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in Business

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

LEORON Professional Development Institute and IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) Sign Strategic Memorandum of Understanding to Expand COSO Training Across the Region

Dubai, UAE, Date 29/01/2026: LEORON Professional Development Institute and IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) today announced the signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that expands the scope of their longstanding collaboration. The new agreement focuses on increasing access to the globally recognized **COSO Internal Control - Integrated Framework** and **COSO Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)** programs across key markets.

Under the agreement, LEORON will act as IMA's partner in learning, delivering COSO training programs to support the professional development needs of finance, audit, and risk practitioners across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

The MoU formalizes the next phase of cooperation between the two organizations, building on an existing relationship that has included collaboration across multiple learning pathways. Representing LEORON at the signing, **Ms. Yeta Bunjaku, Vice President of Instructional Design & Planning**, stated:

"This partnership reinforces our commitment to equipping organizations with world-class learning solutions that elevate governance and decision-making. COSO's frameworks remain the global standard in internal control and ERM, and we are proud to work alongside IMA to expand regional access to this critical knowledge."

Speaking on behalf of IMA, **Mr. Ahmad Mkhallati, Senior Director, Middle East and Africa**, added:

"As a global professional association, IMA is committed to advancing high-quality standards and frameworks that strengthen internal control, enterprise risk management, and financial governance worldwide. COSO's frameworks are widely adopted by organizations across sectors and geographies and remain essential to effective oversight, risk-informed decision-making, and long-term value creation. Through this strategic collaboration with LEORON, IMA is extending its global mission by increasing access to structured, practitioner-focused COSO education that supports the evolving needs of finance, audit, and risk professionals across the region."

This extended collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing best practices in internal control, enterprise risk management, regulatory compliance, and financial governance. By jointly expanding access to COSO frameworks, both organizations aim to enhance organizational integrity, support effective decision-making, and strengthen enterprise resilience.

As organizations navigate increasingly complex financial reporting requirements, internal control expectations, digital transformation, and risk oversight pressures, demand for advanced GRC (Governance, Risk & Compliance) training continues to grow. The COSO frameworks play a vital role in helping companies build effective control environments, strengthen risk governance, and enhance stakeholder confidence.

Through this expanded partnership, LEORON and IMA will jointly work to:

- Expand access to COSO Internal Control and ERM programs
- Support continuous professional development in finance, audit, and risk
- Equip professionals to address evolving regulatory and risk challenges
- Promote internationally recognized governance standards across markets

About LEORON Professional Development Institute

LEORON is the leading corporate training and EdTech company in the EMEA region, offering the most comprehensive learning and development solutions across all strategic corporate functions. Through instructor-led sessions, in-company training, and coaching, LEORON's faculty of experts delivers over 1300 programs annually, equipping 50,000+ professionals with up-to-date knowledge and relevant digital learning solutions across the region. LEORON supports organizations with Training Needs Analysis, Competency Development and Assessment, and custom-built e-Learning solutions tailored to specific industries and capability frameworks.

Learn more at www.leoron.com

About IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants)

IMA is one of the largest and most respected associations focused exclusively on advancing the management accounting profession. Globally, IMA supports the profession through research, the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant), CSCA® (Certified in Strategy and Competitive Analysis), and FMAA™ (Financial and Managerial Accounting Associate) certification programs, continuing education, networking, and advocacy of the highest ethical business practices. Twice named Professional Body of the Year by The Accountant/International Accounting Bulletin, IMA has a global network of about 140,000 members in 150 countries and 200+ professional and student chapters. Headquartered in Montvale, N.J., USA, IMA

provides localized services through its six global regions: The Americas, China, Europe, Middle East/North Africa, India, and Asia Pacific.

For more information visit: www.imanet.org