



ISACA MALAYSIA CHAPTER GET TO KNOW MEMBER

Title: ISACA MY Chapter - Get to Know the Members (#4)

Dear Members,

It's time to introduce another member in our Get to Know the Members space! Meet Mr. Nickson Choo, our ex-board member and the current Chairman of Membership Growth and Retention Committee (MGRC) of ISACA International. Nickson has been with ISACA for more than 14 years now. Let's hear him sharing some of his experiences previously when he was in ISACA BOD and also some background of himself.

<http://www.isaca.org/chapters3/Malaysia/Documents/Nickson.JPG>

1. Please share with us a little background about yourself

I'm an accounting graduate of University Malaya. I've worked in 3 different insurance companies before and I'm currently the Director of Risk Advisory Unit of Crowe Horwath Kuala Lumpur. Married with 2 teenage kids – boys. I joined ISACA BOD in year 2000 and set down as President in 2007.

2. Please tell us on how you first got involved in ISACA and what was your first impression of it?

Joined ISACA back in the year 2000 and during those years, volunteers was hard to come by and I volunteered and was immediately indoctrinated into the Board and given the Events Portfolio. My first impression was "Wow, these guys at ISACA was great and trusted me with this huge responsibility of generating revenue for the chapter!" (On the hindsight, this was probably the worst portfolio and considered by many the most difficult and busiest portfolio which every experienced director will try to avoid taking up). Don't worry, we have since eliminated this Events Portfolio – so please do volunteer to the board and join the fun!!

The one thing that makes ISACA unique is the camaraderie amongst its members even to today. We may work for competing firms or organization but when it comes to ISACA, we share a commonality. That's what impressed me and this is what makes me continue to be with ISACA.

3. What do you find most challenging about getting involved in ISACA work?

Volunteerism is an important aspect of ISACA both here in Malaysia and around the world. The one challenge that you will always face as a volunteer is on how much time that you can spare/devote to do ISACA work. To be involved in ISACA, you need some flexibility in your working life as you are required to attend meetings and events as well as to help organize certain events or functions. Having an understanding employer and boss is a must. If your boss was a



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current or ex-volunteer of ISACA, he/she will definitely understand the benefits of being involved as a volunteer and will also support your efforts and involvement.

4. Apart from being the BOD, please tell us on your other involvement in ISACA i.e. sub-committees, SIG etc.?

Although I no longer sit on the board of ISACA Malaysia, I am actively involved with ISACA International since the year 2008. I currently the Chair of the Membership Growth and Retention Committee (MGRC) which is tasked to look into improving the growth percentage as well as the retention ratios of the various chapters around the world.

5. Any unforgettable moments happened during your involvement in ISACA?

Hahaha! All the moments in ISACA are unforgettable. Honest! I have truly enjoyed my involvement in ISACA as it gave me the opportunity to interact with IT professionals and like-minded people from the various industries. From the endless board meetings we have had, to the various events we have organized and to the unusual characters of people we have worked with, create wonderful memories that makes my involvement in ISACA so unforgettable.

6. How do people commonly describe about yourself?

Gee! People usually don't tell me such things about myself. But I think they would describe me as the skinny spectacle guy that talks too much!!

7. What do you do during your leisure time?

I am an avid golfer and if there is any leisure time, I will try to get onto a golf course!

8. What is the one thing which most people would be surprised to know about you?

I guess most people would be surprised to know that I have been involved with ISACA international since 2008. Most people don't know that it's possible to volunteer at International level.

9. What is your personal philosophy about life?

If you listen to this song by Baz Luhrmann titled "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)" – it beautifully reflects how we should view our life. My personal favorite would be – "sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind...the race is long, and in the end, it's only with yourself"

10. Any message to members about getting involved in ISACA BOD or any other volunteer work in general?

Do join us at ISACA events, it's the best platform for anyone to interact and network with other fellow professionals from the industry. If possible, do volunteer to serve on the sub-committees



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or board of ISACA, the experience and exposure you get will be something that you can never get elsewhere.