



December 22, 2012

Dear HISPI Member,

On behalf of the HISPI Governance Board, I'd like to wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year and thank you for your continued support of HISPI as we push forth to advance the profession of information security, governance, risk and compliance.

## **New Governance Board Member:**

At the December 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting the governance board voted to add the position of Communications Director to the governance board. I would like you to welcome our new Communications Director Vidya Sekhar. I introduced Vidya to you as an Advisory Board member in September. Diya, as she is more frequently called, is employed as a Program Manager at Microsoft. In her role in the Microsoft Malware Protection Center, she formed a cross-group risk management program as part of the business intelligence team to manage and mitigate risks raised in the anti-malware technologies space.

Prior to this role, she worked as Compliance Project Manager for Microsoft's Engineering Excellence organization, moving to the corporate headquarters in Redmond, Washington to establish and drive engineering policy compliance efforts across the company's online teams, having managed Hotmail's Security & Monitoring Programs from Microsoft's Silicon Valley Campus for a couple of years.

In her new role as Communications Director she will be working with the board to maintain and enhance our communications especially with our partnerships, but also with our members.

## **Initiatives for 2013**

### **Public Relations Campaign:**

The board is meeting with several public relations firms to discuss ways to enhance our public image and promote the HISPI value proposition. This campaign would involve enhancements to our marketing materials, web site and better use of social media. We firmly believe that HISPI has a great program but we need to do a better job of getting the word out and that means investing in marketing and public relations. Using the tools and techniques that such a firm can provide HISPI will make 2013 a year of growth for this organization and our members.

### **Web Site Redesign:**

We are still trying to find an economical means of redesigning our web site. All of our attempts to obtain assistance to redesign the web site by partnering with a community college web/SQL development program have still not come to fruition.

I again call out to any of our members that have web design experience to take on this project. This can be a way for you to earn CPEs and also give back to HISPI and the information security community. We really need to get this done and the current board members do not have the necessary expertise. If you do, I again challenge you to step up and help us out.

### **Course Offerings for 2013:**

The board is in the process of developing our public HISP class schedule for 2013. We currently have a list of 7 proposed class locations and dates. If you know of interest in your area or organization and can assist us in promoting a private or public HISP class we would be happy to work with you to run a class. We can also offer incentives to organizations that host classes such as reduced prices or complimentary seats.

## **Sponsorships:**

As always, I am asking for your help in signing up more sponsors. I challenge you to approach your own organizations, vendors and associates, promote HISPI and HISP certifications and ask them to sponsor your institute. Sponsorships start at \$1,000 and the benefits are enormous. Descriptions of the sponsorship levels, prices

and benefits can be found at: <https://www.hispi.org/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf>. If you have any questions about sponsorships contact either Taiye Lambo ([tlambo@hispi.org](mailto:tlambo@hispi.org)) or I ([rjohnson@hispi.org](mailto:rjohnson@hispi.org)).

For the month of January 2013 we are offering a 50% discount on our 2013 sponsorships. Each sponsorship level will receive all of the same benefits at half the cost.

### **Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP) Updates:**

HISPI is the oversight body of the Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP). The CAAP provides assurance of the qualifications for those purporting to have the necessary experience and skills competency as Cloud Assessors engaged to independently validate Cloud Service Provider's scores derived from their self-assessments against the requirements of the CloudeAssurance rating system platform.

CAAP was launched on August 31, 2012 in partnership with our latest sponsor CloudeAssurance. This program has been under development since November 2011, with the HISPI CAAP Oversight Board (CAAPOB) currently chaired by Iro Chatzopoulou, Systems Auditor and IT Manager at TUV Austria Hellas in Greece working tirelessly with the rest of the CAAPOB to fill a critical market gap by bringing this offering to market.

My employer King County in Seattle, Washington took the bold step of including the CloudeAssurance rating score as one of the security requirements in one of our recently published RFPs for private cloud services. HISPI CAAPOB is looking for additional early adopters to the CloudeAssurance rating system score and CAAP validation process, particularly from within our HISPI community.

CloudeAssurance will be publishing a "Cloud Security Benchmark" focusing on the Top 10 cloud service providers (CSPs) in January 2013, so please watch your inbox for relevant information in the coming weeks.

For more information about this program, please visit [www.hispi.org/CAAP.php](http://www.hispi.org/CAAP.php), [www.CloudeAssurance.com](http://www.CloudeAssurance.com) or contact Taiye Lambo at [tlambo@hispi.org](mailto:tlambo@hispi.org).

### **Other Activities:**

We continue to explore partnership opportunities for expansion into India, Australia and South Africa and we will keep you posted as these partnerships materialize.

### **How You Can Help:**

As always, your help is needed. We have made calls for your assistance in the past. The people who gain the greatest value from membership are the ones who actively participate. As I have said before, support can take many forms, such as writing articles for the newsletter, joining committees, helping to build new content, liaising on behalf of HISPI with other security and compliance organizations.

What can you do?

- As mentioned above, if you have the skill set, volunteer to help redesign the web site.
- Challenge your organization to be a sponsor or convince one of your vendors of the benefits. The benefits to sponsors are high and the dollar value is low. Our platinum sponsorship is only \$5,000 per year and silver sponsorship is \$1,000 per year. Compare that to other security organizations. For information on sponsorships, visit: <https://www.hispi.org/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf>.
- Keep your membership fee up to date. If you are in arrears for 2011 or have not yet paid for 2012, please bring your account current. You can also pay membership fees for 2013 if you want to be ahead of the game. All of us working to support HISPI are volunteers. All of the funds that you pay go to support the organization's operations, marketing, web site hosting, email and voicemail accounts so that we can be contacted, etc. **When you pay your membership fees, remember to update your contact information and enter your CPEs.**
- Promote the training and certification within your organization and other associations of which you are a part such as ISSA, ISACA, InfraGard, HTCIA, ASIS and any others. Help us to coordinate and schedule classes in your area. If you wish to have a class anywhere, contact me, and we can work something out.

- You can submit articles for the newsletter or allow us to publish your white papers on the web site. Your research and contributions will benefit the HISPI community; you will receive CPEs for any contributions.
- Submit examination questions. Improving the examination improves the value of your certification.
- There are many other ways in which you can help. If you think of something that you believe HISPI may benefit from contact me via email or phone (888-247-4858, select option 1).

One very special way you can help and this should only take you a few minutes. If you are a LinkedIn, Facebook and/or Twitter user follow us/like us on these social media sites. On LinkedIn, I encourage you to write us a recommendation. Follow our events. I have one for each of our upcoming classes. These sites make it easy for you to help us promote our classes by simply sending them out to your contacts/friends/followers.

Our links are:



Page



Discussion Group

To volunteer send emails directly to me ([rjohnson@hispi.org](mailto:rjohnson@hispi.org)) or [volunteer@hispi.org](mailto:volunteer@hispi.org).

### **Member Relations:**

We say this all the time and it is true, you are important to us. In fact you are the reason we do what we do. Board participation is 100% voluntary, with its reward entirely tied to the value we deliver.

Constructive criticisms welcome – Tell us what you would like to see from HISPI. What can we do to enhance the value of your certification? We do want to hear from you. Give us advice on how we can improve the web site (better yet, if you have the skills help us improve it), how we can improve materials or provide what you might like to see from the organization (better yet help us develop those materials). Suggest ways to make the certification more valuable and beneficial to both you and our other members. However, **remember ideas without bodies to advance them go nowhere, so above all else, volunteer to help us move your ideas forward.**

### **One Last Thing:**

In closing let me remind you that I want to hear your ideas, your offers to volunteer and anything else that you wish to discuss or mention. Contact me by email at [rjohnson@hispi.org](mailto:rjohnson@hispi.org) or telephone 888-247-4858, select option 1.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Ralph Johnson, CISSP, HISP, CISM, CIPP/US  
HISPI Governance Board President

