

2008 ISSA Manila Chapter Report

I am proud to have given the opportunity to speak and share what has been done in the Chapter for the whole year, its founding year. I could say the development of the Information Systems Security Association Manila Chapter has been a great encounter for me and our co-founding members who partake actively in the process. With the collective participation of our eleven co-founding members we were able to get the chapter hood from the ISSA International Board and incorporated the Chapter as well as a non-profit organization in the Philippines to better serve security practitioners including IT leaders as members and prospective members too. The process was not easy and without much contribution from the group, it might have been very hard to reach where we are now and might not be possible for everyone of us to get to an annual membership meeting. Despite the lack of resources we are lucky we did it. It does not really need much money to build this kind of organization however, I see an important thing that needs for every stakeholders (founding members, future officers, members and prospective members) focus to stay on, making sure there is a continuous commitment and dedication to keep the Chapter up and running.

In the beginning, we started naught and really have nothing to offer to our prospective members, everyone in the security and IT practice are, so we acted and kept pursuing opportunities that will benefit all of us. We are working non-stop on ISC2 for them to bring their seminars and examinations in country. We have recently signed a partnership with Veridion, the premier information security training provider based in Canada and conducted trainings in the U.S. with offerings in ISO/IEC 27001 Foundation, Auditor, Lead Auditor and Lead Implementor courses. We have been given the opportunity to dictate how much should be charged for every participant. While we can do that, there is only one thing we can make sure to members that would like to attend training, great discount is waiting. The good thing for bringing training providers as partner is that the trainee or examinee no longer need to fly out of the country, they surely can save a lot of money from board and lodging costs.

We are bound to keep our communications line open to the ISSA International and one of the latest developments that will certainly help every Chapter is the creation of Chapter Presidents Advisory Council (CPAC) and we are grateful to have this during our founding year. The newly created council will facilitate and help chapters in every region carry their mandate through (a) Mentoring and supporting chapters, (b) Involving members and chapters in ISSA initiatives such as membership growth, educational offerings and the formation of new chapters, (c) Providing regional expertise on specific regional membership needs (d) Counseling the ISSA staff regarding unique regional issues and trends.

We are optimistic that we will be able to grow our membership and everyone who shares us common interest will join and support the Chapter's main goal to promote information security best practices in the country including the industry as a whole. See you in the membership and thank you.