 May, 2023 17:00 IST
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISO 27701:2019 Lead Auditor Program Non IRCA
📅 06 May, 2023 09:00 - 15 May, 2023 17:00 IST
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

May 2023 PDM – Cyber Insurance
📅 13 May, 2023 | 16:45 - 19:00 IST
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited Program – May-2023-CISA-physical
📅 27 May, 2023 09:00 - 09 Jul, 2023 17:00 IST
ISACA Chennai Chapter, Mylapore, Chennai, TNin 600004
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

June 2023 PDM: Protecting Application stack in millisec
📅 10 Jun, 2023 | 16:30 - 19:00 IST
Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road, Cathedral Road, Chennai, TNin 600086
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

July 2023 PDM: Chaos Engineering in Threat Modelling
📅 08 Jul, 2023 | 16:30 - 19:00 IST
Hotel Maris, Catedral Road,, Gopalapuram,, Chennai, TNin 600086
Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

Annual General Meeting - 2023

📅 05 Aug, 2023 | 18:00 - 19:30 IST

Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road,, Gopalapuram, Chennai, TNin 600086

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

Aug 2023 PDM – Taking Security Strategy to the Next Level MITRE ATT&CK and D3FEND Framework

📅 12 Aug, 2023 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

MMA Program on Seminar on the theme "Decoding Data Protection Act 2023"

📅 24 Aug, 2023 | 17:15 - 19:45 IST

MMA Management Center, New No:240 Pathari Road (Off Anna Salai), Chennai, TNin 600006

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Chennai Conference 2023 - Technology Sprints… Is Security agile?

📅 07 Sep, 2023 09:00 - 09 Sep, 2023 17:00 IST

Le Royal Méridien Chennai, 1, Grand Southern Trunk Rd, Ramapuram, Alandur, St.Thomas Mount,, Chennai, TNin 600016

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

September 2023 PDM – Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA)

📅 23 Sep, 2023 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

CommunITy day 2023 – ISACA Chennai Chapter Programs

📅 07 Oct, 2023 | 10:30 - 13:30 IST

Chennai Chapter | Social - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited Program (CISA) – October 2023

📅 14 Oct, 2023 09:00 - 29 Oct, 2023 17:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

October 2023 PDM – Privacy Risks, Data Mapping

📅 14 Oct, 2023 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

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Nov 2023 PDM: Privacy Workshop by EY Team
📆 25 Nov, 2023 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

December 2023 PDM – Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs)
📆 09 Dec, 2023 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

EQS 2: Jan 2024 PDM – Back to Basics – Systems Audit, Control, and Assurance
📆 20 Jan, 2024 | 17:00 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited Program (CISA) – February 2024
📆 03 Feb, 2024 09:00 - 18 Feb, 2024 17:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

EQS 2 – Back to Basics: Feb 2024 Professional Development Meeting
📆 10 Feb, 2024 | 16:30 - 19:00 IST

Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road,, Gopalapuram, Chennai, TNin 600086

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

Founders' Day 2024
📆 24 Feb, 2024 | 17:45 - 20:00 IST

Hotel Matsaya, 9/31, Thanikachalam Rd,, T. Nagar, Chennai, TNin 600017

Chennai Chapter | Social - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited training program – March-2024-CISM
📆 02 Mar, 2024 09:00 - 10 Mar, 2024 17:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISO 42001:2023 Five Days Lead Implementer Program Non IRCA. March 22, 23, 24, 30 and 31
📆 22 Mar, 2024 09:00 - 31 Mar, 2024 17:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

![ISACA Chennai Chapter logo]

EQS 2 March 2024 PDM: Back to Basics – Systems Audit, Control, and Assurance

🗓 23 Mar, 2024 | 16:45 - 19:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)

ISACA Accredited training program March 2024 – CRISC

🗓 24 Mar, 2024 09:00 - 06 Apr, 2024 17:00 IST

Chennai Chapter | Education - Outside Registration (Cvent, EventBrite, Etc.)