



MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA



Name: Chong Shen Wei, Adam

Current Employment: Senior Internal Auditor, Principal Malaysia

Work Experience: 8 years of experience in internal audit and risk consulting across diverse industries, including financial services, media, and technology, with a background in external audit.

Education Background: Senior Internal Auditor, Principal Malaysia.

IIAM Membership Category: CIA, AIIA

1. Why did you decide to pursue a career as an internal auditor?

I've always been passionate about understanding how businesses operate. Internal audit offers a unique opportunity to work across different functions and gain insights into an organisation's operations while adding value through both assurance and advisory work.

2. How important is an Internal Auditor's role in the organisation?

The internal auditor plays a vital role by providing independent assurance that an organisation's governance, risk management and internal control processes are effective. In today's dynamic environment, this role is more important than ever.



3. What is the typical challenge internal auditors generally face? And amongst them, can you highlight what would be one of the biggest challenge?

A common challenge is maintaining objectivity and independence while also building collaborative relationships with stakeholders. In my view, the biggest challenge is gaining stakeholder buy-in for audit observations and recommendations.

4. Does the Institute play a role in supporting your Internal Auditor scope of work? If yes, in what ways? And if no, what can we do better?

Yes, the Institute plays an essential role by providing resources, training programs and networking opportunities. These help internal auditors stay updated with industry trends and best practices, which in turn strengthens the quality of our work.

5. Would you recommend IIA Malaysia to your fellow IA colleagues?

Absolutely. IIA Malaysia is an excellent platform for professional development, staying informed about evolving industry practices, and building a strong peer network.

6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

I was motivated by the desire to strengthen my professional credibility and deepen my technical knowledge of internal audit.



7. What were the challenges you encountered when attempting the CIA exam?

The biggest challenge was balancing work responsibilities with study time. The syllabus is comprehensive, and maintaining consistent progress across all parts required discipline, clear goals, and accountability.

8. How did you manage your study time while working?

I developed a structured study schedule by breaking the syllabus into manageable sections and setting weekly goals. I also dedicated weekends to focused study sessions. I'm grateful to have had full support from my superiors, organisation and family throughout the process.

9. As a CIA certified professional, where do you envision yourself?

I envision myself stepping into more strategic and leadership roles.

10. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?

The CIA is a globally recognised certification that enhances an auditor's technical knowledge, credibility and career prospects.



11. Please provide 3 main advice for those attempting to take the CIA examination?

- Plan and stay disciplined : Create a realistic study schedule. Stick to it and be consistent.
- Use multiple resources : Combine study materials with practice questions, revision classes and online forums.
- Practice, practice, practice: Solve questions from various providers, understand the rationale behind answers and simulate timed exams to build speed and confidence.