Proposal for designating iCISA as Global Training Facility for INTOSAI Working Group on Information Technology Audit

# Brief about the Institute

The International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (*i*CISA), is the premier international training institute of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of India. Designed to cater to the training requirements of the international auditing fraternity, the Centre was set up as a Centre of Excellence for Information Systems and Information Technology Audit in March 2002. It has since gradually evolved into a highly sought after destination for acquiring and expanding audit skills and knowledge by the international auditing fraternity. The vision of iCISA is to be globally recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Information Systems and Information Technology Audit including Data Analytics.

**iCISA in Brief**

The mission of iCISA is:

1. To stay abreast of the fast evolving developments in the field of Information Systems and Information Technology Audit.
2. To identify the different issues and risks consequent on the new digital paradigm of functioning by government, thus enabling delivery of qualitatively significant audit products.
3. To impart high quality training on Audit and Computer Assisted Audit Tools and Techniques (CAATs) for lasting impact on audit effectiveness and organisational performance.

Till date 139 International Training Programmes (ITP) have been conducted out of which 34 were exclusively IT audit related. More than 1000 officials from SAIs and government organisations from 146 countries have benefitted out of this IT Audit trainings.

# Infrastructure

iCISA is an ISO 9001:2015 (QMS) and and ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) certified institution. It is an integrated academic campus with residential and sports-cum-recreational facilities. Extending over ten acres, it is set in a beautiful landscape surrounded by lush lawns & gardens in Noida, part of National Capital Region of Delhi. The Centre’s building both academic and hostel blocks are spacious, well designed and centrally air conditioned. The campus also has a rain water harvesting system and a rapid composting unit. On campus facilities at iCISA include the following:

ICISA Infrastructure

* An ISO 9001:2015 (QMS) and and ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) certified institution
* Wi-fi enabled campus
* IT labs to accommodate 76 persons
* Classrooms , library , Auditorium
* 62 hostel rooms for participants and faculties
* State of Art recreational facilities In In In 2002, established as a Centre of Excellence for Information Systems and IT Audit
* Experience of **100+** International Training Programs
* Experience of **34** IT audit trainings for **1000+** participants from **146** countries

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	+ 1. **Training Facilities in the Academic Block**
* Wi-Fi enabled campus
* Two IT labs (for 48 and 28 persons) with projector and Audio-Visual systems installed,
* Discussion rooms with laptops,
* Two seminar halls (for 48 and 20 persons each with parabolic seating arrangement) with Smart board, projector and Audio-Visual systems installed,
* One seminar hall (for 48 persons with round table seating arrangement) with projector and Audio-Visual systems installed for exhibition, breakout sessions or any other activities,
* One Meeting Room with group presentation facilities(for 10 persons),
* A Library and information centre with rich audio-visual content with sufficient seating arrangements,
* State of the art Auditorium for 170 persons and
* A documentation centre
	+ 1. **Residential Facilities in the Hostel block:**
* 57 faculty/Guest Participants rooms equipped with computer and wi-fi
* 5 VIP rooms
* Spacious Dining Hall
* TV lounge and room for yoga sessions
* Well equipped Kitchen and cafeteria
* Laundry facilities
* Spacious lawns and gardens
1. **Sporting and recreational facilities:**
* Lawn tennis court with coach facility
* Golf putting green with coach facility
* Football ground
* Steam bath and Swimming pool with trainer facility
* Well-equipped Gymnasium with trainer facility
* Billiards room
* Table Tennis room
* Badminton Court
* Basketball court
1. **Other salient features:**

Several environment friendly initiatives have been undertaken in iCISA. Some of the prominent green features of iCISA campus include the following:

* + Water conservation is enhanced through rain water harvesting, recycling of water through sewage treatment plant, water efficient fixtures, etc.
	+ Segregation of waste and use of Compost pit in environment friendly manner. iCISA uses these compost to maintain its green campus and its own ever flourishing nursery,

Energy efficiency is boosted through a mix of measures like efficient building design with an emphasis on passive solar techniques for optimizing indoor visual and thermal comfort, use of high efficiency water based screw chillers for air conditioning, energy efficient fixtures etc.

# Faculty and Resource Pool

iCISA has residential faculty in the form of Director General, two Directors who are supported by five other officers. The officers are well qualified and highly skilled in IT related domains. Five officers are Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA certification) and one of them is a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM). The officers are proficient in DBMS and CAATs. Their expertise includes Oracle, SQL Server, ProgreSQL, IDEA, Tableau and Qlikview. The Core Faculties also have extensive experience in IT audit and have been assisting SAI India teams for this work. Further, the training programmes at iCISA also harnesses the expertise of auditors of SAI India and experiences derived from such audits. iCISA also has an impressive panel of external faculties who are subject matter experts (SMEs) in their respective fields and are of international repute. Faculties are drawn from other government departments and institutions (viz. Senior Civil Servants and Project Managers from Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, National e-Governance Division, Standardization Testing and Quality Certification, Data Security Council of India etc.), public and private sector organizations (viz. IT professionals and experts from Indian Institute of Public Administration, Tata Consultancy Services, IBM etc.), accounting and auditing firms (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, PwC etc.), universities and academic institutions (Eminent Academicians and Scholars). Senior professionals from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Community based organizations; media (Journalists) etc. are also part of faculty for sharing field experiences.

Resource Persons and Faculties

* **5 CISA** and **1 CISM** in Core Faculty team
* **Core Faculty with extensive IT audit Experience**
* Core team proficient in training on **DBMS, ERP, CAATs and Data Analytics software**
* External Faculties include leaders from Public and Private IT projects , Cyber Security specialists and IT professionals

# Core competencies

iCISA is a global Centre of Excellence for Information systems and Information technology audit including Data Analytics. It strives to develop high quality products in training and research to enrich audit for IT systems through an inter-disciplinary approach enabled by valuable partnerships.

The experience of conducting audits of all types (Financial, Compliance and Performance) in all sectors and diverse IT fields gives SAI India and in turn, iCISA, an enviable pool of knowledge.

Officers in SAI India have also been exposed to international best practices through their engagements with various working groups, sub-committees of International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Moreover, CAG of India is also the chair of UN Board of Auditors and also chairs the Knowledge Sharing Committee of INTOSAI. iCISA harnesses this experience in designing and delivering training.

# Bilateral and National capacity building programmes

iCISA also works with other SAIs for country specific capacity building programmes in IT audit and other subjects. The participants are exposed to various IT systems including SAP ERP environment. Since its inception, iCISA has carried out nine training programmes on IT Audit under bilateral arrangements in which about 170 auditors from seven SAIs viz., Afghanistan, Nepal, Uganda, Vietnam, Iraq, Bangladesh and Oman have benefitted.

WGITA member SAIs and ICISA

Through its training programmes, iCISA has contributed in developing the knowledge and IT skills in the use and audit of information technology for officials of 37 out of 47 member SAIs of INTOSAI’s Working Group on IT Audit.

In addition, iCISA has also conducted about 157 national capacity building programmes on IT audit and e-governance providing training to more than 4500 participants.

#  iCISA as an “IT audit Resource Centre”

iCISA also serves as the Primary Resource Centre for IT Audit in SAI India. It provides hand holding and technical guidance for IT Audit reports. SAI India has conducted more than 450 IT audits in last 15 years. SAI India is geared up to address the challenges posed by changing landscape in IT environment in India due to various initiatives undertaken by the Government under Digital India and National e-Governance. Major government drive towards adoption of open source technology, networking of interoperable data and systems, linking of various databases with Aadhaar database (World’s largest social benefit biometric ID system), BPR and automation of all processes, mobile based delivery of services, moving of IT infra and apps to Cloud have brought about paradigm shift in the audit universe.

SAI India has conducted following major audits in the recent years which had considerable impact and was appreciated by stakeholders:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Title of the Audit Report | Year |
| 1. | Crime and Criminal Tracking Network system | 2014 |
| 2. | System of registration of document | 2016 |
| 3. | E-Procurement Project | 2016 |
| 4. | Pancha Tantra - a web-based application with 3-tier architecture for implementing the double entry accounting system in Local bodies | 2015 |
| 5. | Effectiveness of Value Added Taxes Information System | 2014 |
| 6. | E-Reservation System in Maharashtra Road Transport Corporation | 2014 |
| 7. | Information Technology Audit of Crew Management System in Indian Railways  | 2014 |

# Course design and execution at iCISA

The Research and Innovation Wing of iCISA assists in the structuring of training courses by frequently interacting with experts in the field of ICT and scanning the external environment to identify potential emerging areas. The emerging areas are suitably incorporated and courses are tailored to meet the specific needs of officers/officials who are undergoing training. iCISA is in the process of executing separate Memoranda of Understanding with Standardisation Testing and Quality certification (STQC) Directorate under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an industry body on data protection in India setup by National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM) for preparation of course material and training of trainers on topics like IT Governance Framework, Network and Application Security, Information Security Audits etc. International training programmes are generally held for a duration of four Weeks. The course is designed to include Case Studies, Group Exercises, presentation of theme Country Papers, study tours and field visits and Interactive lectures and hands-on practical sessions. E-learning modules are also made available in Hostel room computers and Library. The study tours are devised in a way to expose the participants to various initiatives in Government and Government audit in the subject of training.

# Global footprints of iCISA through ITPs:



# Popularity of iCISA Training Programs

iCISA training Programs are always in high demand due to their participant centric approach and relevance to real work in Public Auditing. The programs are designed with great care and feedback received from participants and their SAIs is given high importance. As a result all of iCISA’s international training programs are oversubscribed as it apparent from the chart below:

As illustrated above, demand for ITPs on IT Audit has grown significantly over the years and the training programmes are very popular among participating SAIs and government organizations. iCISA brochure provides a glimpse of experiences of participants of ITPs shared through their testimonials.

# Probable Course Structure for the training programme as GTF of WGITA

The best way to finalise programme design and content would be doing it through a participative approach in consultation with the member SAIs of WGITA. iCISA in collaboration with participating SAIs can design the course structure and develop course material through a voluntary and collective global exercise. .

Once the Course Structure and course contents are developed, iCISA would be in position to schedule the Training Program within 6 months. Length of the course can be deliberated upon by the Global team working on the course development. Ideally, two weeks programme would perhaps be optimum from the point of view of the subject matter and cost optimization. The course content will be developed based on the WGITA-IDI
Handbook on IT Audit and revised GUIDs 5300 and 5310 on IT Audit and IT Security Audit. As the exposure draft of all these documents are expected to be ready by the end of the year 2018, course design and development work could be planned in 2019.

Timeline

If the proposal to designate iCISA as the Global Training Facility for the working group and if the plan to constitute a global team to design and develop course content is accepted, the course content can be developed before the end of December 2019. Conduct of training course on IT Audit annually can be part of the Work Plan of 2020-22 and the first course can be organized in 2020.

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