



**THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India**

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

Vision

"To be a global leader in promoting
good corporate governance"

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। *इष्टं कुरु। श्रेयं कुरु।*

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals
facilitating good corporate governance"

#IntlGovCon

HIGHLIGHTS

ICSI 4th International Conference

Theme: Embracing Innovation, Enhancing Good Governance

3-5 September 2025 | Crowne Plaza - Sydney, Australia

Hosted by: ICSI Overseas Centre Australia Inc



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The ICSI 4th International Conference 2025, held in **Sydney, Australia**, showcased the dynamic intersection of innovation and governance in a rapidly evolving global ecosystem. With the central theme “Embracing Innovation, Enhancing Good Governance,” the conference brought together governance professionals, industry leaders, and subject matter experts to explore forward-looking strategies and collaborative solutions. The Conference was hosted by ICSI Overseas Centre Australia Inc., and supported by knowledge partners, Australia India Chamber of Commerce and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) India.

During the Conference, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) launched the **“Handbook on Business Responsibility and Sustainability – Version 3.0”** and **“ICSI ASCEND”**, at the hands of the Chief Guest, Dr. S. Janakiraman, Consul General of India in Sydney. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, of over 90 delegates attending in person and around 1000 delegates joining virtually.

The Conference was a significant step towards fostering international cooperation. To enhance cross-border business opportunities and boost bilateral trade & investments, the ICSI also unveiled the **India–Australia Facilitation Centre** at the Conference.

This Centre will help companies of both countries establish offices & subsidiaries across them. Thanking the ICSI for this initiative, **Dr. S. Janakiraman** invited Company Secretaries to make use of the Consulate's existing Business Centre as a one-stop concierge for office space, meetings, and business promotion in Australia.



Opening Plenary



Appreciating the ICSI for standing as a sentinel of Good Governance for over 5 decades, Dr. S. Janakiraman stated, "Company Secretaries have evolved into a strategic advisor to boards today, shaping decision-making, culture, and purpose across organizations, and guiding them through complexity".

Chief Guest

Dr. S. Janakiraman

Consul General of India in Sydney

Plenary II - Governance in Focus- Making Boards Future Ready



The session underscored the vital contribution of governance professionals in building boards that are future-ready and capable of navigating complexity. It focused on resilience during uncertain times, managing geopolitical and trade risks, strengthening crisis preparedness and response, and applying strategic foresight through scenario planning.

Mr. Dhawal Gadani, Head of Governance & CS, HSBC Australia and New Zealand

Dr. Sudheendhra Putty, Associate Vice President & CS, Cyient Limited

Ms. Lucinda McCann, Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright Australia

CS Dinesh Makani, Founder & Director, IBS Group

Plenary III - Circular Economy and ESG



The session explored how circular economy principles can drive sustainable innovation and long-term value. Experts shared strategies for overcoming operational and regulatory hurdles, while discussing ESG's growing impact on corporate accountability, investor expectations, and stakeholder engagement.

Mr. Hemant Chaudhary, Founder & Managing Director, Circular Economy Alliance Australia

Ms. Janet Salem, Co-Founder, FootprintLab

Ms. Alison Osborne, Chief Sustainability Officer, Rabobank Australia

Plenary IV - Data Privacy and Cyber Security



The session focused on the growing significance of data privacy and cybersecurity in today's digital governance landscape. It addressed the complexities of navigating data privacy laws across borders, underscoring the need for harmonized global standards and proactive governance to ensure secure and ethical data management.

CS Shivprasad Laud, Advisory Board Member, Fourteenth Degree Azimuth (India) Advisory

Dr. Aastha Gupta, Co-Founder & CEO, ViCyber

CS Ashwini Arveti, Agile Coach

Ms. Fiona Chan, Group Privacy Officer, APA Group

Plenary V - Managing Risk Oversight through Stewardship



The session explored the evolving role of corporate stewardship in enhancing risk oversight and sustainable governance. It emphasized aligning governance with long-term value and responsible leadership, guided by the ICSI Guiding Principles on Stewardship (IGPS). Discussions highlighted how boards can embed stewardship into strategy to build resilience, trust, and sustainable growth in a dynamic global environment.

Mr. Russ Martin, CEO, Global Product Stewardship Council

CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, The ICSI

Mr. Peeyush Gautam, Head of Operational Risk, DBS Bank

CS Malcolm Shroff, Engagement Director- Consulting, Tata Consultancy Services

Plenary VI - India-Australia: Governance & Investment Ties



The session highlighted the deepening India-Australia strategic partnership, showcasing Investment NSW's role in improving Ease of Doing Business and fostering bilateral investment. Discussions covered emerging trends, global governance practices, and the impact of trade agreements on regulatory alignment and investor confidence.

Mr. Sudhir Basavaraju, Acting Associate Director, Investment NSW

Ms. Nikita Kaur Chopra, CEO, Australia India Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Rohit Mehtani, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Plenary VII - Leveraging Human Capital by Steering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)



The session emphasized DE&I as a catalyst for unlocking human potential and driving organizational excellence. It focused on ethical leadership, inclusive culture, and emotional intelligence in the digital era. Discussions highlighted equitable decision-making and how DE&I fosters innovation, engagement, and long-term sustainability.

Dr. Rebekah Schulz, Lecturer, University of Wollongong

Mr. Robert Agati, Company Secretary, Qudos Bank

Dr. Isabelle Kingsley, Director- Loupe Consulting & Director- Science in Australia Gender Equity

Plenary VIII - Evaluating the Efficacy of Governance in Generative AI



The session explored the intersection of governance and emerging technologies, spotlighting generative AI's potential and the need for responsible oversight. The dialogue urged organizations to adopt governance models that balance innovation with accountability and compliance in a fast-evolving digital landscape.

Mr. Shalabh Narain, Strategic Pursuits Leader Asia Pacific, Lenovo Global

Mr. Aubrey Joachim, Past Global President, CIMA, UK

Dr. Aditya Narvekar, Director, SP Jain School of Global Management

Plenary IX - Special Session on Business Opportunities in India's maiden IFSC at GIFT City



The session emphasized GIFT City's role in driving innovation, fintech growth, and cross-border trade, encouraging stakeholders to leverage its infrastructure for sustainable and future-ready business expansion. It featured a special address by Special Guest, Shri K. Rajaraman, Chairperson, IFSCA.

SPECIAL GUEST

Shri K. Rajaraman, Chairperson, IFSCA

Group Photograph



Study Tour at University of Wollongong (Wollongong Campus)



The three-day conference concluded with a Study Tour of the University of Wollongong (Wollongong Campus) on 5 September 2025, aimed at providing insights into global governance education and fostering opportunities for international collaboration and professional growth.