



E - NEWS LETTER



Tuticorin Branch of Southern India Regional Council of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

December 2009

Thoughts of the Chairman



Dear Friends,

Greetings,

Starting from the Satyam ordeal to the Copenhagen climate change summit, the year 2009 has witnessed a lot of unforgettable events both in Indian and international levels. Good or bad, success or failure, boom or doom – everything shall pass. Each one of us experience cyclical fluctuations at certain points of time. Every peak is followed by a valley. As the saying goes, “If winter comes, can spring be far behind”, if there is a recession then there is sure to be a boom sooner or later. We always benefit a lot from our adversities than our successes. It is during these hard times, we really come to know of our abilities.

Whatever be the situation let us see it as an adventure and not as a problem. The way we view a situation is the greatest deciding factor of how we are able to progress in dealing with the situation. Lack of interest in the issue or the fear of it only disables us, giving us an added problem. Rather assuming the situation to be an adventure, gives us enormous energy to tackle even a herculean task easily and also with fun. Everyday is a gift we have to work on. Considering the work to be a blessing or a burden depends on our attitude. The choice is always ours.

As often said, the past never returns and the future is always uncertain. It is always the present we can rely on. We can start and make a new beginning even today. Being at the eve of the year 2009, let us thank the almighty for his immense blessings throughout the year and pray for much more in the coming year. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and an Enchanting New Year ahead.

With warm regards

CA B.Francis Amal George

10 Important Year-End Tax Tips



While you're buying gifts and mailing cards there's one more thing to add to your "to do" list this holiday season – year-end tax planning. Following are 10 year-end tax tips to help reduce your anxiety and possibly lower your tax bill:

1. **Spend your FSA balance.** If you set up a [flexible spending account](#) (FSA) and had money regularly withdrawn from your paychecks and deposited into the account, make sure you spend the money before January 1 or you risk losing it. Check with your human resources department if you're unsure about how much money you currently have in your FSA. Make doctor's appointments or purchase any necessary medical equipment or supplies now to use the savings you've accumulated.
2. **Get your paperwork in order.** If your work or personal situation has not changed much since last year it shouldn't take too long to get your papers together in one place. Collect your paystubs or review your automatic paycheck deposits online if you do electronic banking. Gather your investment account statements as well as receipts for expenses you have incurred that would qualify for tax credits or deductions. Start a file for documents you will receive shortly after the New Year that you'll need when filing your taxes. (For more tax tips, check out [Give Your Taxes Some Credit.](#))
3. **Calculate your current tax situation.** Once you have collected your paperwork, do a quick review to compare your take-home pay and taxes already withheld in 2009 to your 2008 return. If your income or expenses have changed significantly this year – for example, if you have lost your job, taken a pay cut, divorced or liquidated investments to start a new business – you may want to estimate your regular income tax using IRS [Form 1040](#). If you think you may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT) use IRS Form 6251 to estimate your tax liability.

If you have done the tax calculations and determined that at your current pace you're going to owe Uncle Sam money come April 15, there are steps you can take now to lower that bill, such as:

4. **Give or donate.** You - and your spouse - are each allowed to give up to \$13,000 (for a total of \$26,000) to as many people as you would like without having to pay gift taxes. In addition, you can only claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions if you make it before January 1. If your donation is worth more than \$250, get the receipt from the organization to which you are donating and make an itemized list with each items' estimated fair market value (FMV).

5. **Invest.** Deposit money in your retirement plans to meet the yearly maximums:

- ∨ The 401k contribution limit is \$16,500 or \$22,000 if you are age 50 or older
- ∨ The IRA contribution limit is \$5,000 or \$6,000 if you are over 50
- ∨ The Simple IRA limit is \$11,500 or \$14,000 if you are age 50 or older
- ∨ [403b](#) and 456 plan contribution limits are \$16,500 or \$22,000 if you are age 50 or older.

You can also open up, or contribute to, a college savings plan such as a 529 Plan to both take the tax deduction and invest money to grow tax-free for a child or grandchild's future college bill. (For more, check out [Five Tax\(ing\) Retirement Mistakes.](#))

6. **Postpone your pay.** If possible, see if you can get clients or customers to defer paying you for the last month - or more - of work in 2009 until 2010. If you expect to get a bonus ask your boss to hold off paying it until after the New Year.

7. **Check your investments.** Review your most recent portfolio statement to see how your investments have fared so far this year. If you have incurred some losses, make the most of it. Realize your tax losses before the New Year to offset any long-term capital gains.

8. **Make another mortgage payment.** If you think you're going to need to lower your taxes, make an additional mortgage payment in December so you can deduct the additional interest paid. Make sure that the additional interest payment is noted on Form 1098 that you receive from your lender/mortgage servicer.

9. **Prepay taxes.** If you prepay any 2010 taxes (i.e. property taxes, state and/or local taxes, etc.) before January 1, you can deduct that amount from your 2009 taxes.

10. **Take advantage of tax credits.** There are numerous potential tax credits you may be able to benefit from if you make the necessary purchases or investments before January 1. For example, if you have a college student you may be able to get a tax credit of up \$2,500 for qualified education-related costs you incurred such as textbooks, tuition, a computer etc. through the American opportunity tax credit. You could qualify for state or utility rebates and a federal tax credit of up to 30 percent of the product cost for any qualifying energy-efficient windows, doors, or skylights.

The most important end-of-year tax tip, however, is to know your own personal tax situation. Not every tip will help - and in fact, using a few could hurt depending on your tax status. For example, if you are subject to the AMT, prepaying your taxes and delaying income payments won't actually be a benefit and could increase your 2010 tax bill. If you are behind on paying taxes or unsure about how to estimate your tax bill consider calling a CPA or tax professional so you can make the best decision for your situation.

Information Technology:

Microsoft Exchange 2010: New Features Released Via Beta Mode

Exchange 2010 is part of the next wave of Microsoft Office-related products and is the first server in a new generation of Microsoft server technology.

Exchange 2010 is part of the next wave of Microsoft Office-related products and is the first server in a new generation of Microsoft server technology built from the ground up to work on-premises and as an online service. This release of Exchange 2010 introduces a new integrated e-mail archive and features to help reduce costs and improve the user experience. Microsoft unveiled the new version of the program with public beta back in April as the first release in the next wave of Office-related products. Exchange Server 2010 will become available in the second half of 2009. Microsoft Office 2010 and related products will enter technical preview in the third quarter of 2009 and become available in the first half of 2010.

The last big release of Microsoft Exchange, Exchange Server 2007, marked a major change from the previous edition. Exchange 2007 introduced unified messaging, a completely new management client, and improvements to almost every aspect of the mail server, but at the cost of a whopping learning curve for administrators. Admins will have an easier go of it this time around.

The improvements in Exchange 2010 fall into three "pillars," as they are described in Microsoft marketing-speak: flexibility and reliability, anywhere access, and protection and compliance. The latest release of Exchange can help you achieve better business outcomes while controlling the costs of deployment, administration, and compliance. Exchange delivers the widest range of deployment options, integrated information leakage protection, and advanced compliance capabilities, that combine to form the best messaging and collaboration solution available.

On top of noteworthy enhancements for Outlook users, new features also make the operator's life easier -- without introducing entirely new ways of doing things. So if the standby continuous replication feature in Exchange 2007 SP1 improved your operations, or you've been migrating your contractors' e-mail accounts from in-house Exchange 2007 servers to Exchange Online to reduce costs, you'll find much to like in Exchange 2010 as well.

Support for Windows Server 2003 has been dropped from Exchange 2010 in favor of a Windows Server 2008 minimum platform. This might complicate the upgrade calculation for people running older server software. The forced upgrade to Windows Server 2008 shouldn't be as big a shock as the forced upgrade to 64-bit hardware was when Exchange Server 2007 was introduced.

Although pricing for Exchange Server 2010 has not yet been announced, from the initial beta it looks like a very promising upgrade. Because of the major improvements in usability, reliability, and compliance, most Exchange 2007 shops will probably want to upgrade to Exchange 2010 sooner rather than later.

The next wave, which includes Microsoft Office 2010, Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010, Microsoft Visio 2010 and Microsoft Project 2010, is designed to give people a consistent experience across devices, making it easier to create and edit documents and collaborate from any location. In addition, to help businesses reduce costs, the next wave will introduce new delivery and licensing models, improve deployment and management options for IT professionals, and provide developers with an expanded platform on which to create applications.



Students Industrial Visit on 18th December 2009 to Vaspal Salt & Chemicals Pvt Ltd, Veppalodai.



ICAI's CORPORATE CONCLAVE

In Pursuit of Excellence

Objective

Committee for Members in Industry (CMII), as part of the Corporate Forum event, would conduct four full days National Conclaves on contemporary topics, which are of relevance to the Profession and to the Country to enrich knowledge and to enhance skill set of members:

- Conclave on Cyber Threats, Information Systems Security and XBRL
- Conclave on Inspiring Today, For Tomorrow (All India Mega Women Conference)
- Conclave on Benchmarking Corporate Governance
- Conclave on Challenges & Roadmap to IFRSs

Conclave on Cyber Threats, Information Systems Security and XBRL – 6 CPE HRS

29th January, 2010, JW Marriott, Juhu, Mumbai
(Organised jointly with Committee on Information Technology of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal (ICAN) and Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI))

Enterprises are making increasing use of Information Technology to better manage their core business functionality and offer value added services to their clients. This increasing IT deployment has opened a Pandora's Box of evils Cyber Threats, Erosion of Maker-Checker Processes, Loss of Audit Trail, IT Risks and Threats to Business Continuity. In addition, enterprises are increasingly concerned about Governance Risk and Control, apart from adopting to emerging Business Reporting processes. This conclave seeks to address these issues.

03.45 p.m. -04.45 p.m.	Fourth Technical Session XBRL – Emerging Professional Opportunities for Chartered Accountants	Ms. Liv Watson , XBRL International, Vice Chairman
04.45 p.m. -05.45 p.m.	Fifth Technical Session Convergence, Compliance and IT Opportunity	CA. Anand P. Jangid Infosys Technologies Ltd
05.45 p.m.	Valedictory Session	

Time	Particulars	Faculty
09.00 a.m. to 09.30 a.m.	Registrations	
09.30 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	Inauguration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CA. Uttam Prakash Agarwal, President, ICAI •Vice President, ICAI •Chairman, Committee on Information Technology •Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry
10.15 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	First Technical Session Risk Based Audits & IT	CA. S.V. Sunder Krishnan Chief Risk Officer Reliance Life Insurance Company Limited
11.30a.m. – 01.00 p.m.	Second Technical Session Computer Forensics	Dr Krishna Prasad Pendyala, Cyber Crime Cell
02.00 p.m. – 03.30 p.m.	Third Technical Session Governance Risk & Control	CA. Piyush Jain



Conclave on Inspiring Today, For Tomorrow – 6 CPE HRS

30th January, 2010, Goregaon Sports Club, Mumbai
(Organised jointly with Women Steering Group of ICAI)

The theme "Inspiring Today, For Tomorrow" emphasizes the opportunities the profession provides, and confirms the Institute's commitment to attracting female talents to a profession vital to the world's economy. The conference will focus on teaching women life-coping strategies to manage stress, conduct career planning, as well as develop positive relationships and mental health awareness.



Time	Particulars	Faculty
09.00 a.m. to 09.30 a.m.	Registrations	
09.30 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	Inauguration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA. Uttam Prakash Agarwal, President, ICAI • Vice President, ICAI • CA. Priya Bhansali, Convenor, Women Steering Group of ICAI • Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry
10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon	First Technical Session Role of Women CA in Media & Entertainment Industry	CA Deepa Raghavan, Editor Moneycontrol
12.00 Noon – 01.00 p.m.	Second Technical Session Target Cost Management	Dr. Monica Singhania, Associate Professor, FMS, New Delhi
02.00 p.m. – 02.45 p.m.	Third Technical Session Limited Liability Partnership – A step towards change	Adv. Rajas Kasbekar
03.00 p.m. – 05.00 p.m.	Fourth Technical Session Rejuvenation through Corporate Games	Eminent Speakers
05.00 p.m. – 06.00 p.m.	Fifth Technical Session Women Achievers: Success Stories	Eminent Speakers
Programme Chairperson	CA. Priya Bhansali, Convenor, Women's Steering Group of ICAI	

Conclave on Benchmarking Corporate Governance – 6 CPE HRS

30th January, 2010, JW Marriott, Juhu, Mumbai
(Organised jointly with Committee on Corporate Governance of ICAI)

The failure of a considerable number of companies during recent years, the global financial crisis and the outbreak of major financial scams across the globe have brought renewed focus on the importance of good corporate governance leading to a broadened interest in the topic to a broader audience.

It becomes absolutely imperative to benchmark the best corporate governance practices norms and establish the significance of corporate governance to all types of organizations in the country.

It is now evident that a higher standard of corporate governance will contribute to economic advancement and prevent major shocks to the economy.

Time	Particulars	Faculty
09.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.	Registrations	
10.00 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Inauguration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA. Uttam Prakash Agarwal, President, ICAI • Vice President, ICAI • Chairman, Committee on Corporate Governance • Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry
11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	First Technical Session Balanced Score Card for Better Corporate Governance.	CA B. R. Jaju, Director & CFO, Welspun Gujarat
12.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Second Technical Session Institutionalizing Independent Directors	CA. S. A. Muraliprasad, Director, SAM Consultancy Service (P) Ltd.
2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Third Technical Session Corporate Governance in Family Owned Business & SME Sector.	Sh. Anil Jhumkawala, Director - Compliance, Secure Matrix India (P) Ltd.
4.15 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.	Fourth Technical Session	CA. Abhay Gupte



	Impact of IT in facilitating Corporate Governance & Risk Management.	
05.45 p.m.	Valedictory Session	

**Conclave on Challenges & Roadmap to IFRS – 6
CPE HRS**

31st January, 2009, JW Marriott, Juhu, Mumbai
(Organised jointly with Accounting Standards Board)

With India moving towards Convergence with IFRS w.e.f. 1st April, 2011, it has become imperative for the Industry to prepare itself for the changes. This Programme will focus on challenges to be faced and roadmap to IFRS. This will enable the members in understanding overview of IFRS & how the financial Statements will be prepared under IFRS.

Time	Particulars	Faculty
09.00 a.m. to 09.30 a.m.	Registrations	
09.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	Inaugural Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA. Uttam Prakash Agarwal, President, ICAI • Vice President, ICAI • Chairman, Accounting Standards Board • Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry
10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	First Technical Session Overview of IFRS	CA. N.P. Sarda, Past President, ICAI.
12.00 Noon – 01.30 p.m.	Second Technical Session IFRSs relating to Revenue Recognition	CA. Pooja Gupta, Head of Finance, New Edge Group, Mumbai
02.30 p.m. – 04.00 p.m.	Third Technical Session First Time adoption of IFRSs	CA. Yagnesh Desai, Mumbai



04.15 p.m. – 05.45 p.m.	Fourth Technical Session Practical Conversion of I GAAP Accounts into IFRS Financial Statements	CA. Rakesh Agarwal, Mumbai
05.45 p.m.	Valedictory Session	

Participation Fees	Members of ICAI	Non-Members
One day conclave on Cyber Threats Information Systems Security & XBRL	Rs. 2,500/-	Rs. 3,500/-
One day conclave on Inspiring Today, For Tomorrow	Rs. 1,500/-	Rs. 2,000/-
One day conclave on Benchmarking Corporate Governance	Rs. 2,500/-	Rs. 3,500/-
One day conclave on Challenges & Roadmap to IFRS	Rs. 2,500/-	Rs. 3,500/-

Fee Includes

- Course material, morning tea, lunch and high tea
- One Complimentary invitation to the ICAI Awards 2009 functions to be held in the evening of 30th and 31st January, 2010.

Payment Terms:

Cheque / Demand Draft in favour of 'The Secretary, ICAI' payable at Mumbai and should be sent only to Mrs. S. Kapoor — Senior Assistant Director, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, ICAI BHAWAN, 27, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai-400 005

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