

TAG-Audit Newsletter

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International (TAG-Audit) is a leading global accounting and auditing firm. It is considered as an independent member company of Talal Abu- Ghazaleh organization (TAG-Org). TAG-Audit provides a complete range of internal auditing, external auditing, taxation, and other financial services based on international professional standards.

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the risks through controls, to transfer the risk through insurance or to simply accept the risk as part of the operating environment.

- Assists in compliance with regulations - The IT auditor serves a critical function in ensuring that specific regulatory requirements are being met by the client organization, which is of particular importance to banking and finance entities.
- Facilitates communication between business and technology management - An IT audit can have the positive effect of opening channels of communication between an organization's business and technology management. Auditors interview, observe and test what is happening in reality and in practice. The final deliverables from an audit are valuable information in written reports and oral presentations. Senior management can get direct feedback on how their organization is functioning.
- Aids management in oversight of technology - An organization's technology exists to support business strategy, functions and operations. Alignment of business and supporting technology is critical. IT auditing maintains this alignment and demonstrates the value of technology to the business operations.
- Improves technology governance - Central to IT auditing and to overall IT management is a strong understanding of the value, risks and controls around an organization's technology environment.

More specifically, IT auditors review the value, risks and controls in each of the key components of technology including applications, information, infrastructure and people that in turn allows for better IT budgeting and planning.

TAGITI's services in the field include:

- Application systems audit and review - The main focus here is to review the core financing systems, accounting systems features, application interfaces, and information flow, and assess it against international best practices for accounting and application systems as well as business requirements.
- General computer controls audit - This service focuses on IT controls that are designed to manage and monitor the information systems environments, in addition to the IT controls over the acquisition, implementation, delivery and support of systems and services.
- IT security audit, penetration testing and vulnerability assessment – These services allow us to identify vulnerabilities in an organization's IT infrastructure which is essential as more services become available online. It provides assurance that infrastructures are secure and internet worthy.

It is imperative to employ the expertise of well-seasoned professionals in this area as it is highly complex. TAGITI has many years' experience in performing such audits and I extend their expertise to any organization looking to undertake this important activity.

In recognition of his extraordinary efforts over the past ten year: Bosphorus Summit Honors Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh

AMMAN – The Bosphorus Summit honored HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), in recognition of his extraordinary efforts in his capacity as the Honorary President of the Summit over the past 10 years by presenting him a wax statue of His Excellency.

The statue was presented by Mr. Cengiz Özgencil, president and founder of the International Cooperation Platform (UIP-ICP) - the entity organizing the Bosphorus Summit, in the presence of Mr. Arshad Hermzlo, senior adviser to Turkey Republic's former President HE Abdullah Gul. On this occasion, Mr. Özgencil stated :“Presenting the statue reflects our appreciation for Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's efforts and his continued support to the Summit over the past years, not to mention his contributions, which positively impacted and will continue to influence its success and development..”

He further indicated that the designation of Honorary President of the Summit upon Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh is attributed to the fact that he is a prominent global economist, renowned for his creative and innovative ideas, wide knowledge and rich experience.” Mr. Ozgencil went on to add that, “The honoring came on the occasion of the Bosphorus Summit in its 13th edition to remain as a historic evidence to what Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh presented to the entire world through the Summit.”

It is worth mentioning that the International Cooperation Platform (UIP-ICP) organizes the Bosphorus Summit annually with the aim of raising issues of common interests among countries worldwide. It is held with the participation of hundreds of high-ranking personalities including heads of states, ministers, intellectuals and businessmen. The international gathering is a platform for conducting regional



meetings, dialogue sessions and signing cooperation agreements.

For his part, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his appreciation and gratitude for this one-of-its-kind gesture, affirming his pride in the achievements of the Platform and the Summit over the past years; which allowed him to develop his own perspectives and knowledge by sharing and knowing more about world's significant experiences, not to forget the great opportunity it provides to meet with elite global personalities, most notably former Turkish President HE Abdullah Gul.

On the other hand, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh commended the Bosphorus Summit's role in achieving a qualitative transition towards a 'New World Order', saying the Summit is considered a think tank organization that collects all opinions and ideas to promote positivity and bridge differences on various economic, political, social, cultural and other issues.

In conclusion, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh suggested that this year's Summit theme and agenda will discuss 'How to Form a New World Order' that is democratic, as well as a mechanism for drafting a global constitution, noting that today no democratic world order exists.

‘Abu-Ghazaleh Global’ Participates in ISACA 2022 Events

DAMASCUS - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) took part in a number of conferences and activities organized by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) in 2022.

TAG.Global’s participation comes within the framework of cooperation between the two sides including the previously signed memorandum of understanding with the US-based ISACA, towards embracing digital technology programs, digital training-- online and face-to-face courses, in addition to exchanging consulting services for the development of digital services provided by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Incubator for Innovation.

Collaboration between the two parties also covers accreditation of a wide range of digital training programs offered by the ISACA in the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and network security. Accordingly, trainees would receive internationally accredited certificates with serial numbers.

In fact many of TAG.Global’s employees hold professional certificates issued by the Association and became members, including Ms. Sabala Nourallah, IT Consulting Manager at TAG.Global’s Syria office, who also holds a silver-rated membership. She has been nominated as Board of Directors member representing the ISACA Lebanon Chapter.

ISACA organized several activities this year; most importantly, the ISACA 2022 Awards Gala to honor and recognize ISACA Award recipients from around the world who played a prominent role and made remarkable contributions that influenced the tech industry. That is in addition to organizing an interactive online ceremony.



The Association will hold its annual conferences for 2022 in the coming period, including the Africa and Europe Conferences, while the Asia 2022 Conference, which will be held in Bahrain will be scheduled later.

ISACA’s events also include several activities and local conferences in more than 200 local councils worldwide, throughout the year. Such events address significant global technological issues and working environments in the Middle East; one of which was the ISACA Lebanon Chapter which discussed the ethical considerations for successful digital transformation and the application of the COBIT 2019 framework.

The Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) is a global 50-year old professional association that aims to provide knowledge, credentials, training services. It seeks to advance professional career of IT practitioners and help enterprises implement digital transformation process. It is a leader in IT, audit, information security, governance and risk, among others.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Incubator for Innovation is a digital platform specialized in adopting and embracing innovative ideas, businesses and projects in the ICT field. It also provides an appropriate environment to transform these ideas into existing projects that are competitive and sustainable, as well as capable of achieving market returns for their creative innovators.

ASSURANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The fourth industrial revolution is reshaping the world we live and work in. This revolution presents significant opportunities for audit and assurance. The ever-growing availability of data combined with emerging technologies offer new ways for assurance professionals to enhance trust and confidence in their work.



For the audit and broader assurance profession, the emergence of new digital tools represents a real opportunity to attract a new generation of professionals to this noble profession. In some ways, the accounting and auditing world is catching up to the digital transformation that many industries have already experienced. Retail, hospitality, transport, entertainment, energy and many, many more have undergone disruption via new entrants and completely improved customer experience. In fact, it's harder to think of an industry that hasn't been disrupted by technology than one that has. If an industry hasn't been disrupted yet, it's only a matter of time.

At the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), we are determined to ensure that our standard-setting keeps pace and is prepared to adapt to disruptive technologies. We do so without losing our focus on setting high quality standards that strengthen public confidence in audits and assurance.

Technology is one of IAASB's most relevant strategic drivers influencing our standards and future activities. Our technology initiative has three objectives:

1. Build processes and structures to support the IAASB's disruption initiative;
2. Maintain and improve the IAASB's knowledge about disruption trends and their implications for standard-setting and the public interest; and
3. Share knowledge and agenda with stakeholders in the reporting community to improve audit and assurance quality and thereby improve reporting quality.

Staying close to new technological developments is key to understanding what's coming and in 2020 we carried out a research study with support from Founders Intelligence, a leading technology consultancy, to identify the leading disruptive technologies that could impact audit and assurance.

This research included investigating over 100 technology innovator companies and interviewing over 20 organizations across the industry including audit and assurance practitioners, national standard setters, regulators, and professional accounting organizations as well as founders and management of technology startups. We sought to categorize the various technologies we identified into those impacting the way information is accessed, verified, and protected as well as those that impact procedures related to assessing internal controls. We obtained insights into the expected timing of widescale adoption of these technologies within audit and assurance as well as gaining an understanding of their potential impact on the profession.

Based on the research undertaken, we identified four common themes about how technology is, and will continue to, disrupt the audit and assurance profession:

- Audits and assurance procedures performed on a more continuous and real time basis.

- An audit or assurance engagement that is increasingly analytics based, including making use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in performing analytics.
- An audit and assurance engagement that is increasingly performed remotely.
- Audit and assurance becoming a more technology-enabled profession, where more professionals can understand, use, and leverage advancements in technology in their day-to-day work.

The IAASB discussed these findings from this research in January 2021. We held two roundtables, in November 2020 and February 2022, where the innovators behind selected technologies were invited to share more about the technology and to answer questions about it from participants representing the global audit and assurance ecosystem. Our focus did not stop there. We continue to commit dedicated resources to carry on this research and maintain the horizon watch for disruptive technologies that might impact audit and assurance.

We are upskilling IAASB members and staff to ensure we obtain a good understanding of the technologies that have the potential to disrupt audit and assurance and can factor these considerations into our current and future workplan activities. Our bi-monthly Market Scan publication focuses on a different technology and presents a high-level understanding as well as technology trends, industry and startup driven innovation in audit and assurance and what it might mean for the IAASB.

We are committed to building processes and structures to stay informed about technology and potential disruptions. To this end we have set up a Digital Advisory Group made up of a small number of innovators and business leaders to help influence the IAASB's thinking about the technology environment, different technologies and how those technologies may require standard setters, including the IAASB, to act.

This group, comprised mostly of experts from outside the audit and assurance profession, will be asked to comment on technology and innovation topics related to assurance and to bring valuable points of view that may differ from the IAASB's usual stakeholder outreach. The intelligence obtained from this group will be used to update the IAASB's research to date and focus other information gathering activities. Over the coming years, we will translate these lessons into real standard-setting inputs. In our ongoing work on audit evidence, fraud, and going concern, the IAASB will account for the impact of new technologies. Going forward, we will need to think about whether the use of the technology becomes the norm in fulfilling audit and assurance requirements and how that will impact our thinking on the scalability of our standards.

We know from our outreach activities that many national standard setters, regulators, audit firms and professional accounting organizations are similarly committing resources and effort into determining what the impact of technology will mean for auditing standards and for our profession. This is encouraging and crucial. All players in the industry have a responsibility to upskill themselves, engage in the conversations about technology disruption and share their experiences as well as the challenges they are encountering. It is only through our collective commitment to digital transformation that we will be able to move forward as a profession and continue to fulfil the valuable societal role that is our guiding purpose as well as creating an exciting future for our professionals.

<https://www.iaasb.org/news-events/2022-07/assurance-digital-age>

NEW IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING THE RISKS OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENT IN AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) released its First-Time Implementation Guide for ISA 315 (Revised 2019), Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement. The guide focuses on the more substantial changes that were made to International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 315 (Revised 2019) and will help stakeholders understand and apply the revised standard as intended.

ISA 315 (Revised 2019) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2021. This publication does not amend or override ISA 315 (Revised 2019), the text of which alone is authoritative. Reading this publication is not a substitute for reading the standard.

<https://www.iaasb.org/news-events/2022-07/new-implementation-guide-available-identifying-and-assessing-risks-material-misstatement-audit>

New Guidance for Auditors of Public Interest Entities

IESBA STAFF RELEASES Q&AS TO SPOTLIGHT KEY CHANGES TO THE NON-ASSURANCE SERVICES PROVISIONS OF THE IESBA CODE

The Staff of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) released a questions and answers (Q&As) publication to explain key revisions to the non-assurance services (NAS) provisions of the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (the Code). Together with the recently issued fee-related revisions to the Code, the NAS revisions significantly strengthen the International Independence Standards by addressing public interest concerns about independence when firms provide NAS to their audit clients. The development of the Q&As has been informed by the IESBA's deliberations in the project to revise the NAS provisions and extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including regulators and audit oversight bodies, the investor and corporate governance communities, national standard setters, firms and professional accountancy organizations.



The publication complements the Basis for Conclusions for the final NAS pronouncement and is intended to assist national standards setters, professional accountancy organizations, and professional accountants in public practice as they adopt and/or implement the revised NAS provisions. The Q&As will also assist other stakeholders, including regulators and audit oversight bodies, those charged with governance, investors, preparers, and academics and other educators better understand the key changes to the NAS provisions of the Code. These changes include the new requirements and guidance that:

- Prohibit a firm or a network firm from providing a NAS that might create a self-review threat to an audit client that is a public interest entity.
- Explain how firms are to determine when a self-review threat to independence might be created, including in relation to providing advice and recommendations to an audit client.
- Are relevant in applying the Code's conceptual framework to identify, evaluate, and address threats to independence that might be created when an audit firm provides a NAS to an audit client.
- Enable and promote more robust communication and engagement about independence matters relating to NAS between audit firms and those charged with governance of public interest entities.

The revised NAS provisions are effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2022.

<https://www.ethicsboard.org/news-events/2022-07/iesba-staff-releases-qas-spotlight-key-changes-non-assurance-services-provisions-iesba-code>

Your TECH TOOLS for the Inevitable Digital Future

LAPTOPS

TAGITOP®-FLIP

- Intel Core i5 8th Gen (8259U)
- GPU: Intel® Iris® Plus Graphics 655
- 8 GB DDR4 RAM
- Storage: 256 GB SSD
- 1x USB 3.1, 1x Type C, 1x HDMI
- Backlit Keyboard



7000 mAh



Built in Camera



Fingerprint



AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.2



Fabric Sleeve Case

14.1" FHD
Screen ten points touch

TAGITOP®-PRO

- Intel Core i7 10th Gen (1065G7)
- GPU: Intel® Iris® Plus Graphics
- 8 GB DDR4 RAM
- Storage: SSD 128 GB + SSD 512 GB
- 2x USB 3.0, 1x USB 2.0, 1x HDMI
- Backlit Keyboard



7400 mAh



15.6" FHD



Built in Camera



Fingerprint



AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.0



Fabric Sleeve Case


 THUNDERBOLT.

TAGITOP®-PLUS II

- Intel Core i7 10th Gen (10510U)
- GPU: Intel® UHD + Nvidia MX250, GDDR5 2GB
- 8 GB DDR-4 RAM
- Storage: SSD 128 GB + HDD 512 GB
- 2x USB 3.0, 1x USB 2.0, 1x Type C, 1x HDMI, RJ45
- Micro SD Card Reader • Backlit Keyboard



5000 mAh



15.6" FHD



Built in Camera



Fingerprint



AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.2



Fabric Sleeve Case



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Your TECH TOOLS for the Inevitable Digital Future

LAPTOPS

TAGITOP[®]-UNI C

- Intel Celeron N4100
- GPU: Intel UHD Graphics 600
- 4 GB LPDDR3 RAM
- Storage: 256 GB SSD + 64 GB EMMC
- 1x USB 3.0, 2x USB 2.0,
1 MINI-HDMI, RJ45



4800 mAh



14.1" FHD



Built in Camera



AC Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0



TAGITOP[®]-UNI

- Intel Core i3 5th Gen (5005U)
- GPU: Intel HD graphics 5500
- 8 GB DDR3L RAM
- Storage: SSD 128 GB + HDD 512 GB
- 1x USB 3.0 1x USB 2.0, 1x Type C, 1x HDMI
- Backlit Keyboard



4000 mAh



14.1" FHD



Built in Camera



Fingerprint



AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.0



Fabric Sleeve Case



TAGITOP[®]-EDU

- Intel Core i3 10th Gen (1005G1)
- GPU: Intel® UHD
- 4 GB RAM DDR4
- Storage: 128 GB SSD
- 2x USB 3.1, 1x Type C, 1x HDMI, RJ45



4290 mAh



14" FHD



Built in Camera



AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.2

Carry bag | USB mouse
Plastic cover

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Your TECH TOOLS for the Inevitable Digital Future

TABLETS

TAG-DC

Digital Citizens Tool



Spreadtrum SC9863 Octa Core



4 GB RAM



64 GB Storage



6000 mAh



10.1" FHD



Android 9



Dual SIM Cards



AC WIFI, GPS, Bluetooth



5 MP Front Camera, 13 MP Rear Camera



Screen Protector



TAG-TAB III

Become A TAG Friend



MediaTek MTK8788 Octa Core



6 GB RAM



128 GB Storage



6000 mAh



10" FHD



Android 10



Single SIM Card



AC WIFI, GPS, Bluetooth



5 MP Front Camera, 16 MP Rear Camera



Leather Cover | Screen protector | Wired Headphones



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P.T.O

SMARTPHONES

TAG-PHONE

TAG: Your Trusted Brand

- CPU: MediaTek Helio P60 Octa Core
- 6 GB RAM Android 10
- 64 GB Storage Dual Nano SIM Card
- Battery Capacity 4000 mAh
- Display: 6.2" HD+
- 8 MP Front Camera, 16 MP Rear Camera



TAG-PHONE Plus

Compare then Buy

- CPU: MediaTek Helio A25 Octa Core
- 4 GB RAM Android 10
- 128 GB Storage Dual Nano SIM Card + TF Card
- Battery Capacity 4500 mAh
- Display: 6.55" HD+
- 8 MP Front Camera, 16 MP Rear Camera



Brown



Dreamy Blue

TAG-PHONE Advanced

Tailored to Be Advanced

- CPU: MediaTek Helio P60 Octa Core
- 6 GB RAM Android 10
- 128 GB Storage Dual Nano SIM Card
- Battery Capacity 4400 mAh
- Display: 6.3" FHD+
- 16 MP Front Camera, 16 MP Rear Camera



Brown



Streamer Purple

TAG-PHONE Special

- CPU: MediaTek P60 Octa Core
- 6 GB RAM Android 11
- 128 GB Storage Dual Nano SIM Card + TF Card
- Battery Capacity 5900 mAh
- Display: 6.52" HD+
- 16 MP Front Camera, 20 MP Rear Camera

