



*The IIA provides internal audit professionals with leading-edge information critical to implementing best internal audit practices, complying with laws and regulations, helping support and maintain an ethical corporate culture, and educating management and the board.*

The Institute of Internal Auditors is the profession's recognized authority, acknowledged leader, and principal educator. As such, The IIA provides guidance and direction to tens of thousands of member practitioners from all around the world. Members of The Institute and CIAs vow that they will comply with The IIA's *Code of Ethics* and adhere to the *International Standards for the Professional Practices of Internal Auditing*.

One element essential to internal audit professionalism is its important role in governance. Corporate governance comprises the procedures established by an organization's stakeholders to provide oversight of the risk and control processes administered by management. The devastating failures of corporate giants who did not take governance seriously enough have demonstrated just how vital it is to the health and well being of any corporate entity – whether publicly held or private – how necessary it is to earn and maintain stakeholder trust, and how essential it is to the organization's very survival.

The necessity for effective corporate governance has no geographical boundaries. As indicated by the results of reports from IIA affiliates around the world, enhancing governance is a critical issue for organizations the world over. The IIA and other thought-leading organizations actively promote and provide guidance for strengthening corporate governance.

The four cornerstones of effective corporate governance are the audit committee of the board of directors, executive management, the internal auditors, and the external auditors. When these entities work together well with healthy interdependence, internal controls are strong, reporting is accurate, ethics are maintained, oversight is effective, risks are mitigated, and investments are protected.

Professional internal auditors place great emphasis on quality. The *Standards* provide significant guidance in this area. According to the *Standards*, the internal audit function should have a quality assurance program with ongoing and periodic internal assessments and periodic external assessments. In fact, an external quality assessment is required by the *Standards* at least once every five years. This significantly contributes to professionalism in that quality assurance and improvement programs can lead to enhanced effectiveness and efficiency, can provide guidance for improvements in the internal audit function, can assess compliance with *Standards* and policies, and can help the internal auditors to consistently add value to their organizations.



The Institute of  
Internal Auditors