



BCICAI CONNECT-October 2019

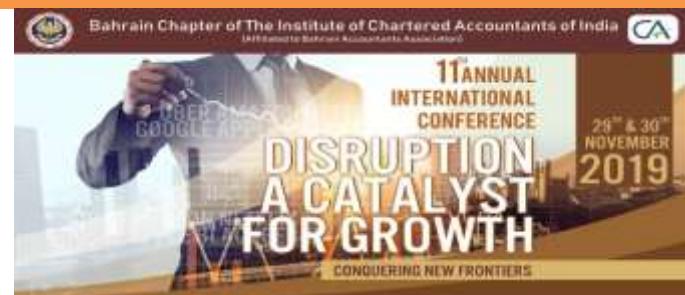
From the Chairperson's desk

Dear Professional Colleagues,

At the time you will connect with this monthly Connect, we will be looking at what will be the remaining 60 days of the calendar year 2019. It has been an eventful year so far for us in Bahrain and specially for our Chapter and we are hoping to close the year on a positive note. The New Excom completed 3 months since entrusted with the responsibility of managing the Chapter and we have been sincerely striving to meet the expectations of all the stakeholders. Below we present an overview of the events and happenings of October 2019. Hope its will be useful.

1. Annual International Conference Update

The early bird registration ended on 31st October 2019. We thank all the members who registered and paid by the cut-off date. Preparations are in full swing for the for the 2 day event. Work is also progressing on logistical arrangements for speakers travel, conference gifts, media support, etc. Efforts to secure sponsorship has been ongoing. The family event segment has been finalized and will be announced soon.



2. CR Activity: Beach Cleaning

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, on 2nd October BCICAI joined hands with Embassy of India for Beach Cleaning activity at Karbabad beach. Members gathered in large numbers to help clean the beach. The theme of this year was to say no to single use plastic. Members of Indian Community including school children participated actively in this effort.



3. Launch of BCICAI cloth bags

At the Beach cleaning drive on 2nd October, BCICAI also introduced branded cloth bags which was launched by H.E Alok Kumar Sinha, The Indian Ambassador, conveying the message "Say no to plastic" printed in English and Arabic with flags of India and Bahrain displayed prominently. This bags will be distributed to members at the Annual International Conference.



4. Conserving Bounties

On the occasion of World Food day (October 16th) BCICAI is making a humble effort to reduce the food wastage by collaborating with Conserving Bounties, the first specialized food bank in Bahrain. As part of the collaboration, any excess food from the events conducted by BCICAI will be collected by Conserving Bounties team and distributed to the needy.



5. Meeting with CEO of Fintech Bay

A meeting was held with the CEO of Fintech Bay, Mr. Khalid Saad. The meeting was held on 29 October. BCICAI represented by Chairperson CA Maheshkumar and Secretary CA Ajay Kumar appraised Mr. Saad of the activities undertaken by BCICAI. A formal invitation was extended to Mr. Saad to attend the inaugural ceremony of Annual Conference which he accepted.



6. Orientation sessions at school on CA Course

BCICAI participated in the launch of the Commerce Club of the first batch of Commerce students at Asian School Bahrain and conducted a workshop for the students of grades XI. A workshop was held for the Commerce students at New Millennium School. The sessions comprised of importance of the qualification of CA, the career opportunities, global recognition of CAs and the process of becoming a CA.



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7. 3rd CPE Event – Cloud Economics

Over 150 members attended the technical event on 15th Oct. topic “Cloud Economics”. The Speaker was by Mr Jonathan Smare, Finance Leader - Enterprise Transformation at Amazon Web Services (AWS). The speaker gave good overview of the benefits companies can gain from use of Cloud services. The event sponsored by AlMoyyed Computers Middle East.



8. 4th CPE Event - How Fraud analytics, whistle-blowing and Fraud Triangle are redefining Finance function

A breakfast event was held on 25th Oct. on the topic “How Fraud analytics, whistle-blowing and Fraud Triangle are redefining Finance function”. The Speaker was by Mr Rajeev Gupta, Senior VP Audit & Risk at Diageo in India. BCICAI also celebrated Diwali during the event.



9. 1st WICAB Event – Risk Management and Women’s Wellness Clinic

The first program exclusively for the women members of BCICAI coinciding with Breast Cancer awareness month of October. The event was conducted at Bahrain Speciality Hospital (BSH) premises. The event was comprised of two segments:

- A technical session on Risk Management by CA Aswathy Udayarajan
- A Women wellness clinic by BSH Doctors Dr Yasmin Kazi & Dr Subhadeep Bose



10. A Talk on Health Living with Dr B.M.Hegde

Renowned cardiologist, professional educator and author, Padmabhushan Dr. B.M. Hegde conducted an interactive session on 18th Oct. Members gained much insight and health tips in the event. He concluded his speech by saying “While there is no pill for every ill, there is an ill following every pill”.



11. Media Coverage

During Oct 2019, the media coverage for BCICAI included:

- DT News published the news related to the technical seminars that were conducted during October 2019
- Beach cleaning efforts and launch of cloth bags
- NARIC benchmarking of ICAI course being equivalent to Masters degree



12. Collection Desk for Fees

Multiple fee collection windows were set up in order to facilitate the payment of membership & conference fees. Thanks goes out to CA Balu (Assure Consulting), CA Jatin (Grant Thornton) for letting use of their office premises as well as volunteers CA Gopal and CA Clifford who assisted in the collection process.



13. Discount Schemes

New Discount Schemes & Special offers for BCICAI members introduced during Oct. 2019

- MEWAR
- MARZIPAN
- BREAD STORY
- HOME CENTER
- BAHRAIN SPECIALITY HOSPITAL



14. Marathon team Practice sessions

To promote fitness BCICAI encouraged its members to participate for Marathon Relay 2019. Members showed up in large numbers to participate. The practice sessions are led by coach Raunaq Desai who guides all participants about their diet, workout regime and other techniques. This is followed by group meditation sessions to increase focus and motivation led by Riya Bhansali. With over a month of practice, all 16 members of the team are ready to run 3km each on November 15th at BIC.



15. Festival Greetings

Members involvement continued to create video greetings on behalf of BCICAI. Greetings were sent to mark the festive occasions of Gandhi Jayanthi, Dusshera and Diwali. For Gandhi Jayanthi the video was recorded by the little daughter of CA Dipen Mehta, the Dusshera video message was by our young member CA Vivek Gupta and the Diwali greeting was sent by CA Mohamed Ghadiyali



16. Meeting with Chapter Mentors

A meeting was held with the Mentors of the Chapter, namely the past Chairpersons was held on the 31st of October to appraise them of the progress of the activities of the Annual International Conference and other important topics.



I extend my sincere gratitude to my Excom colleagues for the relentless efforts to bring the events to members and the hard work on putting together the various elements of the upcoming Annual Conference. We are really excited looking ahead to the month of November when we finally conduct our Annual International Conference. There will be other technical events as well in addition to the first BCICAI Marathon team finally taking the field. Look forward to the wholehearted support of members in continued success of the Chapter.

Best regards,

CA Maheshkumar Narayan

Chairperson-BCICAI

1st November 2019

BAHRAIN CHAPTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

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(Affiliated to Bahrain Accountants Association)



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019-2020



CHAIRPERSON
CA Maheshkumar Narayan



CONQUERING NEW FRONTIERS



VICE-CHAIRPERSON
CA Sandeep Shah



SECRETARY
CA Ajay Kumar



TREASURER
CA Raghu Iyer



JOINT SECRETARY
CA Ragunathan PN



JOINT TREASURER
CA Sunita Gupta



EXCOM MEMBER
CA Bhavin Deliwala



EXCOM MEMBER
CA Chetan Dongra



EXCOM MEMBER
CA Garvita Shrivastava



EXCOM MEMBER
CA Riya Bhansali



EXCOM MEMBER
CA Jagadish P

Members Corner

1. Memory Champion from BCICAI:

Our Chapter member CA Hemant Joshi has won 10 Gold medals at the 'Indian National Memory Champion 2019 in the Senior Category'. The Indian National Memory Championship 2019 conducted by World Memory Sports Council was held in Bangalore on the 12th and 13th of October 2019.



2. Young BCICAI Member's Bahrain journey

Last month we had published the message from CA Venkatesh Murthy who was leaving the Island after a good number of years. This month we have a message from a young Chartered Accountant who is relatively new in Bahrain about his perception of the time he has spent on the Island so far. Let's hear from Gopal Vijaybhaskar

After completing my CA in May 2017, I was looking for jobs abroad. The obvious choices were the glamorous Dubai or Qatar, where my elder brother was working. While interviewing for some jobs there, out of nowhere I got a call for interview with a company in Bahrain. I checked with my cousin living here about the country, and he said "This is the best place in GCC". Everything I heard was positive about this beautiful island.

I was sceptical whether it was true? Are the Bahrainis so warm, friendly and welcoming people? Lots of Indian community and social clubs to be part of? Lots of Indian restaurants? BCICAI the best foreign chapter? So I decided to come here and find out. And all turned out to be true.

Everyone I met in Bahrain was friendly, be it locals or expats. I remember calling the then Chairman CA Uday Shanbhag, on 9 April 2018, 2 days after landing in Bahrain, who asked me to enrol with BCICAI immediately and attend the family day event at LPOD on 13 April. I got in touch with CA Mahesh and CA Palaniswamy immediately. CA Palaniswamy went out of the way helping me by picking me from my place for the event, introducing me to the fellow CAs at the event and I made fabulous friends, CA Rajesh, CA Vinit and CA Rohan. I also joined ICAB Toastmasters club, wherein with the guidance of my mentors I was able to take up leadership role as VP Public Relations. I started playing football and cricket with fellow CAs, rekindling my love for sports. When I was injured while playing, and I could not walk without help, I was made to feel at home by my friends and colleagues.

I have met more people, made more friends in Bahrain than in India. I am not only active on social media, I am socially active. In Bahrain I live a life beyond work and home, and it's all because of the people I met here. I look forward for delightful and joyful times ahead. Cheers to this beautiful island.

Regards,
Gopal Vijayabhaskar

